

Tenth Anniversary of Pope Pius in Chair of Peter Recalls Momentous Decade

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of a precipice where pitfalls and dangers' fill good and generous people with increasing anxiety."

IN A WORLD made small by instantaneous communication and space-devouring transportation, Pope Pius XII saw much of earth's surface laid waste by war; hundreds of cities wrecked; miles of earth parched and unproductive; countless thousands actually starving; millions of persons uprooted from their homelands with no place to go; fierce warfare actually raging in many quarters, but largely ignored by the rest of a world intent upon forgetting the last world-wide conflagration; new tyrants rising to replace those World War II was fought to overcome; the Church suffering vicious, painful and relentless persecutions in many quarters; a Cardinal imprisoned on trumped-up charges by hostile regimes in two countries.

The heart of a Vicar of Christ was never more sorely tried and none was ever closer to or better known by more of Christ's children round the world. The tall, ascetic Cardinal who ascended the throne of Peter on March 12, 1939, already knew much of Europe firsthand through his years in the diplomatic service of the Holy See.

He spoke fluently more than a half-dozen languages and understood perhaps as many more. He had been to Latin America as the Legate of Pope Pius XI, and he had been to the United States in 1936 on a visit that took him from one end of the country to the other.

THE WAR SAW the Eternal City of Rome twice occupied, once by the Germans and later by the Allies. His Holiness showed a willingness to receive all who desired to call on him, and soldiers and civilians from every corner of the world came by the thousands.

On many days he saw as many as 8,000 Allied troops from a half-dozen countries at one time, and he received a thousand or more at a time, day after day and month after month. It was not just seeing these visitors and being seen; His Holiness addressed each audience and usually spent some time afterward talking with individuals.

Pope Pius XII has spoken to the Church throughout the world and in particular areas through 13 Encyclicals, in addition to Constitutions, Motu Proprio and various other pronouncements.

It is interesting that when his first Encyclical, *Summi Pontificatus*, appeared October 30, 1939, pointing to the need for unity in opposing world evils, World War II had already started in Europe, and when his 13th Encyclical, *Multiplicibus*, appeared on October 23, 1948, urging renewed prayers for peace, it took cognizance of fighting then going on in Palestine.

FROM THE beginning of his Pontificate, Pope Pius XII has spoken only of love and peace, and of spiritual, moral and social reconstruction.

"Peace," the Italian word for peace is the first syllable of his family name (Pacelli), and the five conditions for peace laid down by the Holy Father in his Christmas Allocution of 1939 are indispensable signposts in the search for real tranquility and order.

These conditions are: Independence for all nations, large and small; strong and weak; liberation of the nations from the slavery of armaments; wise reconstruction of international institutions so as to remove the consequences of past deficiencies; earnest examination so as to remove the consequences of past deficiencies; earnest examination of the real needs and just demands of nations and of peoples as well as of ethnic minorities and, above all, a sincere and effective return to the immutable principles of Divine Law. These points have been amplified and developed in subsequent Christmas Messages.

WORLD WAR II was an enormous trial for Pope Pius XII. War in itself grieved him. The suffering, the waste, the retrogression, the loss of human lives intensified his anguish. He was cut off from normal intercourse with most of the Catholic world.

Contending parties tried repeatedly to budge him from neutrality, to twist his words and acts to serve their narrow purposes. Some did not hesitate to level the most vicious and untrue charges against him, for the sake of some quick and evanescent advantage.

The fate of Rome, the Eternal City, was long in the balance. Venerable Monte Cassino Abbey was demolished and numerous ancient Christian shrines throughout the world were injured or destroyed.

