



Vatican Philatelic Society

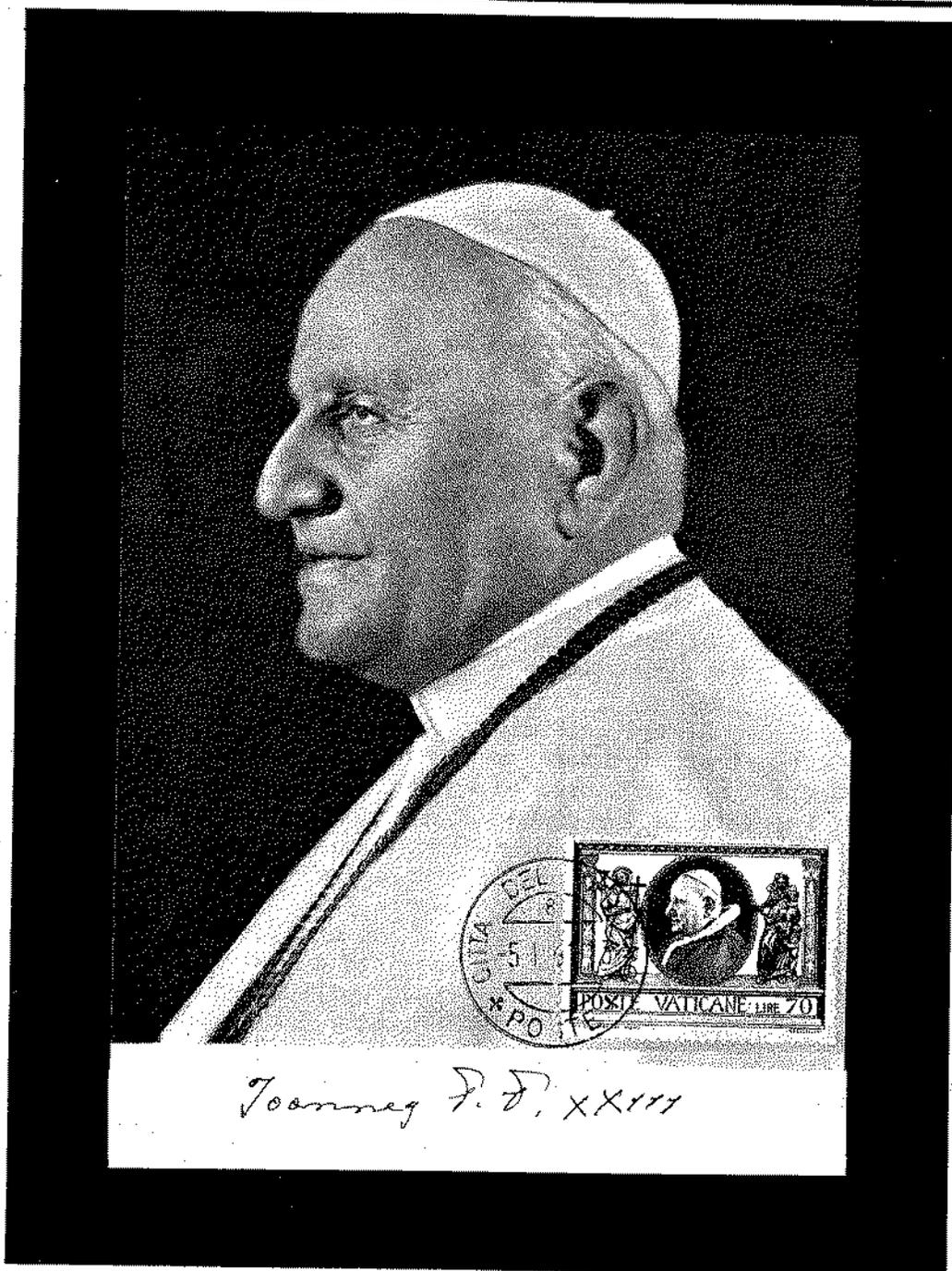
Vatican Notes

Volume XII.

July - August 1963.

Number 1.

REQUIRANT



Joannes P. P. XXIII

IN PACE

POPE JOHN XXIII



Church of Baptism of Pope John XXIII.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was born November 25, 1881, in Sotto il Monte, in the Diocese and Province of Bergamo, Lombardy, about 30 miles north-east of Milan. This son of a farmhand had his early education at the local school and is remembered as an easy-going student, presaging nothing of his later diligence and brilliance. "From the moment I was born, I never thought about anything else except becoming a priest." At the age of 11 he entered the Diocesan Seminary at Bergamo to start on his way to the accomplishment of his vocation. Here his outstanding qualities of mind and heart prompted the faculty to send him to Rome to continue his studies at the Roman Pontifical Seminary, which, with Capranica College, has been the training ground for most of the top Church leaders and several popes. Angelo Roncalli was ordained a priest at Rome in Santa Maria in Monte, August 10, 1904, at the age of 23, and celebrated his first Mass in St. Peters.



