

# Pope John XXIII To Lead Greatest Religious Gathering in History

By WILLIAM F. SUTHERLAND  
 Rome - (AP) - It bloomed in the mind of Pope John XXIII "as a spontaneous flower of an unexpected spring." And soon in two months, that flower of thought takes form as the greatest religious gathering in history.

The event is the second Vatican Council, the 21st ecumenical council since the birth of the Roman Catholic church, and the first in nearly 100 years. It opens under the leadership of Pope John in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 11.

The long-range aim of the ecumenical council, which will be attended by about 3,000 Catholic leaders from all over the world, is to bring the many Christian religions under one tent, that of Roman Catholicism.

It was only three months after he was elected Pope in 1958 that John suddenly announced his intention of calling an ecumenical council.

**Spontaneous**

"The idea of the council did not ripen as the fruit of lengthy consideration," the Pontiff said later, "but as a spontaneous flower of an unexpected spring."

"I felt something like a wind, like a breath, I made a few notes and since I was going to St. Paul's and most Cardinals were there, I took that chance of mentioning the council to them."

"Thus, on Jan. 25, 1959, in a Latin allocution to 21 Cardinals gathered in the monastery adjoining the Basilica of St. Paul's the Pontiff announced his plans."

Pope John himself has best explained the aim of the council.

"There are scattered in the world," he said, "those who are Christians by name but separated from the Catholic church. They are many; some of them live in direct contact with Catholics, in countries where the monuments of the past speak eloquently of the ancient unity. There are entire regions in which the unity has been broken, and farther on there are the missionary fields."

"Awaiting that incomparable goal (church unity) there already is profound consolation in noting the favorable echoes and the extraordinary joy stirred everywhere by the mere announcement of the council."

**Own Problems**

He said the council first would settle the Catholic church's own internal problems.

"Then, after performing that dutiful work, after removing whatever on a human level could hamper a speedier progress, we will display the church in all its splendor, without spot and without wrinkle, and we will tell all those separated from us: see, brothers, this is the church of Christ. We endeavored to be faithful to it . . ."

"Come, come: this is the path open to the meeting, to the return: come to resume or take your place, which for many of us is that of your forefathers . . ."

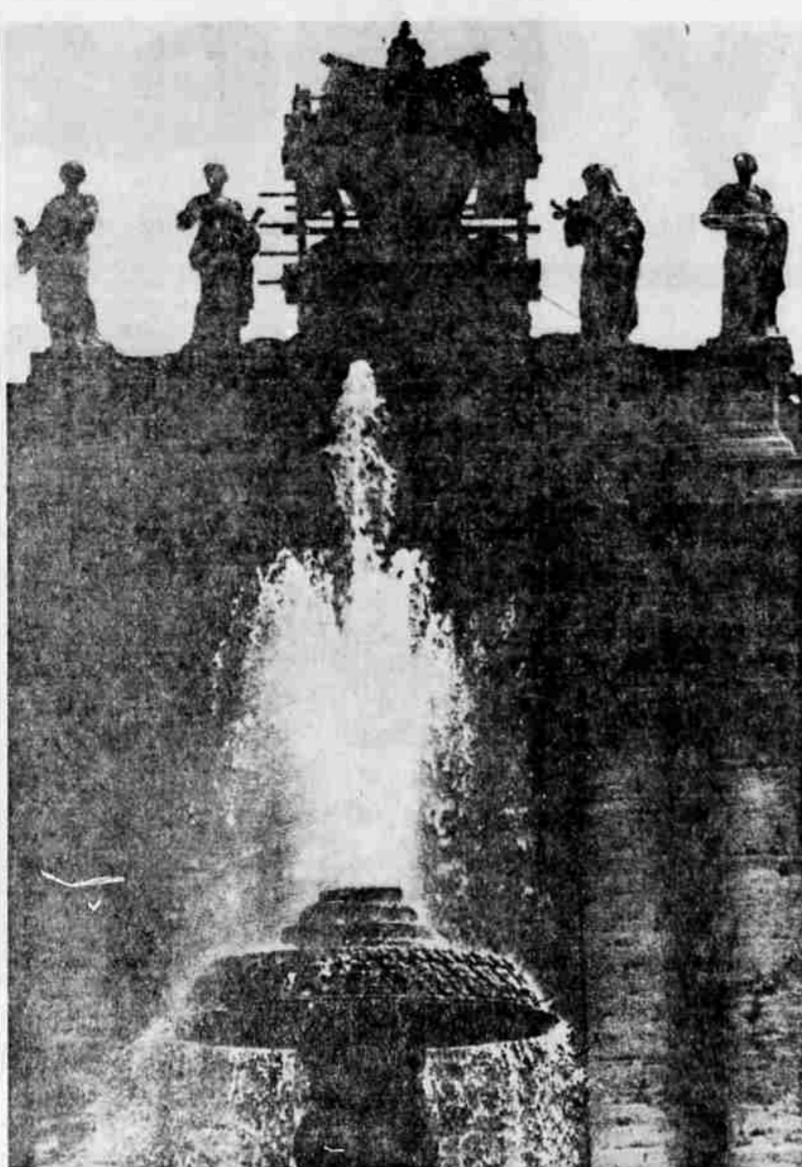
The council is expected to last about a year, but in two or three separate sessions. It probably will run first until early December and then recess until after Easter of 1963.

