

Sainthood Slated Next May For Blessed Pius X

Vatican City — (NC) — Expectations that Blessed Pope Pius X would be canonized during the Marian Year have been confirmed in an announcement by the Vatican press office.

The announcement said that seven canonizations and three beatifications, with Pius X in honored place, have been tentatively set for April, May and June during the Year dedicated to commemorating the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854.

BLESSED POPE Pius X, who died on August 20, 1914, after a pontificate of 11 years, was beatified on June 4, 1951. He will be the first Pope to be canonized since Pope Pius V, who died in 1572, was proclaimed a saint in 1712.

An unofficial, but highly reliable source, said that the canonization of Blessed Pius X has been fixed for the last Sunday in May. According to the Vatican press office, it is certain that he will be canonized alone, while the other six Blessed will probably be canonized in groups.

The six beatified are Maria Crocifissa di Roma (1812-75) Italian born foundress of the Congregation of the Handmaids of Charity; Peter Louis Chanel (1803-41), a French priest who was martyred on the island of Futuna in the Tonga Archipelago; Domenico Savio (1827-77), one of the first pupils of St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Society; Vincenzo Pallotti (1798-1850), founder of Pallottine Fathers; Gaspar Del Bufalo (1786-1837), founder of the Congregation of the Precious Blood; and Giuseppe Maria Pignatelli (1747-1811), Spanish Jesuit who was the principal representative of the Society of Jesus in Italy just before the restoration of the Society by Pope Pius VII.

THE THREE Servants of God who are to be beatified during the Marian Year are Placido Ricciardi (1844-1915), a member of the Benedictine Order; Maria Assunta Pallotta (1873-1905), a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, who died at Tungul Keu, Shansi, China; and Jean Martin Moye, French-born founder of the Divine Sisters of Providence.

Pope Greeted Zionist Leader In Hebrew

New Orleans — (NC) — Another example of the linguistic ability of His Holiness Pope Pius XII was recounted here by Dr. Abraham Herson, Rabbi of Agudath Jacob Synagogue in Waco, Tex.

The Rabbi, who is public relations director of the Zionist organization in the southwest, told a meeting of New Orleans Zionist leaders of an audience he had with the Holy Father. He said the Pontiff started the conversation with the word "Shalom," the ancient Hebrew form of greeting which means "Peace." Replying in Hebrew, Dr. Herson said he told the Pope, "I bring you greetings from the Zionists."

Dr. Herson said the Holy Father asked about the tornado which struck Waco last May. The Rabbi related: "When I described the scene and told him how all men assumed the role of brothers in the disaster, it pleased him immensely and he observed, 'That's the way it should be.' The Rabbi said he discussed current affairs in Jerusalem and Israel with the Pope."

Pope Blesses Relief Supplies For Dutch

Rome — (RNS) — Relief supplies for schools in the flood areas of Holland were blessed by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at the Vatican Railway Station.

The supplies, a gift of the Pontifical Assistance Commission, were blessed by the Pope as they were loaded onto six freight cars for their journey to the Netherlands.

Among those participating in the ceremony was Msgr. Andrew P. Landi of Brooklyn, N. Y., director of the Italian Mission, War Relief Services National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Site Of Manger At Bethlehem

