THOUGHT-PROVOKING THRILLER

BY Roger Zotti

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One of the most impressive scenes in **Darryl Nyznyk**’s latest novel, **The First Gospel (Cove Dove)**, takes place during a televised debate between wealthy Paul Christian, a financial wizard who believes uncontrolled capitalism “will lead to happiness,” and Father Arron Roberts, who believes capitalism without control “will lead to our destruction, that “Without restraints...the pursuit of achievement of material goals will cause people to use any means necessary to achieve them.” A set piece filled with tension, written mostly in dialogue, it illustrates one aspect of Darryl’s masterful storytelling.

Darryl said his novel, with its cinematic cross cutting technique,

is “written in the tradition of **The Da Vinci** **Code.** It’s an historical thriller

at the center of which lies the truth about the greatest archaeological

mystery the world has ever known. An undercover law school student

graduate, Matt Carter, discovers the “murdered body of his old professor,

Samuel Rosen. When Matt returns home, he finds a letter from Rosen, who

begs him to protect an ancient parchment owned by his family for

generations. Unknown to Matt, the parchment holds the key to the two-

thousand-year-old mystery of the **Cloth of Edessa**. Now Matt becomes the

unwitting prey of those who will stop at nothing to keep his parchment’s

truth hidden.”

Darryl told **The Resident** what was most challenging about writing his thought-provoking novel was that “with any book with several important characters, the most challenging thing to do is to step out of the head and soul of one character and into that of another as is necessary for all important characters to really live. In switching character scenes, I often have to step away for a time, allow myself to separate from a character and then dive into the next character to sense everything that character is sensing and actually live in that character....I was dealing with a real historical relic about which so much has been written and said. I had to make sure my research was complete.

“Then, after months of reading, studying, and trying to understand all sides surrounding the **Shroud of Turin**, I synthesized literally hundreds of thousands of words and images into a few pages and weave relevant bits of information into the action of the story. I had to maintain story and character pacing while still revealing the issues in the mystery of the Shroud. Highly challenging— but truly invigorating!”

As for revision, Darryl said, “I write the story as it comes together from my own mind and soul, editing as I move along...when I’m done with the first draft, I send it to a couple of people for their honest commentary about it. [Then] I step away for as much as a month so I can come at it with a fresh look. Most of the time I find myself cutting wordiness out. I try to tighten the writing. I try to be concise and hard-hitting with my words.”

Available at **Amazon.com,** “The First Gospel” is hugely readable, and grabs the reader from the opening sentence because of its memorable, convincing characters and an exciting narrative propelling the storyline forward at an extraordinary pace.