

# Vatican Notes

Volume VII

September - October 1958

Number 2

## VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

On July 2, 1958, the Vatican released a set of commemorative stamps to honor the famed sculptor, Canova. The issue (Scott 243-246) consists of four designs, all executed by Miss Casimira Dabrowska. Each stamp depicts one of the sculptor's works with the designs taken from actual statues in the possession of the Holy See. The 5 Lire (brown) shows Pope Clement XIII and was printed from plates engraved by A. Quietti, Inc. The 10 Lire (carmine) depicts Clement XIV, engraved from plates by M. Canfarini, Inc. The 35 Lire (grey) is of Pope Pius VI, plates engraved by M. Colombati, Inc. The 100 Lire (blue) shows Pius VII and was printed from the plates of V. Mastrangelo, Inc. All stamps were printed by the State Printing Office in Rome in sheets of forty (8 x 5) with standard Vatican watermark and perforations but no marginal inscriptions. The stamps are illustrated on page -4- of this issue in connection with the presentation of interesting information concerning the effects of plate alterations.

The 100 Lire value of the Canova issue has already sold out completely at the Vatican Post Office.

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Some time in 1958 the Vatican reportedly will release a five value set of stamps to mark the 17th centenary of the persecution by Emperor Valerianus in 258 A.D. Each stamp will portray a different saint who was martyred during this ruthless and bloody persecution of the Church. They are: Pope St. Sixtus II, St. Agapitus, St. Ciprianus, St. Felicissimus and St. Lawrence. Pope St. Sixtus II and St. Lawrence were previously depicted on the series of stamps honoring Fra Angelico (195-196).

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In VATICAN NOTES, Volume VI, Nos. 5 and 6, apparent size and perforation differences between C33 and C34 were noted and discussed. In addition, Mr. Wonneberger reports that two different perforations -  $13\frac{1}{2}$  and 14 - have been noted for C34.

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## METERED AND PERMIT POSTAGE

An excellent article complete with illustrations on Vatican City metered (and permit) postage has been prepared and is scheduled for publication in the November - December issue of Vatican Notes. This is believed to be a "first" and should be of great interest to all members of VPS and to collectors of metered postage.



There have been a number of requests from members for VPS stationary, the letterhead of which is shown above (appearing on the official stationary in blue.) If enough members are interested in having VPS stationary, it can be provided at an approximate cost of \$1.50 per hundred sheets postpaid. NO ORDERS ARE BEING ACCEPTED AT THIS TIME, but members who are interested should advise the Secretary - Wallace R. Smith, 165-15 Union Turnpike, Flushing 66, N.Y. indicating the number of sheets wanted. Name and address may be imprinted in quantities of a 1000 or more at a reduced price. Notice will be given if the response is sufficient to warrant printing, and orders may then be placed.

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#### MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING PRIZE

VPS President William Wonneberger, jr. has generously offered the following prizes as an incentive toward the recruiting of additional members for the Society:

The VPS member recruiting the greatest number of new members for VPS between October 1, 1958 and June 30, 1959 will receive all new issues of Vatican City in choice of mint or used singles and a beautiful cacheted unaddressed first day cover of each issue for one entire year. If the winner does not collect first day covers, the choice is given of receiving all new issues for two years. For each chapter which enrolls a total of ten new members or more, a special gift of Vatican material will be given to be auctioned off at a chapter meeting and the proceeds used for chapter activities.

To insure all members a fair and equal chance, the President and the Membership Secretary are ineligible.

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Eastern Massachusetts Chapter - The June meeting was held Sunday evening, June 30th at St. Mary's Rectory, Roxbury, Massachusetts. Thirty-five members and guests were present for the roast beef dinner which started the meeting. As is the chapter's custom, an exhibition of Vatican City and Roman States stamps was held. First prize went to Father Phinney, second prize to William Quinn and third prize to Frederick Levitsky. The judge of the exhibition was Thomas Boland who received a certificate of merit for his exhibition of part of his Vatican collection outside of the competition. A further feature of the evening was the donation of a set of purple Mass vestments to St. Mary of the Angels Parish in appreciation by the chapter for the use of the Rectory for its meetings for the past two years. Father Phinney received the vestments in the name of Father Donavan, the Pastor.

## ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The By-Laws of the Vatican Philatelic Society require that officers be elected annually. Accordingly, the Board of Governors announces that NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTED OFFICERS ARE NOW OPEN. Any member of the Vatican Philatelic Society in good standing may be nominated and nominations may be made by any member of VPS in good standing. Nominations are to be sent to the membership Secretary - William H. Quinn, 26 Brent Street, Dorchester 24, Massachusetts. Nominations will be closed on October 31st, 1958. Ballots showing the names of members who have been duly nominated for the elective offices will be included with the November - December issue of Vatican Notes. No provision will be made for write-in ballots and none will be accepted. Members wishing to have their choices of candidates voted for by the Society must submit their names in nomination in advance to the Membership Secretary.

The elective offices of the Vatican Philatelic Society include the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. All other offices are filled by appointment by the President. The incumbents of all VPS offices are listed below:

<u>Elective Offices:</u>	President*	- William Wonneberger, jr.	VPS # 1	(*Member of the Board of Governors)
	Vice-President*	- Rev. Herbert A. Phinney	VPS # 3	
	Secretary*	- Wallace R. Smith	VPS # 85	
	Treasurer*	- Frederick J. Levitsky	VPS # 2	

<u>Appointed Offices:</u>	Membership Secretary	- William P. Quinn	VPS # 249
	Circulation Manager	- Leo A. Stevens	VPS # 22
	Roman States Chairman	- William A. Johnson	VPS # 118
	Translation Dept. Chm.	- Brother Camillus, OSF	VPS # 51
	Sales Dept. Chairwoman	- Miss Margaret Berthot	VPS # 445
	Editor, <u>Vatican Notes</u> *	- George M.K. Baker	VPS # 464

The Board of Governors again urges all members to exercise their membership rights by submitting nominations for those individuals whom they feel will best serve the interests of the Society.

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## SALES DEPARTMENT SERVICES

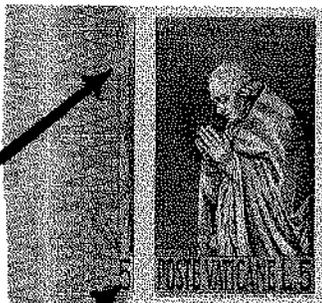
VPS members are urged to take advantage of the excellent services of the Sales Department, under the management of Miss Margaret Berthot, 317 South 4th Street, Clearfield, Pennsylvania. This department offers a simple but effective method of disposing of duplicate Vatican City stamps and of obtaining missing values, either in singles or in sets, mint or used. Contact Miss Berthot if you have duplicates to sell or wish to purchase from other members sales books. Stamps for sale are particularly needed at this time.

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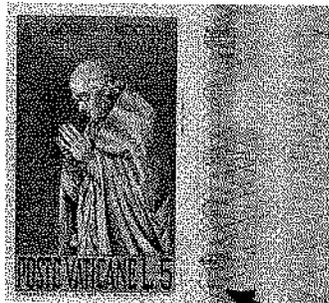
VPS members are again requested to include their VPS membership number when writing on society business or corresponding with the officials of VPS. When the correspondence requires or anticipates a reply, it would be appreciated if a return stamped envelope would be included. Some of the officials of VPS receive a large number of inquiries; since their services are donated without charge they should not be asked to make monetary contributions as well.

CANOVA ISSUE PLATE ALTERATIONS

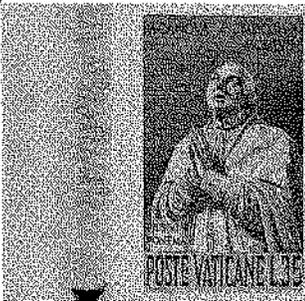
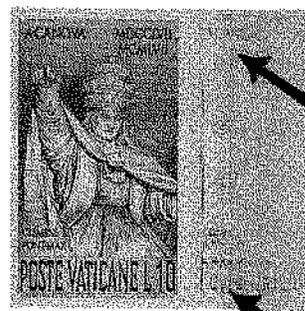
(See also the information concerning the Canova stamps on page -1- of this issue.)