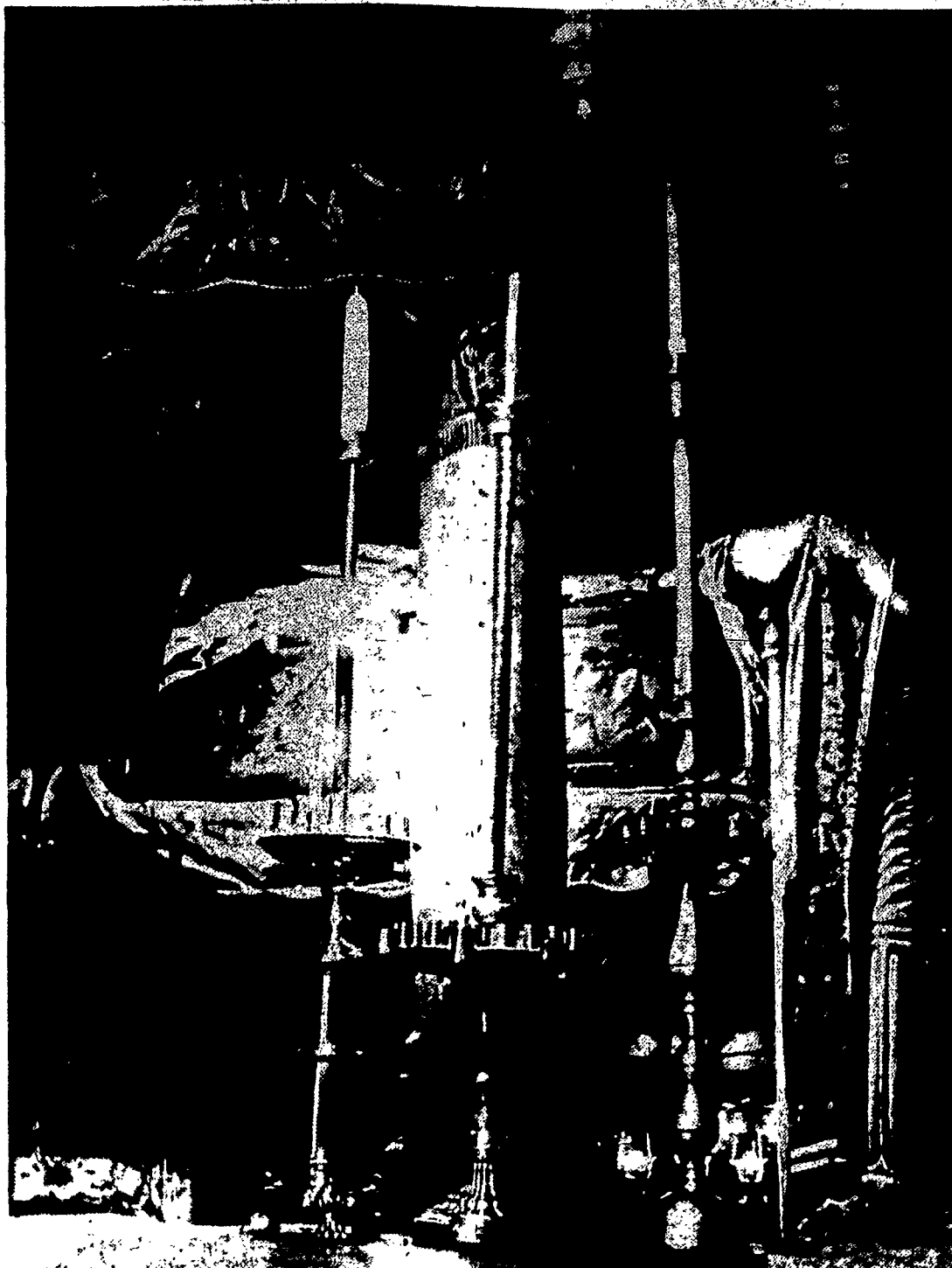


Photo shows the place of the manger in which Christ was placed after His birth, in the Grotto of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Thousands of pilgrims visit this revered shrine during the Christmas Festivities in Palestine. (RNS Photo)

Fallen Hero Medal Given To Mother

Washington — (NC) — The middle-aged woman, swathed in dignified black, was unmindful of the thick green carpeting beneath her feet; the man before her, impeccably dressed in a conservative business suit, appeared cognizant of every detail in the spacious room, and was ill at ease. She thought only of a son, born 22 years earlier, who was not with her. But she won a great fight to hold back her tears. The man's thoughts were no doubt sympathetic, perhaps with a feeling of inadequacy.

SUCH WAS the scene in the office of the Army Chief of Staff in the Pentagon, when Robert T. Stevens, Secretary of the Army, presented "the most carefully guarded medal that our country can give" to the mother of a soldier whose "incredible valor," whose "conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage," had cost him his life.

That soldier was Corp. Benito Martinez, all-around athlete in high school in Fort Hancock, Tex., who gave his life in Korea, September a year ago, after a heroic six-hour one-man stand. In his Fort Hancock parish of St. Teresa, young Martinez had been known as an outstanding youth; in high school he'd been voted "best citizen."