Church of Ordination of Pope John XXIII.

"My ambition as a young man was really to become a country priest in my native diocese". But on his return to Bergamo as a priest, he was appointed secretary to Bishop Radini-Tedeschi of Bergamo, one of the foremost promoters of the Catholic social movement in Italy. Pope John considers this bishop to have been his mentor. In his office as secretary, he traveled in France, Spain and the Holy Land. In Milan he met the future Pius XI at the Ambrosian library.

At the death of Bishop Radini-Tedeschi, Fr. Roncalli was inducted into the Italian Army at the outbreak of World War I, first as a sergeant of the medical corps and then as a Chaplain First Lieutenant. When he was mustered out of the army, he returned to Bergamo where he was assigned to teach theology and history for three years in the Diocesan Seminary and to act as spiritual director for the students. In Bergamo he was active in Catholic Action and with Catholic labor unions. One of his projects was the opening of a student home in 1919.

At the age of 40, in 1920, he was called to Rome by Cardinal Gaspari, under Benedict XV to work at the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, which directs missionary activity of the Catholic Church throughout the world. He helped in its reorganization. With the election of Pius XI in 1922, Fr. Roncalli received many traveling assignments from the new Pope during the next four years.



Church of the Episcopal Consecration of John XXIII.

Pope Pius XI made him Bishop Roncalli, March 19, 1925, and sent him on his first diplomatic mission to Bulgaria for 5 years as Apostolic Visitor, and another 5 as Apostolic Delegate. In 1934 he was Apostolic Delegate to Turkey and at the same time to Greece. At these posts he remained in the Balkans for the next ten years, becoming well versed in the problems of the middle east and with the languages of that area. At the outbreak of World War II, Turkey was neutral and became a listening post of great importance in Europe. While working late one night in 1944, he received a cablegram appointing him as Papal Nuncio to liberated Paris, by Pius XII. They had first met in 1905 when Fr. Pacelli had proctored an examination taken by Angelo Roncalli. Further meetings were inevitable in the years that followed as their work centered on the Vatican.

Charles DeGaulle had refused to treat with the former Nuncio who had been accredited to the Vichy Government. The provisional French Government wanted a "purge" of 33 bishops who

had remained at their posts during World War II throughout the Vichy regime, and who were accused of "collaboration". Eventually through the good offices of the new Nuncio the "purge" was limited to three. For almost 8 years Bishop Roncalli did yeoman work at this highly important diplomatic post. Pius XII raised him to the college of Cardinals on January 12, 1953, and three days later made him Patriarch of Venice. Stories of his pastoral concern and love for the Venetians remind one of stories recounted about St. Pius X when he was patriarch of the same city. One of the assignments with a philatelic connection was given him in 1958, when as representative of Pius XII he participated in the Centennial Year of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes by dedicating the new underground church at the Marian Domain named after St. Pius X. In 1957 he had been offered the position of Secretary of the Consistorial Commission, but had turned it down to remain in his beloved Venice. When the death of Pope Pius XII caused him to leave Venice for the election of the next pope, the same cry went up as at the departure of Card. Sarto: "Come back to Venice! Don't leave us!" And in the same vein as St. Pius X, Card Roncalli predicted that he would be back in two weeks. Both were elected Pope.

The conclave was assembled and locked in the Vatican on Oct. 25, 1958, a Saturday, with 51 of the 53 cardinals present. On Oct. 28, on the 11th or 12th ballott, Angelo Roncalli was elected Pope. The Dean of the College of Cardinals, Eugene Tisserant, put the question to him: "Do you accept your canonically performed election as Supreme Pontiff?" Card. Roncalli replied: "I accept," and immediately became invested with full power as Head of the Church, Successor of St. Peter, Vicar of Christ, - the Pope. To Card. Tisserant's question: "By what name do you wish to be called?" the reply was: "John XXIII. This name is dear to us because it was the name of our father, because it is the name of the patron saint of the humble church where he was baptised, because it is the name of innumerable cathedrals all over the world, and first of all of the Basilica of St. John in Rome, now our own cathedral."



It is rumored that John XXIII lead on every ballot of the conclave. On the 2nd ballot on Thursday morning, Oct. 28, he lacked only a few votes necessary for the 35 for election. On the final ballott in the afternoon, it is said that he received a unanimous vote, less his own vote. He was crowned on Nov. 4, Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, the Lombard saint in whose church in Rome, San Carlo in Corso, he had received episcopal consecration. The tiara was placed on his head by Nicola Card. Canali, at 1:00 P.M., climaxing a 4 1/2 hour ceremony, and marking the official beginning of his reign, even though he was pope from the moment he said "I accept."

