

St. Pius X Feast Day On Aug. 20

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The Holy Father appeared well and strong and as gracious as ever, blessing the throng on both sides of the aisle as the procession moved through the Basilica.
At the end of the Mass, the Pope instructed that the return procession move out to the front of the basilica where he blessed the throngs of people who had been unable to enter. Then the procession moved back into the basilica and the Pontiff went up stairs where he appeared at the main balcony to give his blessing again to the crowds and give them a better chance to see him.
THE SOLEMN procession bearing the remains of St. Pius X from St. Peter's to St. Mary Major's that evening was equally impressive. For over an hour, various lay organizations and confraternities followed St. Peter's Square to be followed by long rows of religious seminarians, priests, monsignors and Bishops. The glass and gold casket containing the new saint's remains was borne by a 17th-century Berlin carriage drawn by six white horses.
Cardinals met the body on its arrival at St. Mary Major's for the religious exercises beginning the customary solemn triduum of veneration for a new saint. The body will remain in St. Mary Major's about a week and then will be returned to St. Peter's Basilica.

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Pius X Declared Saint 40 Years After Death

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The great bell in St. Peter's pealed out the joyful news that Pope Pius X had been added to the Church's catalog of saints.
The first canonization ever televised, the ceremony set a number of other precedents. Because of the Marian year, together with the enormous world-wide appeal of the new Saint, more people from more countries were present at the rite than at any other canonization. Even the Iron Curtain countries were well represented under the circumstances, with many refugees from various Red-dominated lands representing their persecuted brethren.
THE CROWD which overflowed the great square covered every rooftop and filled every available window overlooking the massed thousands. So great were the crowds that even people with special tickets began taking their places about six hours before the ceremony started. In order to be sure of their spots at this memorable ceremony.
More stands than ever had been erected in the square, and on the side steps to the basilica and above the colonnades overlooking the square.
The ceremony began with the great papal procession at 6:30 as the bright sun began to dip down behind the majestic dome of St. Peter's Basilica. Over 300 members of the hierarchy were in the colorful line. It unfolded a paragon of centuries of Church history as the crosses and banners of the religious Orders and congregations announced the coming of delegations of mendicant orders, such as the Augustinians, Franciscans, Carmelites and Dominicans, the monastic orders of Benedictines, Cistercians, Vallombrosians and Camaldolenses.
FOLLOWING THE Order priests came the diocesan clergy from all the basilicas and collegiate churches in Rome, the members of the Sacred Congregation of Rites - which processed the cause of the new saint - and representatives of lay confraternities and other persons from dioceses where St. Pius X lived, served or ruled.
Next came the papal court itself, with lay and clerical attendants, chamberlains, chaplains, prelates of the signature (the Church's supreme tribunal), and the Grand Master of the sacred palace.
Then came the papal cross borne by a judge of the Sacred Rota, the confessor of St. Peter's Basilica, headed by Father Giles Raczmarek, an American Conventual, the Abbot General and Abbots Nullius, Bishops, Archbishops, Patriarchs and then the Cardinals.
The members of the Sacred College were followed by the Holy Father who was carried in the canopied gestatorial chair, flanked by two great "Zabelle" or ostrich-plume fans.
THE PONTIFF carried a lighted candle in his left hand, using his right to bless the tremendous crowd shouting "Viva" for the Pope.
Arriving at the great center door of St. Peter's Basilica the Pontiff took his seat on the special throne erected there. Other members of the procession took their places on both sides and in front of the throne.
Then Cardinal Cicognani approached the throne, knelt and asked the Pope to proclaim Pope Pius X a saint. Replying for the Pontiff, the secretary of the Vatican letters stated the Pope wished first to invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit, whereupon all knelt in silent prayer.
After a few moments the Pontiff intoned the "Veni Creator," and all joined in singing this traditional hymn of the Church for divine guidance. With the hymn concluded the Pope again sat on the throne, and with his miter on his head read the solemn proclamations.
"In honor of the Holy and indivisible Trinity, for the exaltation of the Catholic Faith and the increase of the Christian religion, by the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and by Our own... We decree and define as a Saint, and We inscribe in the catalog of Saints Blessed Pius X."
A great hush fell on the crowds as these words rang out over the loudspeakers for with the pronouncement Blessed Pius X became St. Pius X. At the same moment a veil was dropped from the giant painting of the new Saint right behind the throne.
Pope Pius X's all-absorbing purpose of reestablishing all things in Christ, the Holy Father said, was particularly exemplified in his "bold undertaking to recast the body of Church law in such a way as to give the Church a more ordered life, greater certainty and flexibility of movement as demanded by an age typified by a growing dynamism and complexity."
"WOULD THAT this spirit of justice and law which Pius X gave witness to and exemplified for the modern world could penetrate the conference halls of nations where the most serious problems affecting the whole human family are discussed; particularly the method of banishing forever the fear of terrifying cataclysms and of guaranteeing