HIS WIDOWED mother Mrs. Francisco Martinez, had come from Texas with four of his brothers and sisters and a nephew to accept the Medal of Honor for her fallen son. At the same time, Secretary Stevens presented another Congressional Medal to Mr. and Mrs. George E. Pomeroy of Quinwood, W. Va., in honor of their son, Pfc. Ralph E. Pomeroy, who had lost his life in Korea after a "single-handed repulse of an attack on a strategic U.N. position."

The brief speeches and the citation accompanying Corporal Martinez's medal was given in English, of course, and then in Spanish so that the mother could understand them. The Army secretary told Mrs. Martinez: "There is nothing anybody could say to assuage your sorrow... he was a hero among heroes." And the mother merely answered "Thank you," but with deep feeling.



Maureen Connolly
'Little Mo' Given Top Tennis Rating

New York — (NC) — Maureen (Little Mo) Connolly, three time winner of the national tennis crown, has retained her number one rating among the country's women tennis players.

The 19-year-old Californian, product of Catholic schools, was honored with the top post by the women's ranking committee after achieving in the past season the first "grand slam" of the world's four major tennis tournaments for women—Wimbledon, Australia, France and Forest Hills.

Miss Connolly forged to the front in tennis ratings in 1951 when she became the youngest player to win national women's.

War Orphan Keeps Pledge To Mary

Altötting, Germany — (NC) — A former Bavarian war orphan, who is now an American GI, has kept a solemn promise. He is among the thousands of pilgrims who have come to this Marian shrine for the Christmas season.

Suffering the loss of his entire family during World War II, Cpl. Kurt Schmidt prayed to the Virgin to give him a chance to emigrate to America. His prayers were answered when he was adopted by an American family in San Antonio, Tex.

Enroute to the U.S. he promised the Madonna of Altötting that he would return some day to thank her. Later he enlisted in the American army, was sent to Europe, and is now keeping the pledge made to Mary.

Rites Urged For Feast Of Holy Family

Washington — (NC) — A number of observances for celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family on January 30 have been recommended by the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Father Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., bureau director, said that the feast is being celebrated with greater devotion each year in parishes all over the country.

"FIRST OF ALL," Father Schmiedeler said, "the feast provides a fitting occasion for the renewal of the marriage promises by husbands and wives, for the recitation of the pledge to Christian marriages by all family members, for consecration of families to the Holy Family."

The bureau director said that the practice, growing in many parishes, of the entire family assisting at Mass as a group and receiving Holy Communion in a body also was recommended highly.

"The Gospel for the feast might well be read by the father or mother when the family gathers around for the noonday meal on the day of the Feast," Father Schmiedeler said. "It is the Gospel of the finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple."

Father Schmiedeler said that the Family Holy Hour booklet issued by the Family Life Bureau may be used conveniently in the observance of the Feast.

African Catholics Shun Racial Bias

Entebbe, Uganda — (RNS) — A resolution calling upon the Church to keep its organization and activities free from all racial discrimination was adopted here by the first Catholic Action Congress ever held in Africa.

The resolution said the Congress was convinced that if the lay apostolate was to be effective the Church must emphasize that there is no difference between the Children of God "since fraternal charity is its distinctive mark according to Christ's commandment."

Osservatore Prints Bishops' Report On 'Weeping Madonna'

Vatican City — (NC) — Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, published the text of the Sicilian Hierarchy's statement regarding the "Weeping Madonna" of Syracuse, but without comment.

The Bishops' statement recognized as a miraculous phenomenon the shedding of tears by a statue of the Virgin in the home of a humble couple, Angelo and Antonia Giusto which occurred repeatedly on August 29, 30 and 31. It was issued after an investigation had been conducted by Archbishop Ettore Baranzini of Syracuse.

Osservatore printed the Bishops' statement on page 3 in a column reserved for "documentations." An introductory note said that the statement was issued following a conference of the Sicilian Hierarchy held on December 10-11. The statement bore the signature of His Eminence Cardinal Ruffini, Archbishop of Palermo, who presided over the Bishops' meeting.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

to all our friends everywhere...

Sibley's