

New Evidence On Site Of Peter's Tomb Found Beneath Vatican Basilica

Vatican City —(NC)—“Peter, pray to Jesus Christ for the Christian man buried near your body.” This inscription, declared to date back to the end of the third century, has been found during excavations beneath St. Peter's basilica, close to the traditional and previously identified site of the First Apostle's Tomb.

DETAILS about this new discovery were given in an Osservatore Romano article written by an Italian woman archeologist, Prof. Margherita Guarducci of the University of Rome. She also stated that a rough drawing, believed to represent St. Peter, has been discovered close to the inscription.

The woman scholar, who a few days ago received in private audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, has also reported on the result of her studies at a session of the Pontifical Roman Academy of Archeology. In her article, she declared it probable that results of further studies regarding the veneration of St. Peter during the first centuries following his death will be published soon.

THE reported findings serve to further scientific proof for what has always been Christian tradition: that the Prince of the Apostles, after dying a martyr's death in the year 64 or 67, was buried at a spot on Vatican Hill which since that time, without interruption, has been held sacred and has been venerated. This spot is today beneath the Papal Altar of St. Peter's Basilica.

According to the archeologist's report, the inscription dates back to the latter part of the third century. This means that it was made before Constantine, the first Christian emperor, who in the fourth century built the basilica over the tomb of the Apostle which, in the sixteenth century, gave way to the present structure.

THE SCIENTIFIC identification of the site of St. Peter's tomb was the result of excavations carried on since 1939 beneath the crypt of St. Peter's basilica. The findings were detailed last year in a report presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XII by the late Msgr. Ludwig Kias, secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Basilica of St. Peter.

The report made it clear that the excavators did not find any sarcophagus or remains of a mausoleum containing the relics of St. Peter. However, they succeeded in identifying and isolating the proper grave of St. Peter—a carefully segregated rectangular spot which was never approached upon by the mass of other tombs surrounding it.

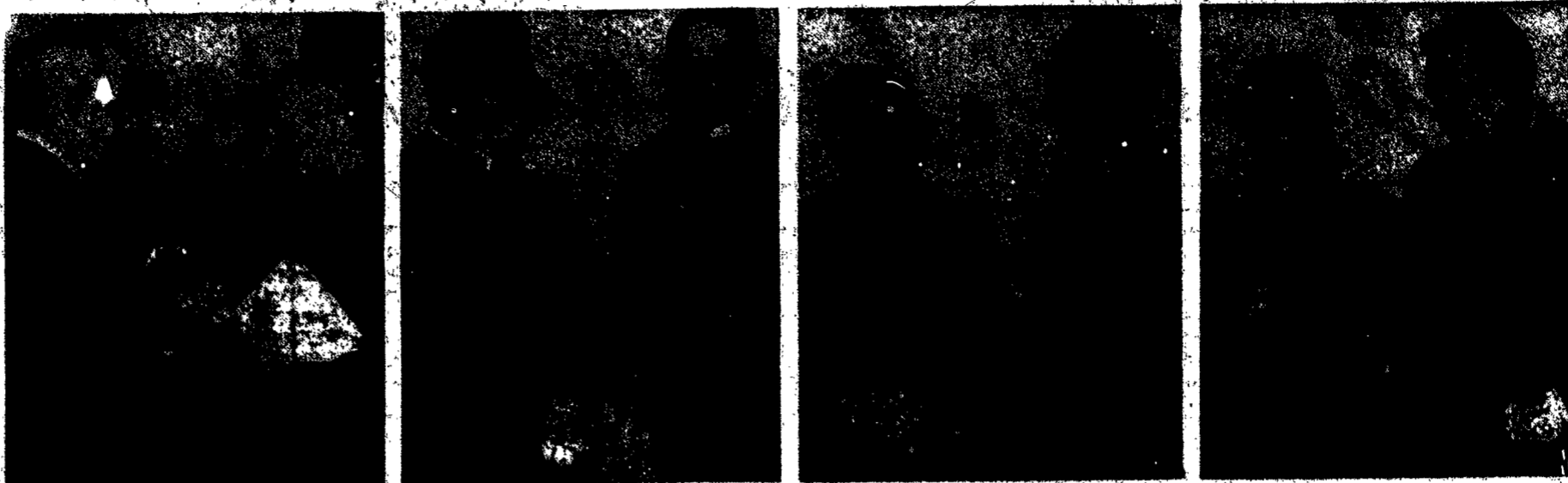
It was on one of these tombs close to that of St. Peter's where the inscription was found praying for his intercession on behalf of those “buried near your body.”

Scottish Hierarchy Youngest In World

Dunfermline, Scotland—(NC)—With the consecration of Bishop Joseph McGee of Glasgow, all eight dioceses of Scotland have now received new Ordinaries since the end of the war. As a result of this complete turnover within seven years, the Scottish hierarchy is now probably one of the youngest in the world, so far as the average age of the Bishops is concerned.

The youngest member is 48-year-old Archbishop Gordon J. Gray of St. Andrews and Edinburgh; the oldest, Bishop James Mack of Paisley, who was 86 last June. Bishop McGee, who is 47, succeeds Bishop William E. Mallon, last member of the pre-war hierarchy, who died earlier this year.

As U. S. Bishops Meet - - Some Candid Shots



The candid camera snapped these informal scenes at the annual General Meeting of the United States Bishops held at the Catholic University of America. Left to right: Probably discussing the problems of chaplains in the armed forces are Archbishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., (left) of Philadelphia, former Military Delegate and Bishop James F. Griffin, (right) Auxiliary Bishop to the Military Vicar, Cardinal Spellman. A new prelate, Auxiliary Bishop Leo R. Smith of Buffalo, is shown in the center; two Greek Rite Bishops attended the meeting. Auxiliary Bishop Ambrose J. Sanyshyn, O.S.B.M., (left) of the Ukrainian Greek Rite and Bishop Daniel Ivancho, (right) Rite-Bishop of Boston enters the meeting room with Coadjutor Bishop Daniel J. Feeney, (left) of Portland, Maine.

Catholic Bishop, Methodist Pastor Ousted From China

Hong Kong —(NC)— Methodist Pastor Francis Stockwell, a missionary from the United States, was pushed across the communist-China-Hong Kong border, together with a French Catholic Bishop and three other Catholic missionaries.

The prelate was Bishop Silvan E. Valentin of Kanton and his priest-companions were Father Jean Baptiste Charrier, Joseph LeCorre and Ferdinando Pecorelli. All belong to the Foreign Mission Society of Paris. A few days previously, another expelled priest, German-born Father M. a. the w. Ruff, of the Bethlehem Mission Society, arrived in Hong Kong after having spent five years in a Chinese communist prison.

BISHOP VALENTIN, who is 72 and whose diocese is situated in SHANG Province, in the extreme southwest of China, had withstood 18 months of hardships in a communist prison. The prelate, who had worked for the Chinese people for 48 years, was condemned to prison with Father Charrier in April, 1950. The other two priests were confined during the same period in a room of their mission house.

Meanwhile, Pastor Stockwell had been imprisoned for 23 months in the neighboring province of Szechwan. He had been subjected to nine and a half months of intensive “brain-wash” arrangements for their trip here.

Germans Debate Protestant Envoy To Holy See

Berlin —(RNS)—The Roman Catholic Bishops of West Germany have declared themselves against the concept—that “the post of German ambassador to the Holy See can be filled only by a non-Catholic.”

In a statement issued after a special meeting in Limburg near Frankfurt, the Bishops said that this concept is “unfounded.” The Catholic leaders also expressed regret that the post of German ambassador was still vacant.

Opposition to the appointment of a Catholic has been voiced by Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, head of the Evangelical Church in Germany.

Although the German ambassador to the Vatican traditionally has been a Protestant, Catholic leaders have demanded that one of their co-religionists be named because of “the growth of the Catholic population in West Germany.”

SALARY
A man seldom tells a doctor his full salary, but the figure he does give him usually comes closer to what he's worth.

Eisenhower Trip Puts Korea On Front Page, Gives GI's Morale Lift

Tokyo —(NC)—The visit of President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower to Korea is bound to do some good. There is no substitute for personal observation of the frozen Korean front, of shattered Korean towns and villages, of GI's going on perilous night patrols, of wounded being carried in and for the sense of physical nearness to the communists deeply dug in with persistence together with direct consultation, must help in forming later decisions.

General Eisenhower's visit will put Korea back on the front page. It will highlight again the ordeal of United Nations soldiers and of the Korean people as a result of communist aggression. The visit will remind servicemen, standing in chowlines in bleak and rutted fields, or talking in the candle-lit bunkers, that they are not forgotten.

But nobody on this side of the Pacific expects the President-elect to pull a solution like a rabbit out of a hat. If that kind of hat existed, it is not likely that everybody else overlooked it.

Many observers doubt whether the communists now want an armistice. Maybe, in June, 1951, they intended making one if they got bargain rates. Now, strongly entrenched, they may feel that they can best promote their global program by avoiding a settlement in Korea.

IT IS KNOWN that the Chinese communist tactics include the making of impossible demands and “sawing wood.” By this phrase, based on the idea of giving a little, then drawing a Chinese cross-cut, they mean back, and then repeating the process endlessly.

Any “solution” that leaves all Korea open to a new communist drive on South Korea would put twenty million Koreans under the red tyranny and would place Japan between red pinners. The communist military threat is now strong on the islands just north of Japan. If the communists held South Korea, South Japan would be menaced.