To save space, we select some notable dates in the Pontificate of John XXIII, to give a thumbnail sketch of his reign.

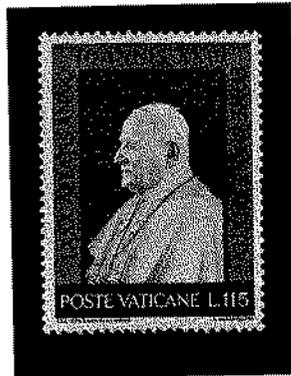
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| Oct. 28, 1958. Elected Pope. | Nov. 4, 1958. Coronation as Pope. |
| Dec. 1, 1958. Received Shah of Iran. | Dec. 15, 1958. 1st consistory-creates 23 cardinals. |
| Dec. 26, 1958. Visits Roman jails. | |
| Jan. 25, 1959. At meeting with cardinals at St. Paul outside the walls, he announces the II Vatican Council. | |
| April 11-12, 1959. Dispatched body of St. Pius X to Venice and back. | |
| July 12, 1959. 1st Encyclical Letter: AD PETRI CATHEDRAM- appealing for separated christians to unite. | |
| Oct. 11, 1959. Spoke publicly in English for first time at North American College in Rome. | |
| Dec. 6, 1959. Received former president Dwight D. Eisenhower. | |
| Dec. 14, 1959. 2nd Consistory- 8 cardinals. Jan. 16-31, 1960. Roman Diocesan Synod. | |
| March 28, 1960. 3rd Consistory- 7 cardinals | |
| Dec. 2, 1960. Received Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury. | |
| Jan. 16, 1961. 4th Consistory- 4 cardinals. May 5, 1962. Receives Queen Elizabeth II. | |
| July 14, 1961. Encyclical Letter: MATER ET MAGISTER- on social problems. | |
| Dec. 25, 1961. Bull for convocation of II Vatican Council issued. | |

March 11, 1962. Receives Mrs. John F. Kennedy. March 19, 1962. 5 Consistory-10 cardinals.
 Oct. 4, 1962. Takes train to Loreto & Assisi- 1st pope to ride train in 100 years.
 Oct. 11, 1962. Opens II Vatican Council.
 Nov.29, 1962. 1st announcement of stomach upset, which eventually causes death.
 Dec. 8, 1962. Recesses First Session of Vatican Council
 March 7, 1963. Receives Alexei Adzubei, Editor of Izvestia, son-in-law of Khrushchev.
 April 10, 1963. Encyclical Letter: PACEM IN TERRIS-for world peace.
 May 10, 1963. Receives \$160,000.00 Balzan Prize for Peace.
 June 4, 1963, 7:49 P.M. (Rome Time). Pope John XXIII died.
 Pontificate: 4 years, 7 months, 6 days.



When the death of Pope John was imminent, the recognition party assembled outside his room. It consisted of Card. Tisserant, Dean of the College of Cardinals, Benedetto Card. Aloisi Masella, Papal Chamberlain, Msgr. Federico Calori di Vignale, Prefect of the Apostolic Palaces, Msgr. Nasalli Rocca, Archbishop Enrico Dante, Papal Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Mario Fontana, Director of the Vatican Health Service and they were joined inside by the three physicians who had attended the Pope: Dr. Antonio Gasbarrini, Dr. Piero Mazzoni, and Dr. Pietro Valdoni. With their recognition, the pope was declared dead with the usual ceremony, but the official announcement was made by the Papal Chamberlain, Card. Masella. With the Pope up to his death, were the three doctors named above, the Secretary of State, Amleto, Card. Cicognani, Bishop Alfredo Cacagna, confessor of the Pope, Msgr. Loris Capovilla, his personal secretary, the Popes brothers, Zaverio, Giuseppe and Alfredo Roncalli and his sister, Assunta; his nephew, Msgr Giambattista Roncalli of Bergamo, four nieces, his personal valet and a male nurse, Brother Federico Bellotti, O.S.A. The Pope had requested and received the last sacraments of the Church on Saturday morning, June 1.

Pope John's body lay in state in St. Peters for two days, having been born there in procession. Before the private burial, it was brought to the steps of St. Peters so that it could be viewed by the assembled multitude. His relatives, six cardinals and some of the Canons of St. Peters were all, by his own request, who attended his interment in the crypt of St. Peters, near the tomb of Pius XI. Solemn ceremonies followed later. It is said that this is a temporary resting place, pending the preparation of his tomb in St. John Lateran.

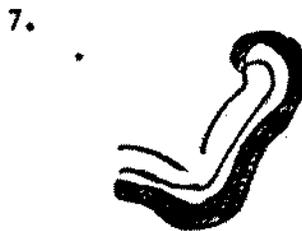


Who can give praise to this humble man of God, whom the press marked as an "interim pope" but who worked so zealously that he became beloved the whole world over. His personal holiness and gracious charity beamed through the smile on his kindly face.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE.