Attending will be Catholic patriarchs, archbishops, bishops, exarchs, prelates, abbots, apostolic vicars, and apostolic prefects, as well as heads of the main religious orders. Most of them are expected to bring aides.

In addition, most of the 85 cardinals of the Roman Catholic church will attend. The daily sessions of the council are to be secret and the official language will be Latin.

The late Vatican secretary of state, Domenico Cardinal Tardini, said Latin would be used because it was the official language of the church. And "anyway," he conceded good humoredly, "Latin is difficult . . . (thus) the speeches will be shorter."

Exactly what decisions will come out of the council cannot be predicted. There are hundreds of matters up for



**ECUMENICAL COUNCIL**—The greatest religious gathering in history will take place when the Second Vatican council, the 21st Ecumenical council since the birth of the Roman Catholic church, and the first in nearly 100 years, opens under the leadership of Pope John XXIII in St. Peter's Basilica Oct. 11. A tremendous amount of preparation has taken place during the three and

one-half years since Pope John placed his idea for the gathering before the Cardinals. In this photo, wooden scaffolding sharply breaks into the classic lines of St. Peter's Basilica. The scaffolding, erected for cleaning and repair work, blots the granite Papal Coat of Arms from view. The three-tiered crown, however, looms above the scaffolding. (UPI)

However, according to church law, the decrees issued by an ecumenical church are infallible - incapable of being wrong.

Actions of the past 20 councils ranged from painstaking definition of dogmas to drafting rules on pawnshops.

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**Complete Work**

The ante-preparatory commissions completed their work on May 30, 1960, and a week later the Pontiff named 13 preparatory commissions and a secretariat for the council. Included was the central commission and a special advisory board to provide official Vatican contact with non-Catholic Christian religions. It is the first time in five centuries that such an organization had existed in the Vatican.

The preparatory commissions began their work on Nov. 13, 1960, and ended with the seventh and final session of the central commission on June 20 of this year.

The matters taken up by the central preparatory commission give at least a general idea of what matters will face the council delegates. Among the subjects discussed were the holy liturgy, giving the faithful a greater understanding of the mass, moral orientation in the modern world, Easter rites of the Catholic church, spiritism, or the alleged faculty of corre-

ponding with the dead, the duties of priests and the obligation of Catholics to observe the precepts of the church.

**Have Vote**

On every matter the cardinals, residential patriarchs, primates, archbishops, bishops, abbots, prelates nullius,

abbot primates, abbot superiors of monastic congregations and heads of exempt cleric religious will have a vote. Experts in theology and canon law may be invited to attend and may be given a consultative vote.

But the final decision is up

to the Pontiff. If he rejects what the council has approved there is no recourse.

The first of the 20 ecumenical, or general, councils was held in Nicaea in 325 by Pope St. Sylvester I. Its action was to condemn Arianism, which denied the Divinity of Christ.

The last council, which was the first Vatican council, was held in 1869-70 but adjourned with its work uncompleted when Italian troops stormed into Rome to end the temporal power of the Popes. That council still technically is unfinished.

## Josephine Children Enter New Schools

**Grants Pass**—Grants Pass and Josephine county school children, returning to school this week in increased numbers, are reaping the first benefits of a \$2 million building program launched this year by the county and city school districts to meet expanding needs.

Opening doors to students for the first time Monday were two new junior high schools serving seventh, eighth and ninth graders in the County-Unit district.

The opening relieved considerable pressure on the city district's North and South Junior High schools which formerly served ninth grade students from the county district.

A resultant drop of about 240 in the city's junior high population, however, was more than balanced by increases at Grants Pass High school, where enrollment was up about 200 over last year, and at three of the city's six elementary schools.

Total enrollment in the City School District 7 is approximately 4,500 this year. Last year's figure was 4,490. Total enrollment in County-

Unit district schools this year is approximately 2,900, considerably more than last year's opening day figure of 2,485.

District 7 has 21 new teachers. The county district has 26 new teachers plus a new member of its administrative staff. Filling the new position of curriculum director is Wes Peters, formerly principal at Illinois Valley High school.

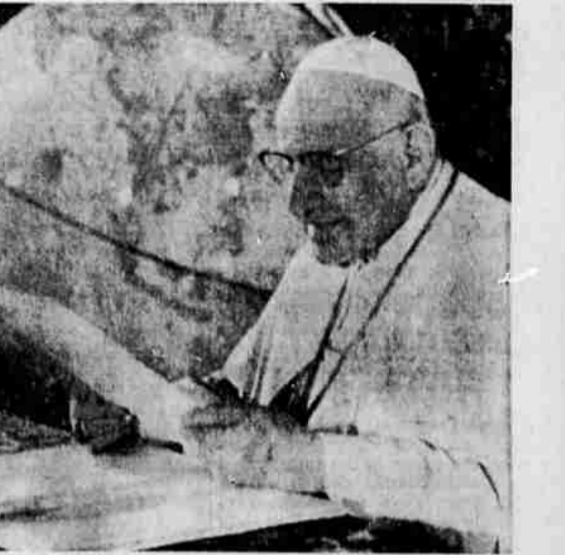
**Two New Schools**

The two new schools are Lincoln-Savage Junior High at Murphy, serving all seventh, eighth and ninth graders in the county school district south of the Rogue River, and Monument Drive Junior High school near Merlin, serving those in the county district north of the river.

Of similar campus-type construction, they were designed by Edson and Pappas of Medford, architects. A bond issue in excess of \$1,600,000 was passed to finance construction of the two schools and for additional classrooms throughout the county.

A building program financed by a special bond issue also was initiated this year by Grants Pass School District

to meet increased needs at Lincoln and Roosevelt elementary schools.

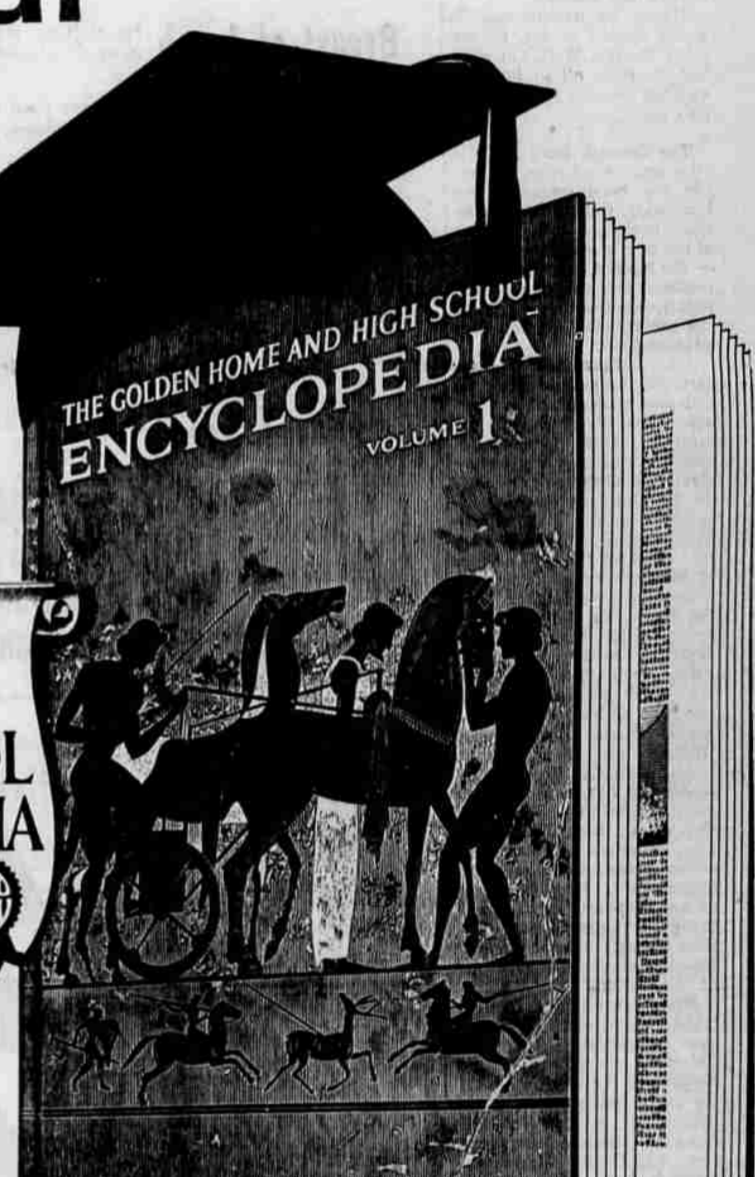


**POPE'S BROADCAST** - Pope John XXIII is shown during a radio broadcast on the forthcoming Ecumenical Council. The 80-year-old Pontiff, in a speech one month before the council opens, said it would present solutions to current world problems. (UPI)