Pressure On Tito To Ease Terror

London —(NC)—The forthcoming state visit to Britain by Marshal Tito has again brought demands in parliament that he stop the religious persecution in Yugoslavia.

At the same time, a Catholic paper has criticized the wooing of Tito, an avowed communist, by the same British government that still refuses aid to Spain.

PROTESTS AGAINST British hospitality being accorded Tito are expected to grow as his visit nears. According to latest reports, he is to come to London next March.

The question came up in Parliament when Richard Stokes, leading Catholic member of the (opposition) Labour Party, asked Deputy Foreign Secretary Anthony Nutting whether “it will be made perfectly clear that Marshal Tito's reception will be much more cordial if, before he comes, he will show a little more toleration to people of my religious persuasion.”

Mr. Nutting replied: “No doubt Mr. Stokes' remarks will be noted in the appropriate quarters.” Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who is in New York attending the UN General Assembly, recently told Mr. Stokes, answering his questions about Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac, that it was an internal matter of the Yugoslav state.

THE CATHOLIC Times, British weekly, declared that Mr. Eden should know as well as anyone the folly of trying to do business with communist regimes. The paper said that there is still no proof that Tito is not a “Trojan Horse” in the western camp and that his break with Moscow is not a put-up job.

The Catholic Times reminded that only a few days ago Tito denounced “clericalism” in Croatia and Slovenia and accused the Vatican of conducting a war against Yugoslavia.

Economists Convention
Chicago—(NC)—His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, will be among the speakers at the 11th annual Catholic Economic Association convention in the Conrad Hilton Hotel here December 29.

Clothing Shipped To Korea Needy

New York —(NC)—The first shipment of clothing and other relief materials gathered in the 1952 Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign of War Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been shipped from here to the needy in war-torn Korea.

Msgr. Edward E. Symonette, W.R.S.—N.C.W.C. executive director, who inspected the shipment at the pier before loading, said “these materials cannot reach Korea too soon.”

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FOR OUR LADY'S DAY

Oh! Mary, thou whose name all but adoring love may claim! As each feast of Our Lady occurs, you Catholics think of making a gift to our Queen and Mother. What will yours be? Your \$10 gift will add a stone to the new Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima, which we are now building in Ethiopia. Or it will provide a needed food package for an orphan child just in time for Christmas. And your deposit in MARY'S BANK will help defray the cost of the Holy Mass. What will be your gift to Our Lady on her feast, December 8th?

YOUR YEARS OF FIFTY GIVE YOUR SOUL A RAINBOW! DO NOT FORGET OUR NEEDIEST AT CHRISTMAS!



A GRATEFUL HEART

Joseph is a young seminarian at St. Paul's Seminary, Batavia, Lebanon, and he asks you to adopt him, thus making his priesthood possible. He will need \$600 for his six years' training. You can give this in any amount over that time. Sister Mary Theodora is a novice with the Sisters of the Holy Family in Bethlehem. She needs \$300. Your Christmas thought?

IF YOU WRITE AT ONCE, IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO HAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL THREE-COLOR GIFT CARD SENT TO A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE, SAYING YOU ARE HAVING MASS OFFERED AT CHRISTMAS OR HAVE MADE A GIFT TO A NEAR EAST MISSION.

LOVE SCARS OF JESUS

To heal the scars of outcast lepers we beg Christmas gifts for them in the sweet name of Jesus, Who bore scars of love for us. At Christmas we hope to send to the Assiatic Sisters of Mary Immaculate at Shertally, India, \$300 for the lepers. How much you can help by adding even a mite to our DAMIEN LEPER FUND.



CHRISTMAS MEANS "CHRIST'S MASS". POOR MISSIONARIES NEED MASS OFFERINGS.



HIS MANGER EMPTY?

Archbishop Severious writes about a shed he finally reached by river boat. In a little place called PAZHOOOR he offered Mass for fifty humble converts. Now he begs a chapel for them: it will cost \$2,000, a large amount of money, but we were bold to ask for this new manger for the Little Lord Jesus, Who will not be wanting in blessing anyone who can help us build it.

DO YOU WISH TO SEE OUR 16 MM. FILM "THE HOLY LAND"?

BREAD FOR CHILDREN

Our little fund—ORPHANS' BREAD—will be taxed beyond its slender resources by the appeals we have received from our foundlings. To our three founding hospitals at Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Beirut we must give \$200 each. The little ones under the care of Father Ayroul in Egypt look to us, as do orphans in 12 other countries.



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Near East Missions
Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y. Very Rev. Andrew Nagah
Rev. Peter F. Tashy. Rev. Wm. Keller Bunn
Send all communications to:
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
440 Lexington Ave., 4th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Sizes 12 to 20, 14 1/2 to 22 1/2

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