

FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE The Catholic Press on Parade in Rome

The preparations for the World Exhibition of the Catholic Press are being carried out in the Vatican City with feverish intensity under the auspices of His Holiness Pope Pius XI's words of good wishes and the eager interest of all the Bishops of the Catholic world. We believe it opportune to present all the elements of the event, which will signal a date of the utmost importance in the history of the Catholic Press.

The Pope's approval and encouragement were expressed not only in many private audiences but also in the following letter sent to Count Giuseppe Dalla Torre as President of the Executive Committee by His Eminence Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State:

"The Holy Father is particularly pleased at your news regarding the unanimous adherence accorded to the initiative of an International Exhibition of the Catholic Periodical Press, undertaken by the OSSERVATORE ROMANO under the auspices of His Holiness, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of this newspaper.

"Nor could such a reception arouse wonder when one considers, that such an Exhibition, as a world review of Catholic activity in the apostolic field, as a testimony of the most recent improvements of an organization and technical nature, as a living illustration of the most active moral, religious and social problems connected with the daily and periodical press, should undoubtedly result in luminous teaching not only to journalists and other Catholic publicists but also to the entire mass of the faithful, and in efficacious incentive to further progress and to new fruitful initiatives.

Missionary Press Prominent
"One may add the spectacle of numerous fruits of attachments to the Church and the Roman Pontiff obtained by the daily and periodical press, and, in contrast, that of the immense field yet to be sown; and one may easily understand how all those who are interested in the problem of the press may draw comfort for sacrifice and fresh motive to put forth their zeal, so that such a powerful and necessary instrument for the diffusion of the Truth and for the cause of God should be adequate to the progress of today's technique and to the ever more pressing needs of contemporary society.

"The Holy Father finally remarked—with the utmost pleasure—that, in accordance with the program, special prominence will be given to the Missionary Press and to Catholic Action. He also hopes that the review of these two forms of activity, so very dear to his paternal heart, may result in generating useful instruction.

"Implored heavenly aid, the August Pontiff sends, with special affection,

OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the great Vatican City daily, has presented in recent days intensely interesting details of the coming World Catholic Press Exhibitions, most pretentious display of its kind ever held, which will take place in Vatican City beginning in April of next year. These details are given herewith, on a subject of the most vital Catholic concern.

tion, the best auguries and wishes to the Executive Committee; and while he also rejoices that so many in the different countries are collaborating for the success of such a fine and useful enterprise, he imparts—with all his heart—the Apostolic Blessing.

To the protection and benediction of the Holy Father has been added the accord, encouragement and personal word of the Bishops of every nation.

The Executive Committee have received a great many letters from Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops who fully approve of the program and are looking forward to the great benefit to be derived from it.

In several countries the Vatican Exhibition of the Press has been the object of special examination in Episcopal Conferences.

Everywhere the Bishops are in favor of forming a National Center for the preparation of the material to be exhibited. In some countries this National Center is under the active presidency of a Bishop delegated by an Episcopal Conference or by the standing committee of such a Conference.

How the Idea Arose.
During the Jubilee pilgrimage in June, 1933, of the BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DES JOURNALISTES CATHOLIQUES, at a meeting in which 380 representatives of 22 nations took part, it was proposed that, on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the OSSERVATORE ROMANO, the usual International Congress of Catholic Journalists should be held in Rome.

OSSERVATORE ROMANO, grateful for this act of fraternal solidarity, on March 28, 1934, launched the idea of a World Historical and Descriptive Exhibition of the Catholic Periodical Press.

At first it was proposed that the Exhibition be held in the Papal Villa of Castelgandolfo. But the magnitude of the enterprise, and early indications of the number of visitors, induced the Committee to propose its transfer to a site in the Vatican City. The Holy Father welcomed the proposal and designated the CORTILE DELLA PIGNA as the center of the Exhibition.

This is not the first time that the Bramantesque courtyard has been the

scene of an exhibition. Many still remember the great exhibition of gifts made to Leo XIII, and all remember the Missionary Exhibition of the Holy Year of 1925.