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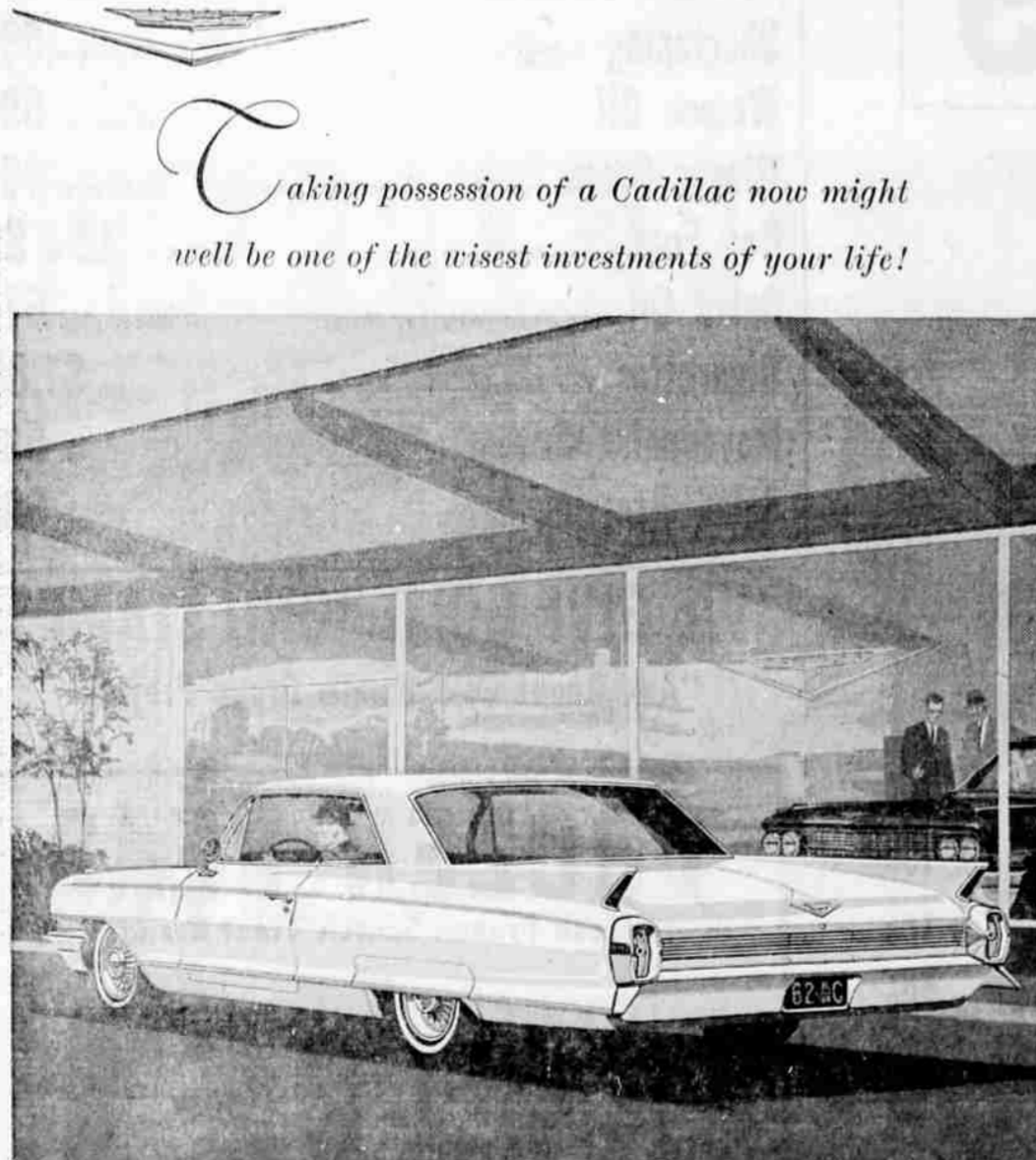
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