

Relics, Signs and Wonders

The purpose of this document is to define relics. To define relics, I relate them to signs and wonders. Relationships define things, and a relationship with signs and wonders defines the term relic. This document is the summation of my quest to understand why all of a sudden (historically speaking) people in the Church want to cremate their dead. Before that quest I knew little about relics (I knew they were important to people making pilgrimages to the major Cathedrals in England, France and Germany, but that was about all I knew). If we search for the term [relics in Wikipedia](#), the first thing we see is that they are defined as parts of the body of a saint or a venerated person, or else another type of ancient [religious](#) object, carefully preserved for purposes of [veneration](#) or as a tangible memorial. But, that definition says nothing about signs and wonders. Relics are body parts or reflections of body parts, but they are not just any body parts, only body parts associated with a history of the miraculous. In other words, veneration does not heal or produce signs and wonders. I say that because my search for understanding cremation in the Church has led me to the stories of those miracles, found in the history of the [Saints of the Eastern Church](#). As the Western Church has drifted away from the miraculous, they have no relics and have moved to a much cheaper way to handle dead body parts.

Truth Revealed Through Signs and Wonders

Relics are the result signs and wonders. There are thousands of examples of relics in the history of the Saints of the Church. In each example, the signs and wonders came first. First the Saint had to live a life in truth, proven true by the evidence of signs and wonders. For most of those Saints we have a nice history of what that useful life was like, with (just like the Saints in the Bible) with a history of those signs and wonders. For a few of the Saints we know little or nothing about their lives, but they are Saints because signs and wonders emanated from their relics. Like relics, signs and wonders also emanate from icons or pictures of those Saints. Here again, the signs and wonders came first. Just like in the Bible, we get confidence in God from Saints even after their death. The pictures and the bones are nothing without the story that made them relics. Like all the stories in the Bible, God's Story is about the real lives of his Saints. From God's story (history) we get confidence, and from that confidence more signs and wonders emanate, like fruit of the Spirit. If you want to know truth, know that it is accompanied by God's signs and wonders.

Summary: Relics, Signs and Wonders

The purpose of this document is to define relics. To define relics, I relate them to signs and wonders. Relationships define things, and a relationship with signs and wonders defines the term relic. Relics are body parts or images of body parts, but they are not just any body parts. Only body parts associated with a history of the miraculous are relics. Both in the Bible and in the history of the Church, God has used relics, signs and wonders to reveal truth.