



# VATICAN NOTES

VOL. 1, NO. 1 - - - - - JANUARY - 1954

## NEW ISSUE NEWS!!!!

Vatican City will issue a commemorative honoring Pier Lombard (Peter Lombard), according to information received early this month. First day of issue is scheduled for December 29, 1954. The design is by Edmondo Pizzi and printing will be by the photo-gravure process, in panes of 50, and unwatermarked. The paper and gum being used on this stamp are the same type as that used on the St. Clare and St. Bernard issues, which will necessitate the use of extreme care in order to avoid cracking.

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The editing of Vatican Notes beginning with this issue is now being handled by Catharine Hughes, 537 E. Frederick Street, Lancaster, Pa., to whom all future contributions should be forwarded.

Needless to say, we're still on the lookout for many more articles by the members. We are also very interested in receiving your comments and suggestions -- This is the only way we can give you an edition that will prove both informative and readable. So how about sitting down tonight and trying your hand at a story or article???

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Thomas Boland of Haverhill, Mass. will exhibit his collection of Vatican mint and used blocks, and singles together with his specialized collection of Council of Trent varieties and errors at the Haverhill City Library. The collection is mounted on parchment pages and is highly illuminated -- well worth any time or effort involved in seeing it. The dates: February 21 - 28.

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For all the members who inquired, we are continuing the Italian Phrase column with this issue. Full credit for originating this phase of the "Notes" goes to Hugo Barbiera. We think its an excellent job, don't you?

"THE BOOKSHELF"

A 48-page pamphlet entitled "The Holy Year, 1950", and published by the Paulist Press, 401 W. 59th Street, New York 19, N. Y., has been brought to our attention by Harry J. Howard of Belleville, N. J., who also notes the price as .10¢. In addition to the text of the Holy Year Bull, it contains considerable additional descriptions and photos of the Roman Basilicas, together with data on the Holy Year and Vatican in general.

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"The Maid of Corinaldo" by Brother Sabinus, C.S.C., is the latest publication on the market telling the life story of St. Maria Goretti (#156-7). The book is well-illustrated and primarily intended for young readers. Price is \$2.00 (from the Sign Magazine, Union City, N. J.)

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TOPIX MAGAZINE a small 5 x 7" pamphlet type publication has devoted its entire December 1953, issue to the behind the scenes story of Vatican City. This magazine is highly illustrated and produced by the Catechetical Guild Educational Society of St. Paul, Minn. Because of the wealth of information in this publication, we have written to the publishers in hopes of obtaining enough copies for general distribution to ALL members. At the present time, we have not received a reply but expect one very shortly. Further details will be found in the next issue of the Notes. Thanks are due to Leo. A. Stevens of Detroit, Michigan for bringing this magazine to our attention.

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THE POPES - by John Farrow (publ. by Sheed and Associates, 1953 - 407 pages) - Pageant of the Popes is the result of exhaustive research through the documents, manuscripts and other reference material made available to the author at the Vatican. It presents a detailed collection of biographies of the Popes from St. Peter to the present.

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PERGOLESI CATALOG of Vatican City and Roman States presents a highly specialized listing of all recorded varieties and errors in this field. Some of the varieties are illustrated as well as all regular issues. It is written in Italian but easily understood by the average collector, more so by a VPS member because of the Italian Phrase column in the Notes. The price postpaid is 1.00 from William Wonneberger, Jr., 67 Jefferson Street, Stratford, Conn.