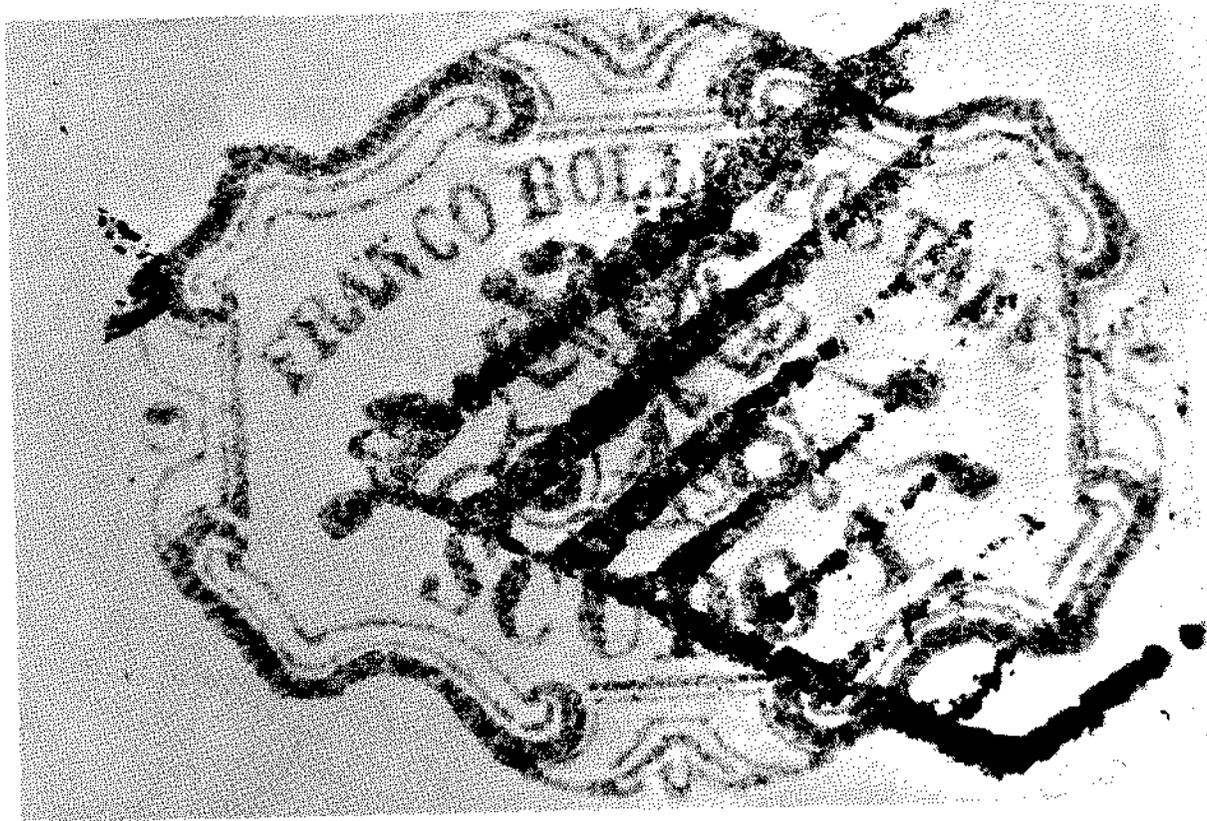
Genuine 1 Scudo

1. P of POSTALE has serif at left foot.
2. Dot before top serif of P of POSTALE.
3. E of POSTALE does not touch frame line.
4. Top serifs of U & D of SCUDO often touch.
5. Top right serif of N of FRANCO tapers to right.
6. Top bit of right key slightly open.
7. 1st inner frame line at bottom right not broken.
8. No break in bottom frame line where it joins decoration.



FOURNIER Forgery of the 1 Scudo (2nd).

1. Serif at left foot of P of POSTALE missing.
 2. No dot before top serif of P of Postale.
 3. E of POSTALE does NOT touch frame line.
 4. Top serifs of U & D of SCUDO do touch.
 5. Right top serif of N of FRANCO does not taper either right or left.
 6. Top bit of right key is NOT open.
 7. Inner frame line broken at bottom right.
 8. Break in outer left bottom frame line where it joins decoration.
- (Cf. Billig #52) It is also found lithographed on very white paper.



1 & 2.

P

3.