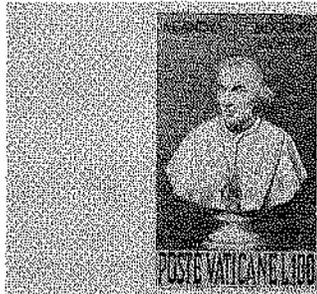
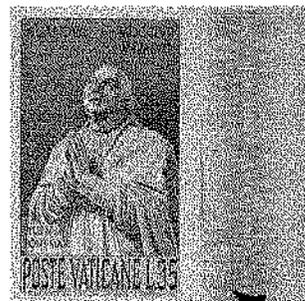
Originally, the four stamps to honor the second centenary of the birth of sculptor Antonio Canova were to be printed from cylindrical plates which were composed of panes of fifty subjects. Each pane was to form five horizontal rows consisting of ten stamps each.



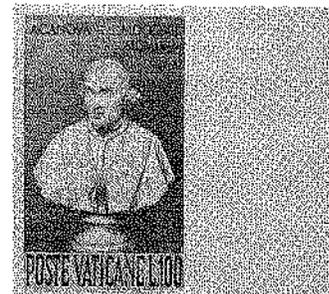
After the plates for the 5, 10, and 35 Lire values were all engraved it was discovered that the paper available did not allow for panes of this size and still retain the correct watermark pattern. Watermark patterns of the paper used for Vatican stamps consist of the Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys over the area on which the stamps are to be printed and a letter watermark reading STATO DELLA CITTA DEL VATICANO in the area which forms the margins of the pane.



The plate underwent alteration which consisted of erasing the two vertical end rows of five values and forming eight horizontal rows of five stamps per row. The erasing was not complete. Traces of the removed subjects can be seen in both left and right margins of the pane.



We illustrate both margins of the three values. Some panes are not as pronounced as the copies depicted. For comparison margin copies of the 100 Lire value which did not have any subjects removed are illustrated.



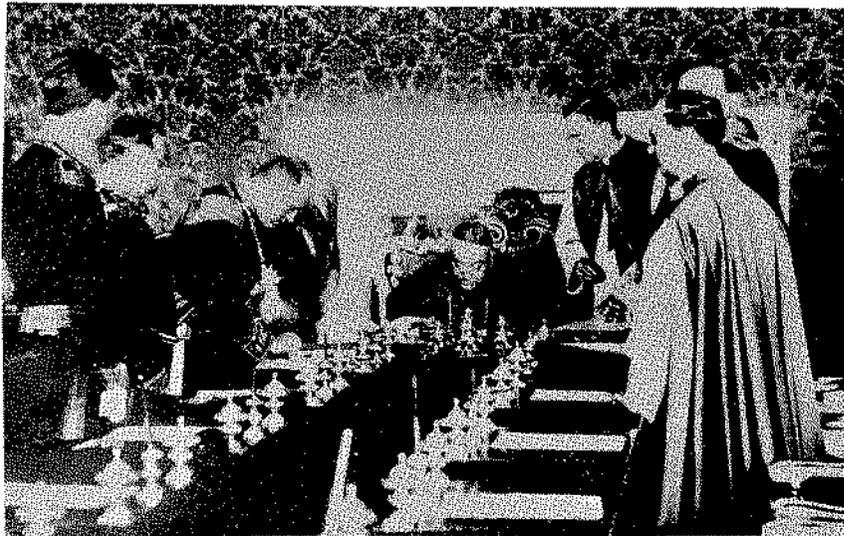
THE LATERAN PACT

(The first part of this article appeared in the July - August issue of VATICAN NOTES and is concluded in the present issue.)

The Lateran Pact went into effect on June 7, 1929. Mussolini, having gained stature by successfully negotiating the Roman Question, went back on the Pact repeatedly over the succeeding years, never intending to let the Catholic Youth Movement, Catholic education or the freedom of the Church be carried out as stipulated by the letter and spirit of the treaty and concordat. The voice of Pius XI was always staunch and steady in calling public attention to the Treaty and to its violation by Mussolini.

The Lateran Pact consists of two documents - the Lateran Treaty and the Lateran Concordat. The Treaty is a protocol effecting successful reconciliation between the Church and State in Italy. The preamble states "that the Holy See and Italy

Right - This historic photo shows the actual signing of the Lateran Treaty on February 11, 1929 in the Lateran Palace. Seated is Pietro Cardinal Gaspari, then Papal Secretary of State for Pope Pius XI. Benito Mussolini, then Premier of Italy, is shown at left bending over to affix his signature to the document.



Religious News Service Photo

have recognized the advantage of removing all causes of dispute between them by adopting a definite system of reciprocal relations in conformity with justice and with the dignity of the esteemed parties, whereby the Holy See permanently invested with real and legal status, is guaranteed absolute independence in the fulfillment of its lofty mission in the world

Roma, undici febbraio millesovecentoventinove.

*Pietro Cardinal Gaspari*  
*Benito Mussolini*

and is entitled to consider as definitely settled the Roman Question created in 1870 by the annexation of Rome to the Kingdom of Italy under the Dynasty of the House of Savoy; and that the obligation of assuring to the Holy See full liberty as well as real and visible independence in the government of the Universal Church and of guaranteeing its indisputable sovereignty even in the international field, has rendered necessary the establishment of



Left - The signatures of Cardinal Gaspari and Mussolini on the Lateran Treaty with the Papal Seal and the Seal of the Kingdom of Italy.

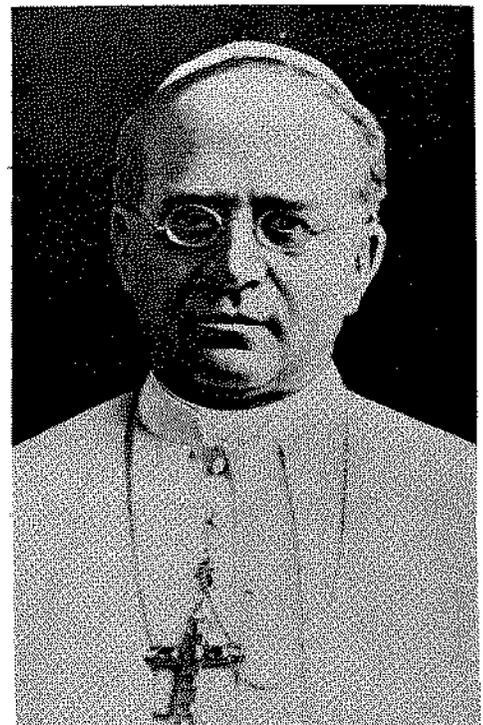
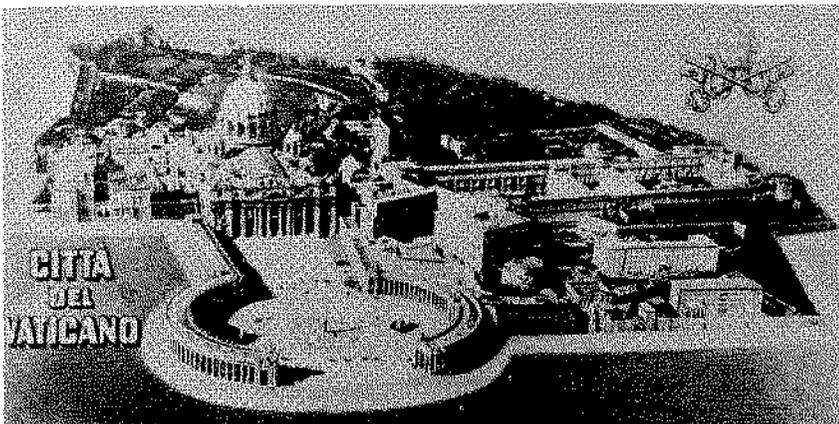


Vatican City State, with precise specifications, over which the Holy See exercises full ownership, exclusive and absolute power and sovereign jurisdiction.

In the twenty-seven articles of the Treaty, besides the establishment of the Vatican City State, certain extraterritorial sites were specified as the Lateran, St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, Castel Gondolfo and various other churches and properties.

