

WORLD PEACE LEADERSHIP OF POPE PIUS XII HELPED BY LONG CAREER AS PAPAL DIPLOMAT

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According to the prophecy of St. Malachy the 261st successor to St. Peter would be distinguished by the title "Papal Angelicus." While we do not hold the prophecy of Malachy as an article of faith, nonetheless the title of the ancient Irish prophet for the present Holy Father is most apt. In every age of the

Church the Holy Ghost has

raised up as Supreme Pontiff men who were especially

suited to the particular times in

which they lived, and the pres-

ent era is no exception to the

rule. Today in a world torn with

war and strife, in a world which

seems to have lost all sense of

right and wrong, in a world whose

international relations have been

undermined by a lack of faith in

the contracting parties who have

as Head of the Church a man, holy

and saintly, but a man also well versed in the arts of diplomacy.

The present Holy Father was

ordained and began his priestly

life almost on the eve of the

great encyclical of Leo XIII, in

which encyclical the whole human

race, all Catholics, Jews and

Protestants, all pagans and un-

believers were dedicated to the

Sacred Heart of Jesus. As Pope

Pius XII he ascended the papal

throne at a moment when the

nations of the world, far from

giving evidence of their dedi-

cation to the Prince of Peace,

were rather about to enlist their

every effort to bring about the

destruction of peace on earth. It

has been the constant endeavor

and prayer of the Pope first to

prevent the present war, and sec-

ondly to bring about as quickly

as possible a just and equitable

peace. In these efforts the Holy

Father has used the two weapons

in which he is most skilled,

namely prayer and diplomacy.

At the time he was calling on

the Catholic world to join in a

month of devotions to the Mother

of God to preserve peace, the

Pope was engaged in daily diplo-

matic activity with his own

ministers and with the representa-

tives of the governments of the

world.

Since the peace of the Holy

Father for prayers for peace are

so well known, it might be in-

teresting to consider his back-

ground and training for the dip-

lomacy.

On Guard!

By
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he to devote even a couple of

phrases . . . PRAVDA's state-

ment that "one cannot find a sin-

gle word" on the subject of war

crimes in the Pope's Address

leads us to suspect that the Rus-

sian newspaper attacked the

Holy Father without ever reading

what he actually did say. Of

course, maybe Mr. Stalin did not

trust his own journalists with

the official text. As a matter of

truth we find two paragraphs on

the problem of war crimes in the

Pope's Address. Concerning the

punishment of war crimes the

Pontiff states: "No one certain-

ly thinks of discerning justice in

its relations to those who have

exploited the war situation in

order to commit real and proved

crimes against the common law . . .

The Pope adds that even

the pretext of "military neces-

sity" can never justify the vio-

lence committed during this war.

It is difficult to understand how

PRAVDA missed all this in the

Pope's Christmas broadcast.

In his Christmas broadcast Pius

XII scored a real point when he

exploited the Communistic jargon

about "the masses."

Communists love to talk about

the masses, which is their pet term for all the

downtrodden who live under a

capitalist. As if it has worked out,

however, the masses are all those

who may have been poor under a

capitalist but who now are enslave-

ed, beaten and gagged under a dicta-

tor! As the Holy Father explain-

ing his efforts he is making to

secure peace with justice.

Almost immediately on his

ordination Father Pacelli was

chosen by Monsignor Gaspari

to work with him in the Congre-

gation for Extraordinary Eccllesi-

astical Affairs, of which the

latter was the head. The Congre-

gation where the future pope

took up his duties—against his

expressed desire of doing parish

work—was as its principal busi-

ness the conduct of affairs be-

tween the Vatican and civil gov-

ernments throughout the world,

such as the drawing up of con-

cordats, and the settling of ques-

tions which might arise under

a concordat.

As an inevitable result of being

attached to such a Congre-

gation the young priest was

thoroughly initiated into the

ways of ecclesiastical diplomacy,

which is one of the human means

the Church uses to establish con-

ditions favorable to the carrying

on of Her spiritual works. The

respect his superiors had for his

ability was manifested in the

various missions which were entrust-

ed to Father Pacelli such as

his appointment as the represent-

ative of the Vatican at the coro-

nation in London of George V.

In 1923 Archbishop Pacelli

moved to Berlin to become the

papal nuncio to the national Ger-

man government under President

Paul von Hindenburg. In an at-

mosphere distinctly Prussian and

Protestant the papal nuncio rep-

resented the Church so well, that

when he left in 1929 to return to

Rome the streets were lined with

cheering thousands who bade

him all the way to the station.

When Cardinal Gaspari retired

in 1930 as Secretary of State to

Pope Pius XI, Pacelli was called

upon once more to succeed his

old master, and so the Archbi-

shop of Sardes, now a cardinal, became Secretary of State for

the Vatican.

While the Pope does not select

his successor at least not directly,

there is no doubt but that

Pius XI did everything possible

to prepare his Secretary of State

to succeed him, if such should

be the choice of the cardinals

gathered in conclave. In 1934

Cardinal Pacelli was sent as pa-

pital legate to the Eucharistic

Congress in Buenos Aires. Two

years later he made an extensive

and inclusive tour of the United

States. Later in the same year

the Cardinal was the first papal

Secretary of State to be re-

ceived with a state welcome in

Paris. In well over a hundred

years when he was on his way

to dedicate the basilica of the

Little Flower at Lilleux. Only

the year before his election to

the throne of Peter, Pacelli was

the legate to the Eucharistic

Congress at Budapest.

As a result of his wide con-