UD

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E

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N

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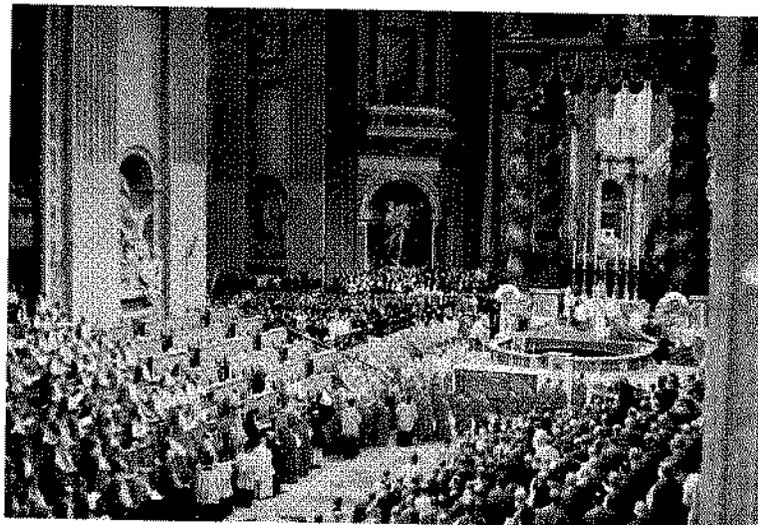


REFLECTIONS ON THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

BY Rev. Charles K. VonEuw.

The other evening I was somewhat nostalgically examining some of the First Day Covers of the Vatican Council issue. These covers had been presented by the Vatican City Commission to the Fathers of the Council and to the rest of us who had the privilege of taking part in this great historic assembly. As I studied the eight stamps the thought struck me that their designs provided a most appropriate way of describing some of the circumstances and significance of this Council. And so this brief article.

The Portrait of Pope John XXIII seems to stand out in this series with a prominence, which is most apt. It has been said often that this is "Pope John's Council". His announcement on January 25, 1959, in the Basilica of St. Paul startled the entire world. Indeed, Pope John's preparations for the Council since that date brought about such interest and eager concern from all men, that one can agree that this was truly "like an inspiration from on high" as the Pontiff sometime after described his decision. The prompt formation of the preparatory commissions, the creation of the Secretariat for Promoting Unity, the serious concern with which he followed closely each of the thirty-six work sessions (either in person or by closed circuit television in his study) and his intervention in late November by which he settled the long discussions over the draft on Divine Revelation,- these all show that the Council and its successes are due to Pope John.



It is precisely as successor of St. Peter that the present Bishop of Rome presides over this general council of the Church. And the Statue of St. Peter - strong and venerable in appearance to one who walks down the long central nave of the basilica built over the grave of the Chief Apostle - was a constant reminder to all of us who took part in this council that it was Peter and his rock-like faith on which Christ built His Church. The unity of faith was so evident at the council as the Father chanted the Nicene Creed each morning while the open book of the Gospels was carried solemnly past the statue of St. Peter and placed on the altar. And I know that many of the bishops exclaimed, like their predecessors at the Council of Chalcedon in 451, that "Peter has spoken through John".

One sight to which I never grew accustomed was the Masses Assembly of the Fathers of the Council. During that First Session, from October 11 to December 8, an average of about 2300 bishops, cardinals and patriarchs daily took their places in the specially erected tiers of seats. Here they knelt in reverence during the morning celebration of Mass and sat in earnest study of the drafts under discussion. A most efficient loudspeaker system made it possible for over 600 statements to be made and heard. Electronic computers made the taking of attendance and the counting of over fifty separate votes no more than a fifteen minute process. Each day one of the ten Cardinal Presidents directed the order in which the fathers were to speak (even to ringing the bell on one who might exceed his ten minute time allotment). And the Latin of the Church which was the language of the Council, although colored by the national accent of the bishop speaking, was an intelligible medium of communication for all present. Even the two coffee shops built for the occasion became

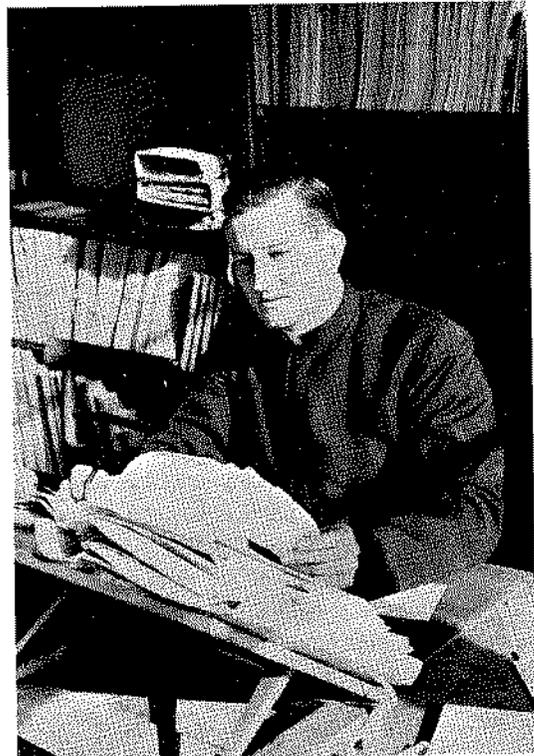
a cross-section of communication. And the presence of half a hundred Protestant and Eastern dissident observers at the sessions made this truly and historical ecumenical assembly. As the fathers continued their discussions from nine to twelve-thirty each morning there stood out clearly the fact that here was the teaching authority of the Church, the pastors who had been entrusted with the solemn obligation of preaching the Gospel - and this is what they were doing.