POPE PIUS XII suffered more intensely than any other single human, because he suffered with all his spiritual children. But his Holiness was not content merely to sympathize with the people, he labored indefatigably



His Holiness Pope Pius XII, 75 years old on March 2, will celebrate the tenth anniversary of his coronation as Pope, March 12, completing a decade that was among the most eventful in all history. The Holy Father is shown (left)



at the moment of his solemn coronation, in 1939; carried aloft on the restoration chair (right) during one of many public audiences accorded service men during the war, and (center) as he appears today. (NC Photos.)



to help them. Never ceasing to invoke the aid of men of good will for the establishment of a real peace, he did everything meanwhile to make the effects of war less terrible.

The Holy Father left the Vatican and went out into Rome to mingle with his people when bombs fell upon his native city. It was a scene that rolled back many years in the ancient capital. His Holiness is called Defender Civitatis (Defender of the City of Rome), because when the tide of war finally rolled on, it left the Eternal City largely untouched.

The Vatican Information Service for War Prisoners set up by Pope Pius XII with headquarters in Vatican City and branches throughout the world was one of the great consolations of people in virtually every country during the dark days of war. The offices in different countries, clearing through the Vatican headquarters, gave countless thousands of relatives the first, and in some cases the only, news they were able to obtain about soldiers taken prisoners of war. It was entirely a free service patronized by persons of all races and faiths. Many millions of messages were handled.

ANOTHER PAPAL war charity, which came to light only after the Allies liberated the City of Rome from Nazi control, was the feeding of the destitute in and around the Eternal City through soup kitchens set up alongside ancient Roman basilicas and on other Church properties. Allied authorities said they found that the Holy See was providing one meal a day to some 400,000 persons, and that undoubtedly the Holy Father had prevented thousands of cases of death by starvation.

The struggle which Pope Pius XII had with both Fascism and Communism continued and intensified in the Pontificate of Pius XII. While Moscow propagandists "soft-pedaled" their vicious attacks upon the United States during the period of World War II, the Vatican and Pope Pius XII were accorded no such consideration.

Ignoring the Encyclicals *Non Abbiamo Bisogno*, issued June 29, 1931, against Italian Fascism, and *Mit Brennender Sorge*, issued March 14, 1937, against German Nazism, the henchmen of the Kremlin screamed that the Vatican was "pro-fascist." They perhaps remembered Pope Pius XI's Encyclical *On Atheistic Communism*, issued on March 15, 1937, while Pope Pius XII, then Cardinal Pacelli, was Papal Secretary of State.

WHILE THE WAR resulted in defeat of Fascism and Nazism, it left Communism stronger than ever. Thus, prior to the meeting of the "Big Three" at Yalta, the Russian press including Pravda, Red Star, Izvestia, and War and the Working Classes, kept up a drum fire of attacks against the Vatican.

This was interpreted as a move to discredit in advance any

criticism the Vatican might make of the settlement of the Polish question.

When the San Francisco conference, to found the United Nations, approached the same tactics were repeated. This was seen as a maneuver to keep all Papal influence out of any world organization.

Following the cessation of hostilities in Europe and Japan, the Holy Father has been subjected to continuing abuse by the communists, more intense at some times than at others.

COMMUNISM SET out boldly to capture Catholic Italy, presumably as a master key for all the plans it had for the domination of Western Europe, and the Italian elections of 1948 provided one of the crucial times in the Pontificate of the Holy Father.

With an estimated 2,000,000 members, the Communist Party in Italy was generally regarded as the largest outside of Russia itself, and its leaders held high hopes of taking over the country. However, the Reds suffered a resounding defeat in the elections.

When 200,000 young Italian women stood in St. Peter's Square in a pouring rain one Sunday afternoon in September, 1948, to hear out a discourse of Pope Pius XII, and 300,000 young men from all parts of Italy gathered in the same square a week later to hail and hear the Holy Father, it was clear the schemes of Communism had suffered a severe blow. By the end of 1948 observers felt warranted in saying Communism had passed its peak in Italy.

