August 18, 2004

Dear Editor, Reporter, News Director or Producer:

Here’s the first substantiated book containing the unparalleled details surrounding the transfer of the Holy Grail – the chalice Christ used at the Last Supper – to Valencia, Spain. Through the work – and ultimately the martyrdom – of St. Laurence, we indeed still have the actual Holy Cup today.

Though most people believe the Holy Grail to be lost, Janice Bennett shows in full detail and photography that it is indeed located at the Cathedral of Valencia. Her book puts forth a never-before-published manuscript by St. Donato which describes the details surrounding the transfer of the Holy Grail to Spain under the direction of St. Laurence in great specificity.

Inspired by her profound interest in Spanish literature, culture and relics, Bennett wrote this book after realizing that there was no well-researched, well-documented account of the modern-day existence of The Holy Grail. Based on the history of St. Laurence and the Holy Chalice of Valencia from the writings of ancient and modern Spanish authors, she presents a penetrating examination which separates valid tradition from mere legend. *St. Laurence and Holy Grail* provides overwhelming evidence for the conviction that the upper cup of the Holy Chalice of Valencia is the long-sought Holy Grail.

Please cover this enthralling story of the Holy Chalice, the renowned relic that embarked from the Last Supper on an amazing pilgrimage that providentially ended in the Cathedral of Valencia – a miraculous odyssey that has been characterized by danger, greed, martyrdom and fire. Your audience will be delighted at the author’s findings, and realize that the mythical quest for the Holy Grail is now over.

Feel free to contact me regarding scheduling interviews or guest appearances with Janice Bennett.

Yours very truly,

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Incredible new book ends uncertainty regarding existence of Holy Grail

SAN FRANCISCO, August 18, 2004 – Containing never-before-published information on the details surrounding the pilgrimage and whereabouts of the Holy Cup of The Last Supper – or Holy Grail, *St. Laurence and The Holy Grail* (by Janice Bennett) is being newly distributed by Ignatius Press to ensure this remarkable story is much more widely known, since the author self-published the book a short time ago. It dispels forever the erroneous notion that this famous relic was ever lost.

The 305-page hardcover book presents new evidence for the modern-day location of the Holy Grail in Valencia, Spain. Such substantiation is drawn largely from a sixth-century manuscript written in Latin by St. Donato, an Augustinian monk who founded a monastery in the area of Valencia. In his manuscript – which Bennett translated for the first time into English and includes in the book – Donato provides unrivaled details about St. Laurence being entrusted by Pope Sixtus II with the task of protecting and safely transferring the Holy Cup to Spain. St. Laurence was subsequently martyred during the Valerian persecution of 258 A.D., just four days after Sixtus II was beheaded. Prior to his death, St. Laurence entrusted the Holy Grail to Spain – where it had to be hidden at times over the centuries, but where it still remains today.

St. Donato entitled his manuscript, “Life and Martyrdom of the Glorious Spaniard St. Laurence”, and Bennett includes her English translation of it – as well as a photocopied page – in the book.

“Until now, “says Bennett, “there was no written evidence to support the tradition that Pope Sixtus II gave the Holy Grail to St. Laurence” who was Treasurer and Deacon for the Pope. In the book, Bennett shows how St. Laurence saved the Cup from the greed of the third-century Roman Emporer Valerian, who had decreed that the Church could not own property and demanded that St. Laurence turn it over to him. When Laurence sent the Cup to his homeland, Spain, he was roasted to death on a gridiron – and the veracity of his martyrdom is likewise authenticated in Bennett’s abundant research.
A second document which, in the book, Bennett says supports the tradition that Pope Sixtus entrusted the Holy Grail to St. Laurence is the 17th-century “Anales del Reyno de Valencia” (Annals of the Kingdom of Valencia) written by Francisco Diago. This manuscript confirms that St. Laurence was actually born in Valencia, not Huesca, as was commonly thought.

*St. Laurence and The Holy Grail* is easy to read and understand, though it took Bennett three years to complete. It includes 20 pages of amazing full-color photography extracted from her personal photo collection, including shots of the places the Grail was hidden on its journey from Jerusalem to Valencia, and showing evidence for the Cup’s authenticity.

About 12 years ago, while traveling with her husband to Spain, Bennett read a brochure on relics which stated the Cathedral of Valencia housed the Holy Grail. She was surprised and amused, but remained nevertheless fascinated. After first writing a book detailing the facts behind the ancient bloodstained cloth believed to have covered the Head of Christ after the crucifixion*, Bennett then decided to research the Holy Grail claim more thoroughly – and ultimately became convinced through her exhaustive investigation that the Holy Chalice of Valencia was indeed the cup Christ used to institute the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

When Pope John Paul II used the Cup the celebrate Mass Nov. 9, 1982, he was the first pope to use this chalice since Sixtus II. “The Spaniards were overcome with emotion. Everyone in Spain believes it is the cup,” she says. “I wrote this book to let people know the Holy Grail exists … it’s there in a special chapel in the Cathedral of Valencia, and anyone can go and see it.”

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San Francisco-based Ignatius Press, founded in 1978, is the largest Catholic publisher in the U.S. and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003. Ignatius Press publishes over 40 books each year, with over 800 titles in print. Ignatius is also publisher of *Catholic World Report* and *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* magazines. Ordering information: www.ignatius.com or: 1-800-651-1531

* Sacred Blood, Sacred Image: The Sudarium of Oviedo (Janice Bennett).
Janice Bennett

Inspired by her profound interest in Spanish literature, culture and relics, Janice Bennett has written two books on sacred relics. Her most recent work, *St. Laurence and the Holy Grail* (for which Ignatius Press is exclusive distributor) is based on the history of St. Laurence and the Holy Chalice of Valencia, exhaustively researched and drawn from the writings of ancient and modern Spanish authors. It provides overwhelming evidence for the conviction that the upper cup of the Holy Chalice of Valencia is the long-sought Holy Grail (the cup Christ used at the Last Supper), sent to Spain by St. Laurence shortly before his martyrdom in Rome in 258 A.D.

Bennett’s first book, *Sacred Blood, Sacred Image: The Sudarium of Oviedo*, published in 2001, unfolds the historical, scientific, cultural and Biblical investigations surrounding the Sudarium of Oviedo (the ancient blood-stained cloth believed to have covered the Head of Christ after the crucifixion). In March 2002, she was featured on Canada’s The Miracle Channel, on “Insight,” for a half-hour live segment on the Sudarium of Oviedo.

Currently running her own publishing company in Littleton, Colorado, Libri de Hispania, Bennett devotes her efforts to publishing non-fiction books about Spanish relics and religious sites. She has a strong background as a graphic artist, typographer, and reporter, holding degrees in Graphic Design and Journalism, as well as in Spanish, Spanish Literature and Theology. She has taught university-level Spanish, and is a member of the National Hispanic society, Sigma Delta Pi, the Modern Language Association, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and Catholic Book Publishers Association.

Bennett also ran her own typography and graphics companies from 1980 to 1989.

Traveling frequently and extensively to Spain, Europe, the Mediterranean, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Peru, Bennett also is proficient in design and photography – often providing the on-site photography for her books – and enjoys hiking, piano, cooking and Biblical studies. She is married with two grown children, and her husband, Jim, designs, develops and imports furniture.
Product Fact Sheet

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Description:

Many scholars are convinced that the Holy Chalice of Valencia is indeed the Holy Grail, celebrated in medieval legends as it was venerated by monks in the secluded monastery of San Juan de la Pena, built into the rocky outcropping of the Pyrenees and surrounded by mystery. In this unparalleled account putting forth overwhelming evidence for the Holy Grail’s modern-day existence in Valencia, Spain, Janice Bennett lays out a never-before-published sixth-century manuscript written by St. Donato (an Augustinian monk who founded a monastery near Valencia) with information explicitly mentioning the details surrounding the transfer of the Holy Cup of the Last Supper to Spain.

Bennett acquaints the reader with the enthralling story of the Holy Chalice, the renowned relic that embarked from the Last Supper on an amazing pilgrimage that providentially ended in the Cathedral of Valencia, a miraculous odyssey that has been characterized by danger, greed, martyrdom, and fire. It is a fascinating and captivating account that will dispel forever the erroneous notion that this famous relic was ever lost. The Quest for the Holy Grail is complete.

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Interview Questions
For
Janice Bennett

_St. Laurence and the Holy Grail_

1. What got you interested in researching the whereabouts of the Holy Grail?

2. What were the problems with proving its existence and location until now?

3. What happened to the Holy Grail immediately after the Last Supper, and who was involved?

4. Talk a bit about the “journey” this Holy Cup has been on over the years.

5. In the book, you point to two documents which support your story about the location of Holy Grail – what are they and what do they tell us?

6. And what role did St. Laurence play in all of this?

7. Describe for us your general work in researching relics and Spanish sites.

8. What erroneous tales have modern scholars put forth about the Holy Grail and those involved in its transfer to Spain?

9. Where exactly is the Chalice now, and how can people go to see it?