The choice of the Raphael paintings representing the three theological virtues - faith, hope and charity - was a most appropriate one. Not only because every council is primarily theological, but because of the discussions of the First Session and especially the three drafts which were almost unanimously approved. The draft on Sacred Liturgy (which occupied fifteen work sessions and many more commission meetings) has as its principal concern the faith of the members of the Church: the worship of the Church as the source of Christian faith and life and the goal of all Christian spirituality. The second constitution which was accepted, that on the Modern Media of Communications, exemplifies the earnest hope of the Council for the mission of the Church in reaching all men with the Gospel, the hope of the renewal of each member of the Church by his daily life and in his livelihood.

The third draft, that on the unity of Christians and union possibilities, has for its theme and its format - charity - the love which urges us to the union of all in Christ. And of course the discussions themselves manifested these virtues of faith, hope and love and indicated the characteristics of this council to be pastoral and ecumenical rather than doctrinal and polemical.

As the work sessions came to a close each day and the lights of the basilica were turned off, the brilliant noon sunlight would stream through the great Bernini window in the apse and illumine the emptying church. As this great window, depicting the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, became the chief source of light in the great hall, I could not but frequently think of the action of the Holy Spirit in this Council. The bishops having pilgrimaged from every corner of the world to this assembly were indeed directed and guided by the Spirit. And as they returned to their home dioceses following the closing ceremonies of December 8, they brought with them the fruits of this direction and guidance. The design of the 115 Lire stamp offers worthwhile matter for meditation.

Brighton, Mass. He went to the Second Vatican Council as a member of the official entourage of Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston. In Rome he was officially designate "peritus" or expert for the II Vatican Council. He was present at all sessions and took notes on all speeches and official business, keeping the record for Card Cushing.



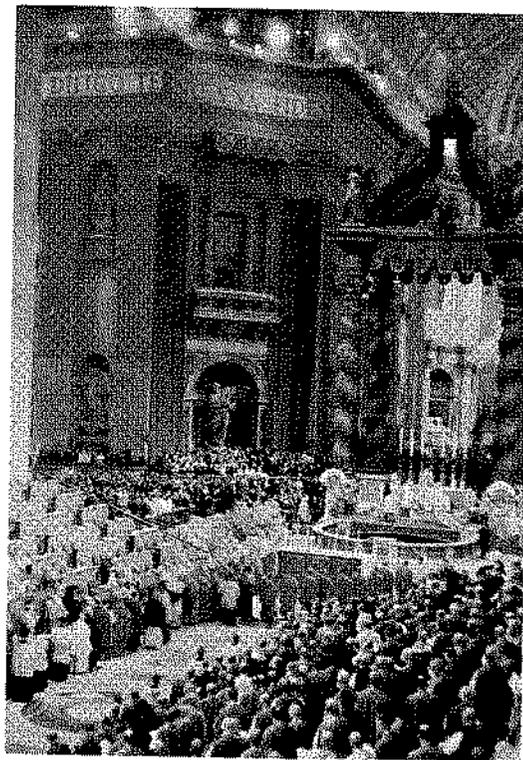
Rev. Charles K. VonEuw, S.T.L., S.E.O.D.

