

# World Leaders Mourn Death Of Pope Pius XII

**By FRANK BRUTTO**

VATICAN CITY (AP)—By nature and inclination, Pope Pius XII was a scholar. A world war and an ideological fight for men's minds compelled him to be a soldier.

But, years hence, Pius XII may be known best for his saintliness.

Many here believe that the frail, ascetic, yet almost incredibly hard-working man — frequently hailed by great crowds as "Papa Santo"—will one day be canonized a saint and thus receive the highest honor of the church.

The spiritual struggle he led was and is a tremendous one. In it, Pius XII, with countless written and spoken words, with prayers and directives to his hierarchy, urged believers in God to hold the ramparts of their faith against the forces of expanding materialistic and atheistic communism.

As a boy, Eugenio Pacelli was a solemn-eyed little fellow, easily

identifiable amid his more robust classmates.

The young Pacelli, member of a Roman family ennobled by popes it had served for generations, garnered scholastic honors. Early in life he indicated his wish to become a priest and began the long process of prayer and study that was to continue throughout his life.

He was ordained a priest at 23 and celebrated his first Mass in the Rome basilica of St. Mary Major—the world's oldest Catholic shrine to the Virgin Mary.

The Vatican's L'Osservatore Romano, founded by his grandfather, Marcantonio Pacelli, reported the Mass and forecast a great future for the young priest.

Fifty years later, as the 26th pontiff, Pius XII made his 1950 Holy Year pilgrimage to the same basilica. It was a hot August day.

At St. Mary Major, he stepped briskly from a big American car

—gift of U.S. Catholics. He raised his hand in blessing and the sun struck little blue rays from the fisherman's ring on his finger.

The pontiff hurried to pray before the altar where he had said his first Mass.

He was then in the 11th year of his pontificate.

His accomplishments already have assured him a place among the great popes.

Despite persecution in Communist-ruled countries, the membership of the Catholic Church throughout the world has reached a record high.

In private, special and tremendous general audiences, Pius had received millions of people—more than had any other pontiff in history. He spoke to them in six languages and on many subjects.

He had made many saints. He had announced that a decade of dispensing under St. Peter's Basilica had confirmed that St. Peter, prince of the Apostles, had been buried directly below the main confessional altar.

He had reiterated many of the basic tenets of the church, defending its dogmas and warning both the laity and clergy against modernism and novelty—this despite the fact that he sometimes was called "The Modern Pope."

That description was based upon superficial things — the fact that he shaved with an electric razor, that he used a typewriter and telephone, that, as a cardinal, he had flown in an airplane when he visited the United States in 1935.

But he tolerated no deviation from basic teachings.

Mindful of grave economic stresses, he gave as temperate an interpretation as possible. But in an address to Italian midwives he warned that the life of an unborn child could not be sacrificed to save the life of the mother — a statement that was termed "inhuman, callous and cruel" by the Church of England newspaper. So much criticism followed the statement that the pontiff reiterated the church's stand.

No innocent life, he said, could be directly sacrificed for the sake of another, and this applied to childbirth. Both the life of the child and that of the mother are equally precious, said the Pope.

If one were to try to pick what Pius XII may have himself considered the supreme moment of his life, a good guess would be that it was the moment when he proclaimed the dogma of the Virgin Mary's bodily assumption into heaven.

The dogma was proclaimed in St. Peter's Square Nov. 1, 1950. From 600,000 to 700,000 people packed the square and the broad Via della Conciliazione to Castel Sant'Angelo, on the bank of the Tiber nearly half a mile away.

In front of St. Peter's central door, a temporary throne was placed for the Pope. Nearby were 39 cardinals and 600 patriarchs, archbishops and bishops — by all counts the biggest gathering of the Catholic hierarchy ever held.

A roar of approval rose when the Pope's words, carried by loud-speaker, declared that catholic dogma that the Virgin Mary, "the course of her life on earth terminated, was assumed to the heavenly glory in soul and body."

PEACE—"Nothing is lost with peace. Everything may be with war. Let man return to understanding. Let negotiations begin." (Radio address Aug. 24, 1959 before outbreak of World War II).

CAPITAL AND LABOR—"The opinion, unhappily too widespread, that between them there is an irreducible opposition to divergent interests is erroneous and sad in its consequences." (To Italian Catholic employers, May 7, 1949).

COLOR BAR AND RACISM—"One knows too well, alas, that what excesses racial pride and racial hate can lead. The church is forever opposed with energy to (these excesses) whether they consist of attempts at genocide, or practices inspired by what is called the 'color bar.'" (Address to an International Congress on Blood Transfusion, Sept. 10, 1950).

POLITICS—"Prayer the Pope composed for Catholic parliamentarians and politicians says: 'May we never lack in loyalty to our people, faith in the principles we profess and elevation of the spirit above corruption and evil interest.'" (Prayer published Jan. 28, 1958).

Vice President Nixon said he had never met a leader in any part of the world "who had a keener and broader understanding of the great issues of our time than he had." Nixon added that "the wisdom of his counsel will guide statesmen for years to come."

Edward Cardinal Mooney, archbishop of Detroit, commented that "unnumbered millions who did not share the faith of Pius revered him as the exponent of the highest ideals for man and society."

Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington said, "The world has lost its foremost champion of peace and the Catholic world has lost its chief shepherd."

Dr. Gardner C. Taylor, president of the Protestant Council of the City of New York, said "People of good will everywhere will sorely miss the vigor and vision that Pope Pius XII brought to the cause of a juster, fairer world."

Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said the pontiff "will long be remembered for his earnest exertions for peace, for his rescue of many victims of nazism, for his cordiality

towards men and women of all faiths."

Other comments: Gov. Averell Harriman of New York: "As no man in our time, and few in history, Pius XII elevated the simple practices of humanity to holiness itself."

Nelson A. Rockefeller, Republican candidate for governor of New York: "This gentle, great priest dedicated a lifetime to God and man."

Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.): "I know that people of all faiths in all nations join in mourning the passing of this man who stood for peace and wisdom in an era beset by war and the rise of godless dictatorship."

Sen. Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill.): "His saintly character and his affirmative efforts for peace have made a deep impression on this generation."

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Joining Roman Catholics in mourning the Pope's death were spokesmen for Protestant and Jewish groups.

The National Catholic Welfare Conference noted that no other pope in history has had as many ties with the United States as Pope Pius XII. The conference recalled, among other things, that he was the first man to become pope who had ever visited the United States. This was in 1938, three years before he became head of the Roman Catholic Church. Also recalled were the pontiff's many audiences with Americans who visited the Vatican.

Eisenhower, informed of the Pope's death at Castel Gandolfo in Italy, said that "with men of good will everywhere, I mourn his passing."

The President said this of the Pope: "An informed and articulate foe of tyranny, he was a sympathetic friend and benefactor to those who were oppressed, and his helping hand was always quick to aid the unfortunate victims of war."

"Without fear or favor, he consistently championed the cause of a just peace among the nations of the earth. A man of profound vision, he kept pace with a rapidly changing universe yet never lost sight of mankind's eternal destiny."

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — Finding a needle in a haystack is bad enough, but searching for a diamond in a boxcar, loaded with peaches, 1,600 miles away.

R. F. Taplett, Wenatchee fruit marketer, lost a two-carat diamond in a boxcar here about six weeks ago. He asked his fruit broker to spread the word of his loss to buyers receiving the shipment.

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