The monumental edifices was erected by Bramante at the order of Pope Julius II for the purpose of connecting with the Vatican Palace the pavilion built by Pope Innocent VIII about 1499. Thus arose the great project of dividing the valley about 200 feet wide into two vast spaces, the higher of which would form a large garden (today the CORTILE DELLA PIGNA) and the lower (today the CORTILE DEL BELVEDERE) to be used for performances. The rectangle, thus divided, was closed by a long series of arches at the larger sides, and at the lesser, on the north, by a semicircle for spectators. A stairway (now covered by the BRACCIO SISTINO) led from the ground floor to a terrace from which, by another majestic stairway of two flights, one reached the higher garden. Fountains, niches, balustrades were to have enriched the whole.

Bramante was able to execute only one part of the project; but his plan was gradually and successively carried out at various intervals, until Pope Sixtus V, in constructing the library, separated the higher part, the CORTILE DELLA PIGNA, from the present CORTILE DEL BELVEDERE.

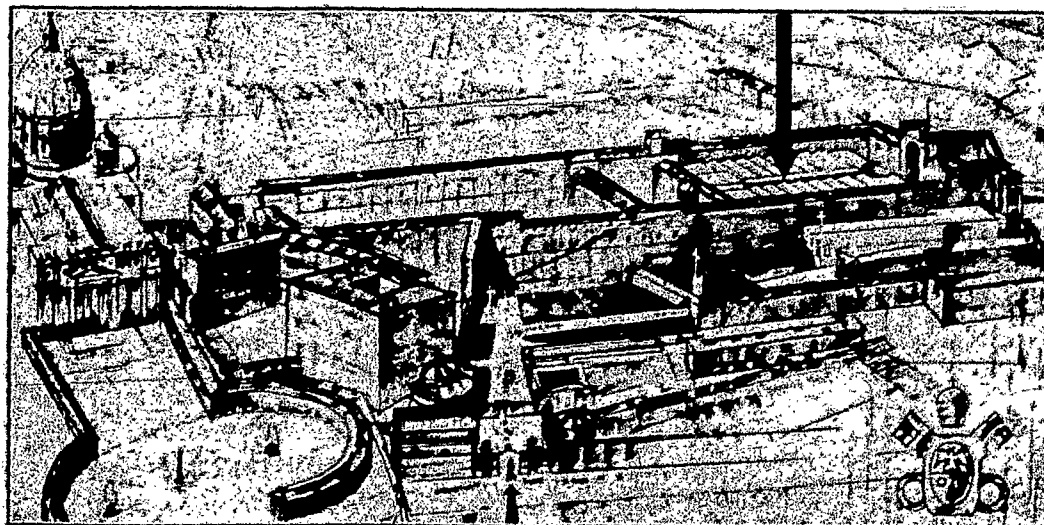
It is in the former that the principal pavilion of the Exhibition will be erected, enclosed in a quadrilateral of high buildings which contain some of the most marvellous works of art known to the world.

Object of the Exhibition
The Vatican Exhibition proposes to collect in synthesis the reality of the periodical press and to present it in its different aspects for the examination and study of the Catholic Journalists of the whole world; and at the same time, to document, illustrate and celebrate Catholic activity in this field.

It will be an exhibition of newspapers, reviews and periodicals, instruments and organs of this activity. But its greatest effort should tend to represent, in the most propitious manner possible, the function, importance and necessity of the Catholic Press, and the work it has given and shall give in defense of the Church and for the diffusion of Christian thought and morals in the world.

The technical progress and the historic development of the press will be described and documented, but still greater relief will be given to all the ethical problems that each type of publication brings to our attention and interest. Thus the daily and periodical press will hold interest in the Exhibition, inasmuch as it is the stimulus, instrument and mirror of

SITE OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS EXHIBIT



Shown here is a panoramic view of the Vatican City. Arrow indicates in a detailed topographical plan the location of the various press exhibits to be presented at the World Exposition of the Catholic Press. The exposition will be a complete summation of the Church's journalistic activities in every corner of the world. Symposiums on activities will be held and representatives

from many countries will explain their problems and successes. With the spread of Catholic Action programs, the demand for articles pertaining to the Church has increased to the point where the supply is exceeded. By such a conference, it is thought, one nationality will see what is being done by another and thus profit from the experience of others.

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