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TIME MAGAZINE for December 14, 1953 carried a very informative article about the Vatican City State and Pope Pius XII. The article is highly illustrated, seven of them in color. Extra copies are probably obtainable from your local news dealer or from Time, Inc. 540 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

ITALIAN PHRASE COLUMN

- Annullo Muto ----- Blank Postmark (1)
- Annullo con riquadratura, senza data ----- Squared Postmark, without date (2)
- Annullo con riquadratura, e data ----- Squared Postmark, with date
- Annullo con riquadratura, Data ed anno ----- Squared Postmark, date and year
- Annullo in Stampatello diritto, con data --- Straight Print letter postmark, with date
- Annullo in Stampatello diritto, con data, iniziale grande ----- Straight print letter postmark, with date, Capital Initial
- Annullo in stampatello diritto, senza data ----- Straight print letter postmark without date (7)
- Annullo in Stampatello inclinato, con data, iniziale grande ----- Slanting print letter postmark, with date, capital initial
- Annullo in Stampatello inclinato, Senza data ----- Slanting Print letter Postmark, without date
- Annullo in Corsivo Latin Handwriting Postmark
- (Annullo a Rota Dentata, (Senza ora) ----- Toothwheel Postmark without Time Indication
- Annullo a Rota, con ore Tooth wheel postmark, with time indication
- Annullo Circolare Semplice Plain round postmark
- Annullo Circolare Semplice con Ornato Plain round postmark with Ornamentation
- Annullo a 2 Circoli, con Ornato Double Circle Postmark with Ornamentation

(Hugo Barbiera sent along illustrations of all of the above - commenting that it wasn't Rembrandt - unfortunately your editor isn't Rembrandt either but will try to include more of Hugo's illustrations with the next issue.)

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CATHOLIC PRESS CONFERENCE ISSUE - 1936

An eight value series of regular postage stamps was issued in 1936 to commemorate the International Catholic Press Conference assembled at the Vatican. The 5 and 50 cent. values of this special issue depict the symbolic bell and doves. The Church, sponsor of the Bible for many centuries is shown on the 75 cent. value. The 25 and 80 cent. stamps depict St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Society and one of the foremost leaders in the education of youth. On the 1.25 and 5 L. is the likeness of St. Francis de Sales, who was instrumental in refuting anti-religious literature.

Giovanni Melchior Bosco (Don Bosco) was born on August 18, 1815, of poor parents, in a cabin in the hillside village of Becchi, near Castelnuovo, Piedmont in Italy. When Giovanni was two years old, his father died, leaving to his mother the task of supporting three small children. His early years were spent as a shepherd boy. The parish priest was his first instructor. Soon it was recognized that Giovanni, with his ready wit and retentive memory, had a great aptitude for study.

After his education at Chieri seminary, young Bosco was ordained by Archbishop Franzoni to labor in the diocese of Turin. His first priestly duties included a tour of the jails with Don Cafasso, who was to become his lifelong friend and confessor. These visits aroused his interest in the condition of the confined children, who were abandoned to the evil influences of the prisons and Bosco resolved to devote his life to the rescue of these juvenile unfortunates.

Bosco actually began this work on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1841 with a ragged urchin, one Bartolomeo Gorelli, as his first pupil. Rapidly more youngsters joined his Oratory or study group and by March 1846, it had grown to include more than 400 boys. In the Autumn of 1844, Don Bosco was appointed assistant chaplain at the Rifugio (Refuge for Children). Two rooms adjacent to the Rifugio were converted to a chapel dedicated to St. Francis de Sales. The members of the Oratory gathered there for their religious instructions. After moving several times, the Oratory was finally located in three rooms on the Via Cottolengo. It was here that Bosco was joined by his mother, who sold her home, jewelry and other belongings in order to contribute the proceeds to his work. This was the first Salesian Home (dedicated to St. Francis De Sales.)

In 1868, Don Bosco, resolved to build a church for the Voldocco quarter of Turin. The church was consecrated on June 9, 1868, under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians. Fifty priests and teachers, who had been assisting in the work with the boys, formed the Salesian Society under common rule. At Bosco's death, on January 31, 1888, there were 250 houses of the Salesian Society throughout the world caring for 130,000 children. These schools begin with the child's first instructions and carry through his complete education, leading for those who choose, to the priesthood. In addition, the Salesians conduct Sunday Schools, evening schools for adult workmen, technical schools and numerous others.