AN INTERESTING sidelight on this intensely gripping period was the large-scale speculation on the part of secular writers as to whether the Holy Father would take up his residence elsewhere in the event, which many thought likely, that the Communists took over Italy. Some said he was coming to America, others named various places. Pope Pius and the Vatican remained calm and serene throughout it all.

Communism struck heavy blows at the Church as it dropped its "iron curtain" over countries in Eastern Europe, all in the Pontificate of Pius XII. His Holiness' heart was saddened to see the persecution mount first here, then there, but always following the same pattern.

Churches and schools were closed, faithful Catholics were discriminated against until their very lives were endangered, and schism was forced upon Eastern Rite Catholics. These hardships reached their peak in the imprisonment of Archbishop Aloisius Stepinac in Yugoslavia, of Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary, and of all the Eastern Rite Bishops in the Ukraine and Rumania.

THE ACTUAL fighting of World War II had scarcely ended when Pope Pius XII brought the Sacred College up to full

complement for the first time in history. Pope Leo X had named 31 Cardinals on July 1, 1517. With the naming of four new Princes of the Church in this country, the United States had

single elevation of Cardinals in

five Cardinals for the first time. Only four of the 32 new Cardinals were Italians; 28 came from 18 other countries.

For the first time in the his-

tory of Christendom all the continents of the earth were united in the august Senate of the Church. For the first time since the middle of the Fourteenth Century, the Sacred College had a non-Italian majority—42 to 28.

THIS EPOCHAL occasion was interpreted as a universal crusade for Christian justice and the Christian way of life. Addressing the new Cardinals, upon whom he had just conferred red birettas, His Holiness said the Church "must today, as never before, live her mission."

"She must reject more emphatically than ever," he added, "that false and narrow concept of her spirituality and her interior life, which would confine her, blind and mute, in the retirement of the sanctuary."

Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the first American deacon to be canonized, Saint Catherine Labouré, who received the revelation of the Miraculous Medal; Saint Nicholas of Flüe, patron of Catholic Switzerland; Saint Jeanne Elizabeth Bichier des Ages, Foundress of the Daughters of the Cross; Saint Michael Garicoita, Founder of the Betharram Fathers; Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, Founder of the Montfortians; Saint Bernardine Rossini, Italian Jesuit; Saint Giuseppe Calasso, Founder of the Ecclesiastical College of Turin; Saint John de Brito, a Portuguese martyr who died in India in 1693, and St. Margaret of Hungary, whose canonization was proclaimed in a decretal letter of Pope Pius XII dated November 13, 1943.

The present Holy Father has given impressive and continuing evidence of his deep solicitude for the United States in the increase of its hierarchy, the establishment of new archdioceses and dioceses, his praise of its Catholic institutions, and his numerous laudations of its Christian charity.

BOCK BEER WEEK



MARCH 7 to 12

Don't Miss Out
ON THE
BOCK BEER PARTY
At Your Friendly Tavern
DURING THE WEEK OF
MAR. 7 to 12
WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Spring is here and so is Bock Beer for the first time in 7 years!

March 7th you will again be able to enjoy tasty, wholesome, real old-fashioned Genesee Bock Beer...

Brewed from the finest grains and hops from last Fall's harvest and aged in rock cellars at constant temperature throughout the Winter, Genesee Bock Beer is now ready to help you welcome Spring in festive tradition, which, according to legend, began in Einbeck, Germany, 700 years ago.

Because Bock Beer requires a special brewing process, it has not been made since the start of the war. This year, however, Genesee has again brewed this delightful beverage.

How Bock Beer Is Made

There are many different conceptions about how Bock Beer is made but here are the true facts. It differs from other beer in that the malt is "caramelized" or toasted (treated much like a cook caramelizes sugar). This produces the dark color and rich malty flavor and aroma. Bock Beer is also "lagered" (or aged) longer—from Fall to Spring.

Now, for the first time since the war, Genesee brings to you...

Real Old-Fashioned BOCK BEER



GENESEE BREWING CO., INC.
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK