

...in Evening
...Denied
 (NC) An official ap-
 ...of the Swiss Hierarchy
 ...to say evening
 ...the days of
 ...the Assumption,
 ...and the Immaculate
 ...has been refused in
 ...has been ethically an-

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Impossible To Open St. Peter Tomb To Public

(Continued from Page 1)
 than that, he who would doubt
 it would in my opinion need
 much more courage to take his
 position than I to hold mine."
 Monsignor Kaas' particular
 concern throughout the entire
 project has been the direction
 and coordination of the technical
 work of the excavations and the
 even more important and more
 difficult problem of safeguarding
 all parts of the actual building
 from possible damage during the
 operations of unearthing the
 small but real city of the dead
 directly beneath the tremendous
 edifice of St. Peter's. As it has
 turned out, the priest said, in
 stead of being endangered by the
 excavations, the structure has
 actually been strengthened
 through the reinforcements
 which have been made.
THE WORK MET with many
 stumbling blocks, Monsignor
 Kaas related. "When we were
 digging," he said, "we found that
 almost none of the pillars of the
 walls or structure but the pave-
 ment of the present basilica, had
 solid foundations. They were
 resting on the fill which Con-
 stantine's architect made to pre-
 pare for the floor of his first ed-
 ifice. The main work had to stop
 while such things were rectified.
 "Nor was that all. If you had
 seen us standing waist-deep in

those foundations where we had
 to go to lay bases of the sup-
 ports for certain of these pillars,
 or late in the autumn of 1949
 when water broke out again and
 we sought to find the source of
 the water and tried to make sure
 that the newly discovered maus-
 oleums would not be undermined,
 you would probably have con-
 cluded that we were up against
 rather a hopeless job."
THESE TREMENDOUS prob-
 lems have great concern to all
 who were engaged in the work,
 Monsignor Kaas said. The Vati-
 can's architect, especially Count
 Enrico Galeazzi and Professor
 Giuseppe Nicolai, were fre-
 quently called on for extremely
 difficult tasks which taxed the
 skill of true experts.
 In addition to these structural
 aspects, there were the combined
 structural and archaeological
 problems such as whether or not
 to attack a particular wall or
 even a slab of stone and thereby
 perhaps destroy an important
 relic if not damage the masonry,
 the priest stated.
"ONE MUST remember," the
 Monsignor continued, "that we
 did not know for a long time
 afterwards just what we had
 found, that is, until we had time
 to study and see more, compare

Papal Grant

water down in the bowels of
 and relate. Actually it would re-
 quire an expert, and then only
 with proper study, to understand
 the findings.
 "An ordinary person could tell
 little if anything from seeing
 the place and there would be lit-
 tle purpose in his doing so."
 Next on the schedule, Mon-
 signor Kaas said, is the work of
 protecting from damage what
 has so far been brought to light.
 It seems almost impossible that
 more can be done in the way of
 making access to the grave itself
 and its immediate area possible
 for the public, he added. It is
 hoped that the work of further
 excavations both beneath St.
 Peter's and beyond can be un-
 dertaken, he said, for it seems
 that there is much that may yet
 be found.

A GREAT DEAL has already
 been learned about the first ba-
 silica's outlines and dimensions,
 Monsignor Kaas said. But there
 is much more that probably can
 be discovered. There is the well-
 known "circus of Nero," a race
 course, which still eludes search-
 ers. The Monsignor and his crew
 are ready to carry on and the
 Holy Father wishes them to
 do so.
 Monsignor Kaas stated that he
 expects to receive soon a com-
 plete analytical report from the
 American Jesuit experts, the
 Revs. Joseph Lynch of Fordham
 University and Daniel Linehan of
 Boston College, who made geo-
 morphic tests last summer be-
 neath and around St. Peter's.

**12,000 Follow
Prelate In Holy
Year Pilgrimage**



Boston — (NC) — Slating
 Christmas carols, more than
 12,000 priests and laymen fol-
 lowed Archbishop Richard J.
 Cushing through Boston's
 streets in the Archdiocese's big-
 gest pilgrimage of the extend-
 ed Holy Year.
 Archbishop Cushing carried
 a black wooden cross.
 Celebration of Benediction by
 the Archbishop at St. Cecilia's
 Church ended the pilgrimage.
 The prelate urged the pilgrims
 to pray for peace, telling them
 that "you may not comprehend
 the tremendous spiritual
 strength you have."
 "Remember, on the first
 Christmas Day, the world was
 also in a terrible condition," he
 said.

**Chaplain In Korea Visits
Japanese POW Converts**

Seoul—(NC). On his five-day
 Rand R. "rest" and relaxation
 trip to Japan, the Rev. Capt.
 Marian Budny, Army chaplain,
 from Brooklyn, N. Y., renewed
 old friendships — with former
 Japanese prisoners of war.
 Five years ago Father Budny
 served as chaplain to Japanese
 prisoners of war in the Philip-
 pines. He made 60 converts
 among them. Of the last 15 ex-
 cuted for war crimes, he bap-
 tized 11. One of these was Col-
 onel Euhara, who had headed
 the Kempeitai Japanese secret
 police, in the Philippines.

**Freethinkers Appeal
Fire House Decision**

Mamaroneck, N.Y. — (RNS) —
 The Freethinkers of America will
 appeal the dismissal of their suit
 against Mamaroneck over the
 use of a local fire house for reli-
 gious services.
 John L. Deilus, town attorney,
 notified the town council that the
 case will come before the Appel-
 late Division in Brooklyn some-
 time in February.

**South American
Nun's Life Studied**

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope
 Pius XII has decreed the open-
 ing of the apostolic process of
 Sister Mercedes of Jesus Molina,
 Ecuadorian-born foundress of the
 Congregation of Marians of
 Jesus.
 Sister Mercedes of Jesus was
 born at Guayaquil in the early
 19th century. She led an extra-
 ordinary life of prayer, penance
 and missionary labor, evangeliz-
 ing the Indians in Ecuador's
 eastern forests. She died in 1883.

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