Father Torrey: St. Pius X Rites Thrill Diocesan Pilgrims

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Mr. Joseph Torrey, pastor of St. Joseph's, was also in special places.
In Saturday's outdoor setting for the proclamation of the new Saint's title, the sun-bathed piazza of St. Peter's Basilica, we heard 30,000 people roar long approval as St. Pius' giant picture was unveiled over Pope Pius XII's throne when the Pope solemnly named him a saint.
NEXT MORNING, inside the vast Basilica, lighted like a fairyland with clusters of 365 sparkling chandeliers and bulging with nearly 40,000 reverent spectators, we joined the Pope and 45 Cardinals and 45 Bishops at a Pontifical Mass celebrated by the Dean of the College of Cardinals.
A gold and glass coffin lighted inside to reveal the body of St. Pius in his papal vestments was placed before the altar for the whole congregation to see.
And then, in the twilight of Sunday evening, we learned how the man-in-the-street really felt about the first pope to be named a Saint in 240 years.
We stood along a 3-mile processional route from St. Peter's through Rome's downtown section as 16,000 lay-men of Catholic Action and about 2,000 clerical students, priests and prelates walked with the new Saint's body to place it for veneration in one of Rome's most beloved shrines of Our Lady, the Basilica of St. Mary Major.
SIX HUGE PLUMED white horses pulled the casket on a wagon draped with carpets of thousands of white lilies and white carnations. The illuminated white-walnut coffin of the former cobbler's son was carried like a Roman hero's remains and it seemed that nearly every person in Rome stood by to salute the cortege.
A million people watched the first part of the parade as though it were a funeral procession. But when they saw the horse-drawn shrine holding its visible saint they cheered and applauded.
I had expected they would kneel and be silent as the crystal coffin of the saint went by. With uniquely Roman reverence they blessed themselves, waved handkerchiefs, clapped and cheered to see the holy Pope who had lived in Rome only 41 years ago.
A THOUSAND faces made up the memory picture of this Roman weekend. For example, touring the piazza of St. Peter's at noon of Saturday I saw hundreds of early spectators - despite the 90 degree sun - on Rome's warmest and "best" day of a cool spring - seated on camp chairs along the Pope's procession route six hours before he would appear.
Other hundreds, especially large German pilgrim groups or Italian parish groups, were lunching al fresco in the cool shadows of the magnificent Bernini colonnades.
hawkers of souvenirs, rosary and medal salesmen, and fat

St. Pius X Rites Thrill Diocesan Pilgrims

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women selling illustrated tabloids of Saint Pius' life worked tirelessly until the crowds began to push into a solid mass. At least 300,000 people stood shoulder to shoulder more than 3 hours in the blistering sun.
Even ticket-holders to other special reserved standing places on the cobblestone piazza 300 yards from the papal throne or on raised platforms along the Basilica steps, began to move to their places by 3:30.
USHERING AND policing were swift, firm, logacious and colorful. The Vatican's Palatine Guard were in dark blue dress uniforms with red-plumed tripartite hats and white epaulettes. The Swiss Guards in uniform, unchanged since Michelangelo designed them 400 years ago, wore armored breastplates and medieval metal helmets over their knickered uniforms of red, blue and gold stripes and silver white ruffs around their necks.
Ushering for the diplomatic corps and honor guests, including royal families of Europe's Catholic nations, was ceremoniously handled by courtly white-haired gentlemen of Italian nobility who wore black velvet jackets and breeches, Renaissance neckruff, black slippers and stockings, velvet cloaks and glittering swords.
Nearly all the guests in special honor sections were in formal dress required for a papal audience: the men in white-tie-and-tails with top hats in hand and the women in long black dresses with long sleeves and graceful black lace head veils.
THE PROCESSION of clerics began to cross the square precisely at 5:30 but it was 6:20 before a chorus of silver trumpets announced that the Pope had come into view. His cortege followed 450 Bishops and 45 Cardinals all vested in white copes and white miters walking two abreast with their chaplains.
From my place near the papal throne the tall white headpieces of the prelates looked like the triangular sails of toy boats floating over the heads of the crowd as the churchmen slowly walked to the top steps of the Basilica.
THE POPE seemed tense and white-faced as the crowd roared its welcome. The waving handkerchiefs were like froth on a tide of joyous sound.
The Pontiff, carried slowly over the head of the crowd, responded with small gestures and nods but he appeared to be saying himself for the long ceremony ahead. His movements of Benediction and greeting from the chair of state were slow and reserved, a striking contrast to his warm manners on the return journey to the Vatican when he showed a vivacity which made old men could appear so fresh after this long ceremony.
Thinking how he seemed to enjoy the weaving 30 minute ride on the sedia gestatoria, I was reminded that Pius X did not like this public ritual - the ride made him ill, "almost sea-sick."
Unusual light and sound accompanied the unveiling of the new Saint's tremendous picture on St. Peter's balcony immediately after the Pope's words "we decree and define as Saint blessed Pius tenth."

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