

## Pope Blesses New Altar In St. Peter's Hidden Crypt

By G. H. BRUNST

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Paul VI this week consecrated the new altar of St. Peter which, like the previous one, has been erected in the Cappella Clementina of the restored crypt under the floor of St. Peter's Basilica.

The ceremony was private. Only persons of the immediate papal household attended the consecration and the Mass the Pope offered there after the ceremony.

Later the Holy Father received the architects attached to the Sacred Congregation of the Basilica of St. Peter and the members of the archaeological commission in charge of excavations under St. Peter's during the past ten years.

Following his Mass the Hol-

ly Father then went through the crypt on an inspection tour conducted by Msgr. Ludwig Kaas, secretary of the Congregation for St. Peter's. The Pope paused at the tomb of his predecessors, Popes Benedict XV and Pius XI, and Cardinal Merry del Val, English-born prelate who was Prefect of the Congregation for St. Peter's at the time of his death in 1930.

The new crypt has nine altars, two of which are still unblessed: St. Anne's and St. Columban's.

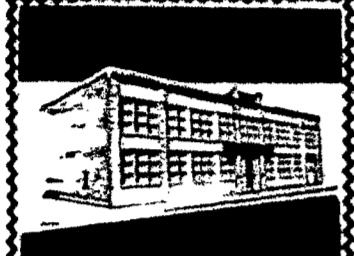
There is no word yet whether the public will be admitted to the new crypt. There is likewise no word yet on the results of the excavations, but some reports say that the findings of the archeologists may not be published for several more months. It has been surmised that the burial place of St. Peter and his bones have been positively identified here.

### N. C. Bible Teachers Get Retirement Aid

Raleigh, N.C. — (RNS) — Attorney General Harry McMillan of North Carolina has ruled that teachers of Bible courses in public schools may be "employed in such a way as to receive the benefit of retirement privileges under the state law."

The opinion was handed down in response to a query as to whether the same procedure should be followed in employing a Bible teacher that is followed in the employment of regular public school teachers.

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