Property occupied by priests and nuns was to be respected. Communications, diplomatic rights, extradition agreement and such were covered. Indemnity of 750 million Italian Lire in cash and 1 billion Italian Lire in Italian Government Bonds were to be paid to the Vatican to compensate for the lands and revenues confiscated by the Italian Government. In return, Pius XI dropped all claims to territories once making up the Pontifical States.

The Lateran Concordat, drawn up at the same time as the Treaty, is a protocol, as stated in the preamble "intended to regulate the conditions of religion and the Church in Italy." The forty-five articles of the Concordat provided that civil laws conflicting with Canon Law were to be changed. Catholicism became the official religion of the State. Catholic Action was to be recognized and protected. Religious instruction was to be established in the schools. Pius XI had insisted



Above - Original design of E3-4 used by Edmondo Pizzi as a model for the Lateran Pact issue. Right - Photo of Pius XI used by Pizzi for the design of the Lateran Pact issue; also used in the 1929 issue (8-13).

At top of page - Pens supplied by Pope Pius XI and used for the signing of the Lateran Treaty. They are now in a glass case in the Lateran Museum. (Photo - Ernest A. Kehr.)

on two points above all others: 1. temporal sovereignty of the Papacy, accomplished in the Treaty; and 2. placing the religious ceremony of marriage on a par with the civil ceremony. This was accomplished in Article 34 of the Concordat. Law # 847 of May 27, 1929 modified the articles of the civil code pertaining to marriage to harmonize with relevant articles of canon law. The religious freedom of the Church in Italy was guaranteed and specified in detail. The Basilicas of Assisi, Loreto, and Padua as well as the Catacombs were ceded to the Church.

About the vatican City State, Pope Pius XI said: "That much territory we need as a basis for sovereignty, that much territory without which we could not exist;..... that much body required to keep the soul together." The miniature Vatican City State gave the Pope temporal independence needed as head of the Universal Church. The unity of Italy was officially approved by the Papacy. The cause of bitterness was removed and the basis for peace laid for the future.

References: History of the Church, Vol. II, Poulet-Raemers (Herder)  
Catholic Encyclopedia: Lateran Concordat; Lateran Treaty, A. Moreschini  
Pius XI - the Pope and the Man, Aradi (Hanover House)  
Historical Document, William Wonneberger, jr. (Linns, 1954)  
History of the Roman States, William Wonneberger, jr. (Linns, 1956)

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In the historical background series, the Lateran Pact (conclusion of two parts), Marian Year and Canonization of Pius X were covered in this issue. In order to give complete coverage to the Marian Year in one issue, an article on Roman States stamps is being held over to the November - December issue of VATICAN NOTES.

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With reference to the historical series on Vatican stamps, the attention of members is called to excellent material by Father Horn on St. Bernard, the Marian Year and the Marian Year termination all of which appeared in reprint articles in Volume IV, No. XI of Vatican Notes, May 1956.

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#### ERRATA

The third paragraph of the article on Peter Lombard which appeared in Vatican Notes, Volume VII, Number 1, July - August 1958, should read as follows:

Peter Lombard gave particular emphasis in his works to the doctrine that a sacrament was both a symbol and a means of grace, and that seven fulfilled the required conditions. This was reiterated by the Council of Trent as being the official doctrine of the Catholic Church.

## CANONIZATION OF POPE PIUS X

Pope Pius X was beatified on June 3, 1951 by the process previously described (see Vatican Notes, Vol. VI, No. 4) Canonization, or elevation to the sainthood, can be considered and the process of canonization begun, only if two miracles are reported after beatification which had been worked through the intercession of the Blessed. These miracles would be discussed in three meetings of the Congregations of Rites. It had to be proved that they were authentic and were performed through the intercession of Blessed Pius X. If both points were proven, a fourth meeting of the Congregation would be held and Pope Pius XII would issue a Bull of Canonization in which he not only permits public veneration (as in beatification) but also demands public veneration of the person now called a saint. Because of the heroic holiness of the life of the Blessed and the proven miracles performed through his intercession, the soul of the candidate is declared to be surely in heaven, a friend of God for eternity whose intercession with God can be publicly sought. Extended time may elapse before canonization because, before the process is closed, the same Cardinals and consultors must vote at all meetings.

Two miracles were examined and proved authentic and performed through the intercession of Blessed Pius X. Within three months after his beatification the first occurred. Francesco Belsani was dying from a cancerous lung abscess and bronchial pneumonia. He was a 71-year old lawyer from Naples. Without his knowledge his wife prayed to Blessed Pius X for his recovery. On August 26, 1951, the bedroom door opened and Francesco saw Pius X enter and place his hand on the sick bed. He heard Pius X say "Be calm and of good cheer. Tomorrow you will be well." Shortly afterward an xray showed that the cancerous abscess, the size of an orange, was no longer there. The second miracle was granted to Sister Maria Luisa Scoria, Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul in Sicily. She was suffering from meningopencephalomyelitis and in 1952 this 32-year old nun was cured through the intercession of Blessed Pius X.



On May 29, 1954 Pope Pius XII solemnly proclaimed Blessed Pius X to be a Saint. He himself was just recovering from his grave illness and was unable to celebrate the Pontifical Mass of Canonization. On May 30th with Pius XII presiding, Eugenio Cardinal Tisserant, Dean of the College of Cardinals, celebrated the Mass of Canonization of St. Pius X. In the afternoon of the same day, the body of St. Pius X was carried in procession to St. Mary Major's where it lay in state in its glass casket for a week. The body of St. Pius X was still incorrupt.

Reference: Pius X, William Wonneberger, jr.  
Linns, 1954.

Photo by the Pontifical Photographer - Felici.  
Given to Edmondo Pizzi as a model for the  
design of the St. Pius X set of stamps (182-184)

THE MARIAN YEAR

On May 26, 1954 the Vatican Postal Administration complied with Ordinance LXXXVIII of the Pontifical Commission of the State of Vatican City and issued a set of six stamps to mark the Marian Year. There were two major designs. One appeared on the 3, 6 and 20 Lire values and depicts Pope Pius IX with the inscription that he had promulgated the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of which the Marian Year marked the first centenary. The other appeared on the 4, 12 and 35 Lire values and bears the likeness of Pope Pius XII, the reigning Pontiff, with the inscription that he proclaimed the first Marian Year on December 8, 1953.



Edmondo Pizzi, the noted designer of many Vatican issues, received his inspiration for the design of the stamps from two medals in the Vatican collection. The first is by the 19th century sculptor Bianchi and portrays Pope Pius IX. The second shows Pope Pius XII and is the work of a contemporary sculptor Mistruzzi. Illustrations of these sources for the designs are shown accompanying this article through the kindness of Mr. Pizzi.



Because of their close connection with the Marian Year basis the two Popes appearing on these Marian Year stamps were chosen. This can be readily understood if the two tributes to the Mother of God which form this basis are reviewed.

Ever since the seventeenth century, the Vatican has been beseeched by Catholics throughout the world to give solemn definition to the Immaculate Conception. The cause for such a definition was given further encouragement by the vision of the



Blessed Virgin in the Convent on the Rue du Bac to a novice, Catherine Laboure in 1830. When Pope Pius IX was elected to the Throne of Peter, Catholics were jubilant for his devotion to the Mother of God was well known and it was hoped that he would make the solemn definition.

Devotion to the Immaculate Conception of Mary was not a new belief in the Church. The privilege of being immaculately conceived was granted to Mary by God because she was to be the Mother of Jesus Christ, God become man. Even the early Fathers had defined her Divine Maternity at the Council of Ephesus in 431. Mary's freedom from original and actual sin, it seems, was never doubted. The Feast of the Conception of Mary had an eastern origin and was in fact celebrated in England in the 11th century. Furthermore, the Archbishop of Canterbury, St. Anselm, had greatly encouraged this devotion. In 1476 the reigning Pontiff, Pope Sixtus IV, approved the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and encouraged its devotion.

The Council of Trent when defining the doctrine of original sin, carefully noted the exemption of the Virgin Mary. (The Council of Trent series is 110-121/E9-10) So it was not a great surprise when Pope Pius IX appointed a commission of twenty theologians on June 1, 1848 to study the Immaculate Conception to see if it were possible to make the solemn definition. The report was favorable and prompted Pius IX, now at Gaeta, to issue the encyclical "Ubi Primum" wherein he called upon the Bishops of the Church for prayers and to express freely their opinion on pronouncing the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Of the 593 expressions given only four were not in favor of defining the Dogma.

As a result of this poll, Pope Pius IX convened a secret consistory on December 1, 1854. The assembled Cardinals were asked: "Is it your pleasure that we utter the dogmatic decree on the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary?" The Cardinals unanimously agreed, whereby the reigning Pontiff set December 8, 1854 as the day of the promulgation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

On the morning of December 8th, the great Basilica of St. Peter was crowded with the faithful from all over the world. Among them were forty-nine Cardinals and one hundred and forty Bishops. The solemn Pontifical Mass began and at a few minutes before 11:00 a.m., after the singing of the Gospel, the Holy Father stood on the steps of his throne and solemnly sanctioned "... that the doctrine, which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary at the moment of her conception was, by the singular grace of Jesus Christ, Saviour of the human race, preserved from all stain of original sin, is revealed by God, and therefore to be firmly and resolutely believed by all the faithful." After the Dogma had been infallibly decreed, the crowds cheered wildly and shouted "Viva Maria Immaculata." Castel Sant'Angelo saluted with its cannons and the bells of all the churches of Rome pealed out joyously to announce the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

When the solemn Pontifical Mass had ended, Pius IX blessed a gold crown studded with precious stones and jewels. He was born on his portable throne to the Chapel of Sixtus IV where he placed the crown on the head of a statue of Mary, the Mother of God, in the presence of a host of Cardinals and Bishops. The crown, imperial in style, was made of 28 carat hand-beaten gold and weighed 31 ounces, 4 pennyweight and 12 grams. It was studded with many garnets, aquamarines, emeralds, lapis lazuli, topazes and amethysts. These were the gifts of the Pontifical Secretary of State, Cardinal Antonelli. The rest of the cost of the crown, 937.90 scudi, was born by the Chapter of the Vatican Basilica.

On the following day a consistory was convened at the Vatican at which the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops present in Rome took part. Each was presented with a

commemorative medal minted with the first gold from Australian mines.

To commemorate the dogmatic definition of the Immaculate Conception Pius IX erected a tall but graceful column in the Piazza di Spagna in Rome. The column was surmounted by a statue patterned after the vision of Catherine Laboure. (This same statue is reproduced on the Miraculous Medal.) To preserve the happenings of December 8, 1854 and the definition of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Pius IX chose one of the halls adjoining the world-renowned Raphael Rooms and decreed that henceforth it would be known as the "Hall of Mary Immaculate." He invited Francesco Podesti, the most celebrated artist of the times to paint a fresco on the walls. At the request of the Holy Father, Podesti depicted the history of the Dogma in three stages: the discussion, the solemn definition and the crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin. These beautiful paintings are enjoyed by thousands of pilgrims who journey to Rome each year.

When Pope Pius XII declared the Dogma of the Assumption on November 1, 1950 he placed a diadem on the twentieth century. (The Assumption series is 143-144) Though the assumption of the body and soul of the Mother of God into Heaven had been ardently believed for centuries, it remained until recent times to be solemnly defined. As if to add another jewel to the diadem, Pope Pius XII on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - September 8, 1953 - gave to the world his encyclical "Fulgens Corona Glorise." In this resplendent document the Holy Father called upon the faithful to join in the observance of the Marian Year that was to extend from December 8, 1953 to December 8, 1954. This first year in the annals of the Church dedicated to the Mother of God was decreed to mark the centenary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

On December 8, 1953 Pope Pius XII left the Vatican Palace and drove through downtown Rome for the first time since the end of World War II. In the Piazza di Spagna, at the foot of the Spanish steps, the car came to a halt. The Holy Father then placed a bouquet of flowers at the base of the Immaculate Conception column which had been erected by Pius IX. He was then driven to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the most famed church in the world dedicated to the mother of God, to preside at ceremonies inaugurating the Marian Year. Throughout the world Catholics paid special tribute to the Mother of God during the Marian Year and pilgrimages were made to her shrines in many countries of the free world.

The most outstanding of all the beautiful ceremonies marking the Marian Year occurred on October 11, 1954 when Pope Pius XII gave to the world his encyclical "Ad Caeli Reginam," (To the Queen of Heaven) in which he proclaimed the Queenship of Mary. The highlights of this masterpiece of Marian Year literature were the creation of a new Feast of the Queenship of Mary to be observed on May 31st of each year and a proclamation to every Bishop throughout the world to consecrate his diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on May 31st. This fulfills the last of the requests made by Our Lady to Lucy at Fatima, Portugal - an authoritative statement of the ancient Catholic tradition of the universal Queenship of Mary. Still another gem was added to the diadem placed on the twentieth century by the Pontiff whose middle name is that of the Mother of God. Of all the great "Marian Popes" in the history of the Church, he is the most outstanding and he will be known as the "Pope of the Age of Mary."

To commemorate the Marian Year, a Marian Congress was convened at Rome. Featured in this gathering from all parts of the world was an address by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman to the "Church of Silence." (This is graphically portrayed in

the series marking the Marian Year termination 189-191) Another important highlight of the Congress was the coronation of the ancient painting of the Madonna and Child in ceremonies by Pope Pius XII to mark the occasion of the creation of the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. On October 31, 1954, the day preceeding the coronation, the ancient masterpiece "Salus Populi Romani" (Salvation of the Roman People) was carried from its usual resting place in the Basilica of St. Mary Major and placed upon a flower-bedecked auto. This painting is usually attributed to St. Luke and is blackened with age. It began the journey to the Vatican escorted by ten thousand clergy and laymen bearing religious banners and led by His Eminence Nicola Cardinal Canali, President of the Commission for the Administration of Vatican City, and formed a procession two miles long. Towards dusk the sounds of the recitation of the rosary by the procession preceeded them as they entered St. Peter's Square. The dome of St. Peter's was bathed in light as bells pealed out their welcome to them. The procession approached the altar erected at the main entrance of the Basilica and the painting was then placed above the altar on a bed of red velvet. The following day Pope Pius XII was born on the Sedia Gestatoria and carried from St. Peters for the coronation. The Holy Father placed two jewel-studded crowns of gold, gifts from Catholics throughout the world, on the painting. He was then carried back to St. Peters where he received the obeisance of twenty-five Cardinals and delivered his address.

The Marian Year was not celebrated by religious ceremonies alone. The philatelic world paid tribute to the Mother of God during this special year by issuing forty-six distinct Marian Year stamps from fifteen countries as well as many other stamps depicting Our Lady or some event or place devoted to her. These stamps have formed the basis for Marian Year collections by hundreds of collectors who are not among the usual thousands who normally pursue the collection of Madonna stamps. Though the United States did not issue a stamp, American philately did not ignore the Marian Year. Upon receiving news that this country would not issue a stamp, Cardinal Spellman made available a special Marian Year seal to collectors without cost which could be affixed to their mail.

A special Vatican-Marian Year Exhibition was held at the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia. This exhibit displayed not only the stamps of Vatican City and the Pontifical States but many stamps honoring the Mother of God. Probably the most outstanding philatelic tribute to Mary was begun by the world's leading authority on Madonnas on Stamps, Rev. Aloysius S. Horn, VPS # 129. Through the Queen of the Missions magazine (now the Age of Mary) Father Horn began a series of articles in January of 1954 which is continuing to this day on the Madonna on Stamps and the Churches of the Madonna on Stamps. This serialized presentation has given to collectors a virtual bible of Marian Stamps complete with even the most remote details. In addition, through the same magazine Father Horn has given to philately the complete story behind each Marian Year stamp to enable collectors to write up their collections intelligently.

The Marian Year officially came to a close on December 8, 1954. Again the Vatican marked the event with a special issue of stamps. These will be covered in future issues of Vatican Notes.

(The material in this article was originally prepared by William Wonneberger, jr and appeared in Linn's Weekly Stamp News. All documents referred to in this article can be found in "Papal Documents on Mary", Doheny-Kelly, Bruce.)