

VATICAN NOTES

VOL. 1, NO. 10

MAY, 1954

PIUS X CANONIZATION

Vatican City will issue a new commemorative later this month in honor of the canonization of Pope Pius X, which takes place in St. Peter's near the end of May. According to present information, release date will be May 28 or 29.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS - V. P. S.

Beginning on Page 5 of this issue is the proposed Constitution and By-Laws of the Vatican Philatelic Society, as prepared by Treasurer Frederick J. Levitsky. Please read this section carefully and then fill in the ballot on the final page. A two-thirds vote is required for passage. Same should be returned to the editor prior to June 15, 1954. Results of the vote will appear in the June issue of VATICAN NOTES.

"SPECIAL FEE"

By a unanimous vote of those participating, it has been decided to adopt the Special Fee proposed in the April issue of VATICAN NOTES. As outlined previously, this will consist of an additional 50¢ per member for this purpose; which will be used only for special books, cards, etc., such as the St. Maria Goretti Maximums and the booklet on the Vatican which you have received in the last year. Some members have suggested that the fee should be \$1.00; however, since we requested your approval only of a 50¢ charge, that is where we will place the amount. Your remittance for this purpose should be forwarded the V.P.S. Secretary Robert W. Kessens, 543 East Leith Street, Fort Wayne, Ind. We would also suggest that you refer to a notation appearing on Page 2 before forwarding. It may save you some time and trouble.

N. M. STAMP EXHIBIT

According to Fr. C. Luke Leitermann, an exhibition of Roman States and Vatican City stamps will be held at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia in the fall of 1954. Mr. Ernest A. Kehr, Stamp News Editor of the New York Herald-Tribune, at the request of Cardinal Spellman, is editing a 200-page book to be released at the exhibition.

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The illustration page of Roman States stamps which you received as part of the Special price list prepared for our last issue by Fr. Leitermann, is part of a price list of Roman States stamps which the Vatican Stampmart, Phlox, Wisconsin, hopes to publish later this year. In cooperation with the Washington Press, a White Ace Album for the stamps of the Roman States is planned for release about the same time.

V. P. S. - ANNUAL DUES

Membership dues for the 1954-55 V.P.S. year are forthcoming on July 1st of this year, and should be mailed to Secretary Robert W. Kessens. Further details can be found in Article I of the proposed By-Laws to be found in this issue of VATICAN NOTES.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: April 1 - 30, 1954

Balance Reported March 31, 1954: \$81.23

Received:

Dues - 2 New members, 2 Payments for '54-55 6.00

Total \$87.23

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charge for February ..\$0.71

Vatican Notes (March & April Issues)

Postage 6.87

Master units 1.15

Envelopes 1.57

Duplicator paper 4.05

14.35

Balance on deposit at Worcester County Trust Co. = \$ 72.88

Respectfully submitted,

THE VATICAN - Continued

The Pope's palace is in front of and at the right of the Basilica, just beyond Bernini's famous colonnade. The Pope's private apartment is on the third floor. His study window is frequently lighted late at night as he continues his long hours of work.

The State of Vatican City has its own civil administration. It prints its own money and stamps.

The late Pope Pius XI modernized life and facilities in Vatican City by full use of wireless, telegraph, telephone, radios, automobiles and other modern conveniences.

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ITALIAN PHRASE COLUMN
by Hugo Barbiera

Nuovo Piena Gomma		Unused with Full Gum
Pacchi Postale		Parcel Post
Senza Gomma	s. g.	Without gum
Saggio		Essay
Segnatasse		Postage Due
Tavola	Tav.	Plate
Trasparenza		Transparency, Cleanness
Variamente		Differently, variously
Azzurro		Blue
Bruno		Brown
Freschissimo	FF	Very Fresh
Frazionati		Fragment

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NEXT MONTH!!

In response to requests, next month's VATICAN NOTES will carry a list of members who have joined the organization since the original charter membership was published.

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Also on the agenda for June are articles on the Basilicas & Titular Churches Issue, and a special feature on the Printing of Vatican stamps. "Meet the Members" and "The Bookshelf" will also reappear.

THE VATICAN: A CHALLENGE TO KREMLIN
by The Associated Press

(Reprinted from the St. Louis Globe-Democrat)
March 6, 1954

"Twenty-five years after its establishment as the world's tiniest temporal state, the Vatican is a focus of world attention.

This is not only because of the illness of Pope Pius XII and the always present possibility that new Pope must be chosen in the Holy City by the Cardinals of the Catholic Church. Also it's because continuing attacks by the Communists on the church makes its headquarters seem more and more a symbol of resistance to the godless revolution.

It is as if the Vatican and the Kremlin -- each an impressive collection of ancient buildings on a little plot in a great city -- were rival strongholds of the forces of God and of the godless, facing up to each other across some dark valley.

Only 108.7 acres in area -- the size of a small midwestern farm -- the Vatican has a population of about 1,000. From its close confines the Pope administers the vast organization of the church and ministers to the spiritual welfare of more than 428,000,000 members of the Roman Catholic faith in every corner of the globe.

Although traditionally neutral in political affairs, the Pope has not hesitated to throw the weight of the Church into the vital struggle against Communism in Italy, nor to excommunicate certain Catholics in Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the same cause.

The history of the Vatican goes back beyond the history of modern Italy, back to the Roman Empire when Peter, first Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, came to Rome.

(The accompanying artist's sketch is an air view of Vatican City.) Its center is the cupola of St. Peter's Cathedral, the world's largest church, the first object usually spotted by air and automobile travelers on the skyways and roads that lead to Rome.

Forty thousands persons have been seated in St. Peter's which with its vast colonnades and square dominates the whole state. Beside it is the 1000-room Papal Palace.

Thick walls surround Vatican City except at the entrance to St. Peter's Square.

A visitor could walk the length of this sovereign state, smaller than many a golf course, in about eight minutes, but he could not view all its treasures of art and learning if he took a lifetime.

Pope Pius XII announced at the end of the 1950 Holy Year that excavations in the Vatican grottos proved that the tomb of St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, is in the grottos, directly under the Basilica's cupola.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 - NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be THE VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECT

Section 1. The object of the society shall be to promote the collecting of stamps of the Roman States and the Vatican City State and to provide opportunity for the exchange of knowledge concerning them.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person interested in the stamps of the Roman States and the Vatican City State may become a member.

Section 2. All members shall pay annual dues as hereafter provided and shall be entitled to all privileges of the society and shall receive the Official Organ and any other publications which are distributed free of charge.

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The President shall appoint committees as required, shall have general direction of the affairs of the society, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office.

Section 3. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President when the President is unable to do them himself. The Vice-President shall also act as an advisor on religious aspects for the society.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a record of all decisions of the Board of Governors, collect membership fees and handle applications for membership, handle all correspondence of the society, and perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an annual report in the July issue of the Official Organ.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the Society, shall receive from the Secretary such monies as he may collect, shall pay all bills of the society on approval and as provided in the By-Laws, and shall perform such other duties as are generally associated with this office. He shall render an account each month for publication in the Official Organ as well as an annual report

Constitution and By-Laws - Continued

ARTICLE 5
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1. The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of the Official Organ.

Section 2. The business and affairs of the society shall be managed and controlled by the Board of Governors, acting through the President.

Section 3. The Board of Governors shall have the power to fill vacancies that may occur among the elected officers, until the following election.

Section 4. The Board of Governors shall have the power to expell any member for cause.

ARTICLE 6 - AMENDMENT

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary, and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ mailed at least thirty days prior to the date on which the votes are counted.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 - DUES

Section 1. All members shall pay annual dues of One Dollar and a Half (\$1.50).

Section 2. Dues are payable on or before July 1st of each year. All members who fail to remit their dues for the current year by August 1st shall be notified that they are in arrears during August. Members so notified who have not paid their dues by September 30 shall be dropped from the membership list.

ARTICLE 2 - ADMISSION

Section 1. Any person desiring to become a member shall make application on a form supplied by the Secretary, answering such questions as may be asked properly, and being recommended by a member. This application when completed shall be delivered to the Secretary accompanied by the current dues. It will then be referred to the Membership Committee and the applicant's name and address will be published in the next issue of the Official Organ. If no objections are received within thirty days of the date of publication, and the Membership Committee approves the applicant, said applicant shall be declared a member by the Secretary and so notified.

Constitution and By-Laws - Page 3

Section 2. Any person who has been dropped from membership in the society because of non-payment of dues may be readmitted upon application and payment of current dues.

ARTICLE 3 - FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The Fiscal Year shall extend from July 1st of each year to June 30th of the following year.

ARTICLE 4 - VOTING

Section 1. All voting shall be by mail.

Section 2. All voting shall be by a majority vote of members voting, except as provided elsewhere.

ARTICLE 5 - TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1. All elected officers shall serve from the date of election for a period of one year or until their successors have been elected. If appointed to fill a vacancy, their term of office shall be until the next Annual Election at which time a duly elected officer shall be elected to fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE 6 - OFFICIAL ORGAN

Section 1. The Official Organ of the society shall be THE VATICAN NOTES.

Section 2. The Official Organ shall be published monthly and distributed free to all society members.

ARTICLE 7 - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Membership Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year consisting of two members, neither of whom shall be an elected officer.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Membership Committee to review all applications for membership, make such investigations as it may deem necessary, invite comments from members concerning applicants, and report to the Secretary on applicants.

ARTICLE 8 - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members, none of whom is serving as an officer, during the month of April of each year.

Section 2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of candidates, containing at least one for each office to be filled, and shall submit this list to the editor of the Official Organ prior to June 1st for publication of a ballot in the June issue of the Organ.

Constitution and By-Laws - Page 4

ARTICLE 9 - OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President shall appoint such other committees as may be required at any time, shall designate their duties and their terms of office.

ARTICLE 10 - AMENDMENT

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of those members who vote on the amendment, provided that such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Secretary, and have been published in an issue of the Official Organ mailed at least thirty days prior to the day on which the votes are counted.