Don Bosco was declared Venerable by Pope Pius X on July 24, 1907. Blessed on June 2, 1929 by Pope Pius XI and canonized Nov. 28, 1933.

Catholic Press Conference Issue (continued)

St. Francis de Sales, the renowned scholar and famed Bishop of Geneva was born at Thorens in Savoy on August 21, 1567. Both of his parents were from old aristocratic Savoyard families. Francis was intended for the magistracy and at an early age attended the colleges of La Roche and Annecy. From 1583 to 1588, he studied rhetoric and the humanities at the College of Clermont in Paris with the Jesuit fathers. In 1588, he went on to Padua to study law and he received his doctorate from Pancirola in 1592.

After being admitted as a lawyer before the Senate of Chambrey, he was appointed Provost of the Chapter of Geneva through the efforts of the Bishop of Geneva. He was ordained a priest in 1593.

His first missions were in Le Chablais, where the Reformed Faith had been imposed. He also interviewed Theodore Beza, called the Patriarch of the Reformation and was successful in the return of a large number of the Le Chablais inhabitants to the fold. Francis was consecrated Bishop of Geneva in 1602 and instituted catechetical instructions for young and old. He assisted in the reforming of various religious communities. His goodness, patience and mildness became proverbial and his intense love for the poor grew. By his choice of plain food, dress and simple household, he lived in the greatest economy to provide more abundantly for the poor.

With St. Jane Frances de Chantel, he founded in 1607 the Institute of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin, primarily for young girls and widows who could not stand the physical rigors of the other religious communities. In 1622, he accompanied the Court of Savoy to France and it was there that he died on December 28 of the same year. Francis de Sales was beatified in 1661 and canonized in 1665 by Pope Alexander VII.

His principal works included:

- (a) Controversies - a series of leaflets scattered among the people of Le Chablais when they wouldn't come to hear him preach.
- (b) Defense of the Standard of the Cross
- (c) An Introduction to the Devout Life
- (d) Treatise on the Love of God
- (e) Spiritual Conferences

In 1877, he was declared "Doctor of the Universal Church" by Pope Pius IX, who described him in the Bull as "The Master and Restorer of Sacred Eloquence". At the beginning of the 17th century, Francis was one of those who formed the beautiful French language. He was noted for speaking simply, naturally and from the heart.

(Reference for biographical material - the  
Catholic Encyclopedia.)

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: November 1 - 30, 1953

Balance Reported October 31, 1953 ----- \$125.70

Received:

Dues: Three members 4.50

TOTAL \$130.20

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charge for September .50  
Postage ----- 3.56  
Envelopes ----- 1.02  
Goretti Maximum Cards (118) ----- 16.86

TOTAL 21.94

Balance on Deposit at Worcester County Trust Co. \$108.26

Respectfully submitted,  
F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

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V. P. S. Secretary Bob Kessens has requested that we all make an extra effort toward recruiting new members during the next few weeks. We had planned to supply a facimile of the membership application with this issue of Vatican Notes, but unfortunately same did not arrive in time for inclusion. Any members who desire them can drop Bob a line and he'll send you the needed quantity by return mail - Address: Mr. Robert W. Kessens, 543 East Leith Street, Fort Wayne 5, Indiana.

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OUR APOLOGIES!!!

We regret very much having to close this issue of "Vatican Notes" with an apology for the somewhat abbreviated size of this publication. However, the task of editing, typing, etc. was quite a job to crowd into one week, which was what was attempted in order to get the Notes back on a monthly basis.

The next issue will, of course, be up to normal size (and we hope quality), so try to bear with us for this month.

ONE MORE REMINDER!!!

Why not send us an article or some other form of contribution -- we can use them all, and you'll receive full credit at the time your article appears. We are in the market for almost any type story on Vatican City, Roman States stamps and related information -- So how about it?

