

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, instead 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 crypt, which support not the walls or structure but the pavement of the present basilica, had solid foundations. They were resting on the fill which Constantine's architects made to prepare for the floor of his first edifice. 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 supports 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 mausoleums would not be undermined, you would probably have concluded that we were up against rather a hopeless job."

THESE TREMENDOUS problems have great concern to all who were engaged in the work, Monsignor Kaas said. The Vatican's architects, especially Count Enrico Galeazzi and Professor Giuseppe Nicolosi, were frequently 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

water down in the bowels of and relate. Actually it would require 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 little purpose in his doing so."

Next on the schedule, Monsignor 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 undertaken, he said; for it seems that there is much that may yet be found.

A GREAT DEAL has already been learned about the first basilica'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 searchers. 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 complete analytical report from the American Jesuit experts, the Revs. Joseph Lynch of Fordham University and Daniel Lynch of Boston College, who made seismographic tests last summer beneath and around St. Peter's.

Papal Grant



Rev. Rudolf Goethe, 74, former Protestant minister, who with his wife entered the Catholic Church several years ago, was ordained on December 23, by Bishop Albert Spahr of Mainz, Germany. Under a special dispensation personally granted by the Holy Father, in the interests of Christian reunion work, he will be permitted to continue in his marriage validly entered into prior to his conversion. He will be assigned to church administration work rather than in parish work.

12,000 Follow Prelate In Holy Year Pilgrimage

Boston — (NG) — Staging Christmas carols, more than 12,000 priests and laymen followed Archbishop Richard J. Cushing through Boston's streets in the Archdiocese's biggest pilgrimage of the extended 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.

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 religious services.

John L. Dellus, town attorney, notified the town council that the case will come before the Appellate Division in Brooklyn sometime in February.

Chaplain In Korea Visits Japanese POW Converts

Seoul — (NC) — On his five-day R-and-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 Philippines. He made 60 converts among them. Of the last 15 executed for war crimes, he baptized 11. One of these was Colonel Euhara, who had headed the Kempetai, Japanese secret police, in the Philippines.

"ONE OF MY best helpers was a Japanese officer I baptized, Capt. Hajime Ohno," said Father Budny. "He spoke English. I instructed him and he instructed others. He was executed."

The majority in the camp were ordinary P.O.W.'s. Among them were two Japanese priests, who had been drafted into the army, Fathers Ueda and Watanabe. Father Budny obtained facilities for them to celebrate Mass. They assisted him in his work among the prisoners, Catholic and non-Christian.

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South American Nun's Life Studied

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has decreed the opening of the apostolic process of Sister Mercedes of Jesus Molina, Ecuadorian-born foundress of the Congregation of Mariana of Jesus.

Sister Mercedes of Jesus was born at Guayaquil in the early 19th century. She led an extraordinary life of prayer, penance and missionary labor, evangelizing the Indians in Ecuador's eastern forests. She died in 1862.

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The new program announced by Dr. chief-of-staff, in Journal, Dec. 28

DR. BUTLER, the Rochester program, recently m visit to Georgetown plans for the op

He studied at College, University before attending of Rochester Sch of which he is a graduating here I ed his Internship Naval Hospital, Later he passed board examination in internal medicine University in Geog ing post graduate Recently he has at Wooster, Ohio.

He is the first the newly-created of director of me at St. Mary's Hos

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