Fr. VonEuw was ordained in 1954 and is a professor at St. John's Seminary in

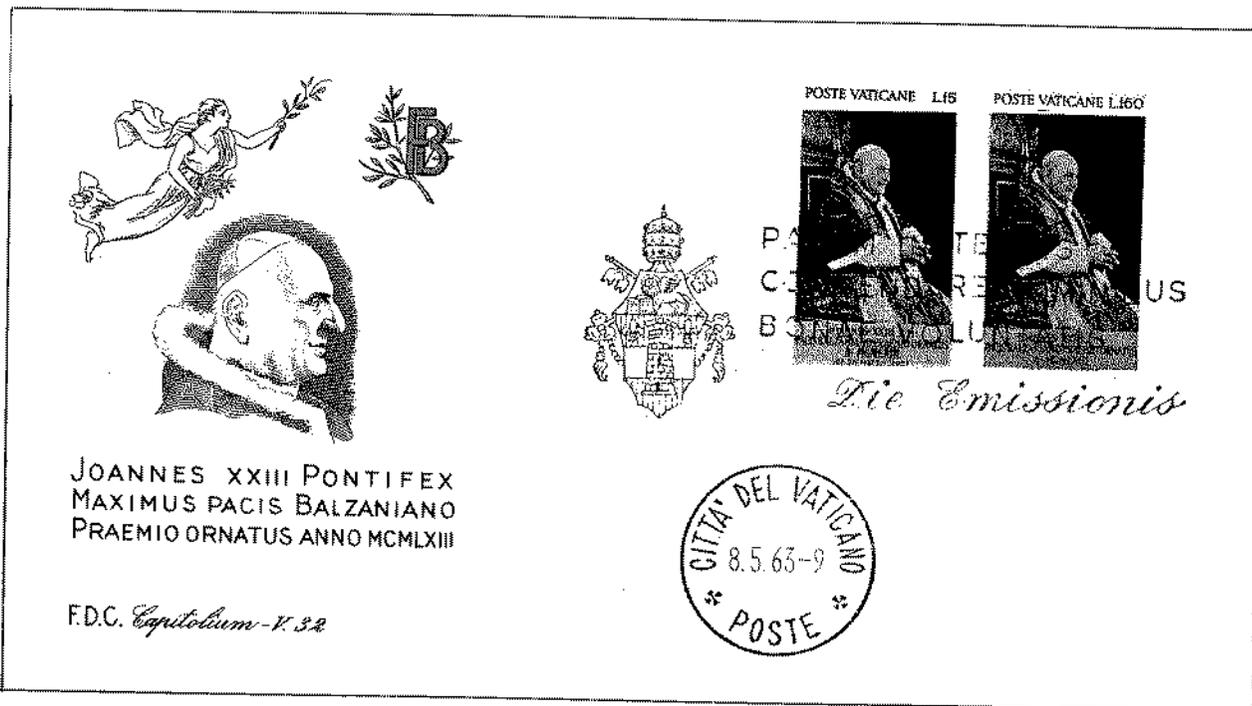
The effects of this First Session of the Second Ecumenical Vatican Council may not be seen in great measure until the promulgation of decrees in the next session - scheduled to open September 8. But the purpose of the Council- and Pope John's hope and intention is already being realized. It is renewal. Renewal of the Church and of every member in the spirit and light of the Gospels- the Gospels whose symbols form the corners of the stamp which bears Pope John's crest. And it is this spirit which prompts and is reflected in the message which the fathers of Second Vatican sent to all men in the opening days:

"We will to seek how we must renew ourselves so that we might be found more and more faithful to the Gospel of Christ. And we shall study how to present the whole and pure truth of God to men of this age."

This is the meaning of the Vatican Council and these are some reflections on the stamps issued to commemorate that historic and religious event.



VATICAN PHILATELIC NEWS



JOANNES XXIII PONTIFEX
MAXIMUS PACIS BALZANIANO
PRAEMIO ORNATUS ANNO MCMLXIII

F.D.C. Capitolium - V. 32

POSTE VATICANE L.15 POSTE VATICANE L.160
PACEM IN TERRIS COMMENDARE HOMINIBUS BONAE VOLUNTATIS

Die Emissionis

CITTA' DEL VATICANO
8.5.63-9
* POSTE *

John XXIII receives the Balzan Peace Prize for his Encyclical letter PACEM IN TERRIS. The Special Slogan Cancellation: PACEM IN TERRIS COMMENDARE HOMINIBUS BONAE VOLUNTATIS recalls Bethlehem the first Christmas: to commend peace on earth to men of good will.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

Period: July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1963

To: President, Vatican Philatelic Society

Balance Reported on June 30, 1962: \$1422.90

Received:

Dues:	9 Payments for 1961-62	\$ 18.00	
	147 Payments for 1962-63	894.00	
	171 Payments for 1963-64	342.00	
	10 Payments for 1964-65	20.00	
	3 Payments for 1965-66	6.00	
	2 Payments for 1966-67	4.00	
	16 New Members at \$2.00	32.00	
	8 New Members at \$1.50	12.00	
	12 New Members at \$1.00	12.00	
	18 New Members at \$0.50	9.00	
	Sale of back issues of NOTES	4.85	
	Return of mailing advance for NOTES	35.00	
	Special Contributions	2.07	
			\$1390.92
	Sub-Total =		\$2813.82

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charges	\$ 2.25	
Postage	94.44	
Telephone Charges	12.66	
Letterheads (4000)	28.00	
Envelopes (1300)	7.78	
Membership Cards (1000)	11.30	
Printing (Letter)	11.25	
Express Charges (Membership Chairman Files)	3.70	
Supplies (Membership Chairman)	5.95	
VATICAN NOTES		
Printing (4 Issues)	586.00	
Postage (5 Issues)	128.98	
Supplies	31.39	
Photographs (2 Issues)	20.00	
Express Charges	18.10	
Bulk Permit Fee Application	15.00	
Bulk Permit Fee (2 Locations)	60.00	
Postage Advance for Mailing	25.00	
		\$1061.80

Balance on deposit at Worcester County National Bank = \$1752.02

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. Levitsky
F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

Auditing Committee Report.

William P. Quinn, President, V.P.S.
435 Adams St., Milton 86, Mass.

On June 8, 1963, we examined the records of Mr. Frederick J. Levitsky, Treasurer of the Vatican Philatelic Society. We also examined the bank statements and find that the bank balance of \$1726.87 on deposit as of May 9, 1963, in the name of the Vatican Philatelic Society at the Worcester County National Bank, Worcester, Mass., is correct. We did not make a detailed audit of receipts and expenditures, but spot checked invoices of expenditure and deposits, and found them to be as described in the record journal.

Very Truly yours:

(Signed) L. Paul Marini V.P.S 323.
Attorney at Law.

(Signed) Ivon S. Cahill V.P.S. 853.

Auditing Committee.

CHAPTER NEWS.

CHICAGOLAND Chapter.

At the June 24th meeting at the LaSalle Hotel installation of officers for the Chapter was held: Pres. William J. Holton; Vice-Pres. James J. Doheny, Sec. Mrs. Mary Nordstrom; Board of Governors. J.Ed. Walz, Stephen J. Sieben, Tony Rizzo, Laurence Brueck. Awards for COMPEX went to Tony Rizzo, J.Ed. Walz, James C. Schiltz, James Doheny, William J. Holton, Edward C. Hopps.. From the Southern Wisconsin Chapter was a visitor, Harvey Richert, at the June 1st meeting.

ST. LOUIS Chapter.

The June 9th meeting was held at Ligouri, Mo., as guests of the Redemptorist fathers, under the capable guidance of Chapter Pres. Harry Banghart. They plan to surprise V.P.S. by having everyone paid up in dues on time. Good example.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS Chapter.

The May meeting was held at St. Anselm's Parish Hall, Sudbury, on May 26, with Fr. Charles Von Ew giving an illustrated lecture with his colored slides on the II Vatican Council. Fr. VonEw has an article in this issue of the Notes. The June 30 meeting will be held at the same location with an Exhibition and banquet.

VATICAN PHILATELIC NEWS

A SEDE VACANTE set of three values (10, 40 and 100 lire) was issued June 15, 1963, similar to those issued after the death of Pope Pius XII, except these are in vertical format, 30 x 40 mm, printed on crossed keys watermarked paper. An issue commemorating Sts. Cyril and Methodius is promised for late June or early July, as well as a set commemorating the Egyptian Monuments of Nubia which will be covered henceforth by the water backed up from the Asswan Dam.

DUES NOTICE.

Art. 1, Sec. 2, V.P.S. By-Laws: "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 1 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."

Please make checks and money orders payable to Vatican Philatelic Society and send them to V.P.S. Secretary:

Mr. Wallace R. Smith,
165-15 Union Turnpike,
Flushing 66, N.Y.

Dues: \$2.00.



POPE PAUL VI.

Giovanni Battista Montini was born Sept. 26, 1897, at Concesio, near Brescia, to Giorgio Montini, a crusading lawyer, and his wife, the former Giuditta Alghisi. He is one of three brothers, Lodovico being a lawyer, formerly a deputy to parliament and now a senator; and Francesco a doctor and surgeon at Brescia.

Giovanni Montini was ordained a priest May 29, 1920 (TV gives it as 1919), in the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Brescia, and in the same year came to Rome to continue his studies, simultaneously attending the Gregorian University and the University of Rome. Later he studied at the Ecclesiastical Academy, preparing for a diplomatic career.

In 1923 at the age of 26 he was sent as secretary to the Papal Nunciature at Warsaw. In 1924 he began work in the Secretariat of State at the Vatican, where he continued for 30 years. In 1937 he succeeded Msgr. Domenico Tardini as substitute for the Secretary of State, until named Pro-secretary of State for Ordinary (Internal) Affairs by Pope Pius XII in 1952. It is said that when Pope Pius XII was elected in 1939 that Msgr. Montini was the first one he telephoned after the election. He alone accompanied Pope Pius XII through the streets of Rome in 1943 to inspect the damage done by Allied air raids.

He was appointed Archbishop of Milan in 1955 by Pope Pius XII. He had refused the red hat of a cardinal from Pope Pius XII, but was among the first cardinals created by Pope John XXIII on December 15, 1958. In 1951 he visited the U.S.A., visiting Card. Spellman of New York, Card. Mooney of Detroit and Card. Stritch of Chicago. In 1960 he received an honorary degree at Notre Dame University, and visited Boston.

Giovanni Battista Cardinal Montini, Archbishop of Milan, was elected Pope June 21, 1963, reputedly on the fifth ballot, and took the name PAUL VI.