

Vatican Excavation Linked To Nero

Vatican City. — (NC) — What were originally intended to be the foundations of a parking lot and garage here have turned into the site of one of the most valuable archaeological excavations and sources of Church history.

A few months ago workmen were put to the job of digging the foundations for a new Vatican garage. In a few days they uncovered eight ancient Roman sepulchral monuments in a perfect state of preservation.

THE MONUMENTS were approximately 100 feet from one of the walls of St. Peter's basilica.

Pope Pius XII was notified of the discovery. He ordered that the work of excavating be continued, in the hope that other important discoveries be made.

Prof. Filippi Magi, director of the papal museums and art galleries, said that the Vatican Hill has been proven beyond doubt as the site of a burial place for the Rome of Caesar Augustus, Nero and Domitian.

Prof. Magi gave his report in a lecture to the Roman Academy of Archeology.

Important in the dating of the burial ground was the discovery of a stele, or grave marker, erected by a servant of Nero in memory of his wife and son.

Nero, under whom many Christians suffered martyrdom and who condemned St. Peter to death, reigned as emperor of Rome from 54 to 68 A.D.

This fact, explained Prof. Magi, is a great contribution to strengthening the probability that St. Peter was buried on the site where the basilica named in his honor now stands.

IN HIS CHRISTMAS message of 1950, the Pope announced that the tomb of the first pope had been found under the basilica. It had long been thought to be there, and excavations proved the tradition true.

There was no positive evidence at that time that the bones found in the tomb were those of St. Peter, but the discovery of this new burial ground strengthens the theory, Prof. Magi said.

Among some of the items

found in the graves were coins dating back to the reign of Emperor Caesar Augustus (63 B.C. to A.D.) who is mentioned in St. Luke's gospel (21) as having issued the census decree which was the reason why St. Joseph and Our Lady went to Bethlehem to register.

Prof. Magi announced that almost 50 tombs had been discovered and opened.

IN THEM, he said, was an inkpot, dating back to the end of the first century of the Christian era.

Made of bronze, the inkpot still held dried ink. The archeologists placed a few drops of water into the inkpot, and found that the ink was still usable.

Analysis of the composition of the ink will be a great aid in dating manuscripts, Prof. Magi said.

Vatican City Stamp Cited

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A Vatican City commemorative stamp depicting the famous painting of Our Lady of Czestochowa, has been named the most outstanding Roman Catholic postage stamp of 1956 by the Collectors of Religion on Stamps Society.

The stamp marked the 30th anniversary of the Papal bull designating Our Lady of Czestochowa as Queen of Poland.

The painting, known as the "Black Madonna" is ascribed to St. Luke the Evangelist and has been guarded by the Pauline Fathers—officially known as the Order of St. Paul the Hermit—for over 600 years.

The society also voted an Argentine postage stamp depicting the Christ Child, the most outstanding religious design of 1956. The stamp, which pictures a detail from Leonardo da Vinci's great painting "The Virgin of the Rocks," was selected as having the most inspiring design of the 11 postage stamps with a spiritual or religious theme issued by various countries during 1956.

Poles Recall Worker Uprise Against Reds

Poznan, Poland — (RNS) — An estimated 200,000 Roman Catholics joined in ceremonies here marking the first anniversary of the workers' uprising of June 28, 1956, that culminated in the overthrow of the former Stalinist era in Poland.

CHURCH BELLS and factory sirens announced a brief period of silence in honor of the 55 workers and students who died after having braved police bullets in demonstrations for "bread and freedom."

The churches of the city meanwhile were packed as the faithful gathered to pray for the souls of the dead prior to joining in a huge mile-long procession in token of their devotion to the Catholic Church.

Led by priests in full ecclesiastical gear and hundreds of girls in First Communion dresses, the marchers passed through streets decorated with the red and white national flag of Poland and the white and gold papal banner.

AT INTERVALS, the marchers chanted the old hymn "God Save Poland" which the communists had forbidden and which had not been heard on the streets of Poznan until the riots last year.

Later delegations and family groups marched in light rain to the graves of the martyred dead in the eight city cemeteries.

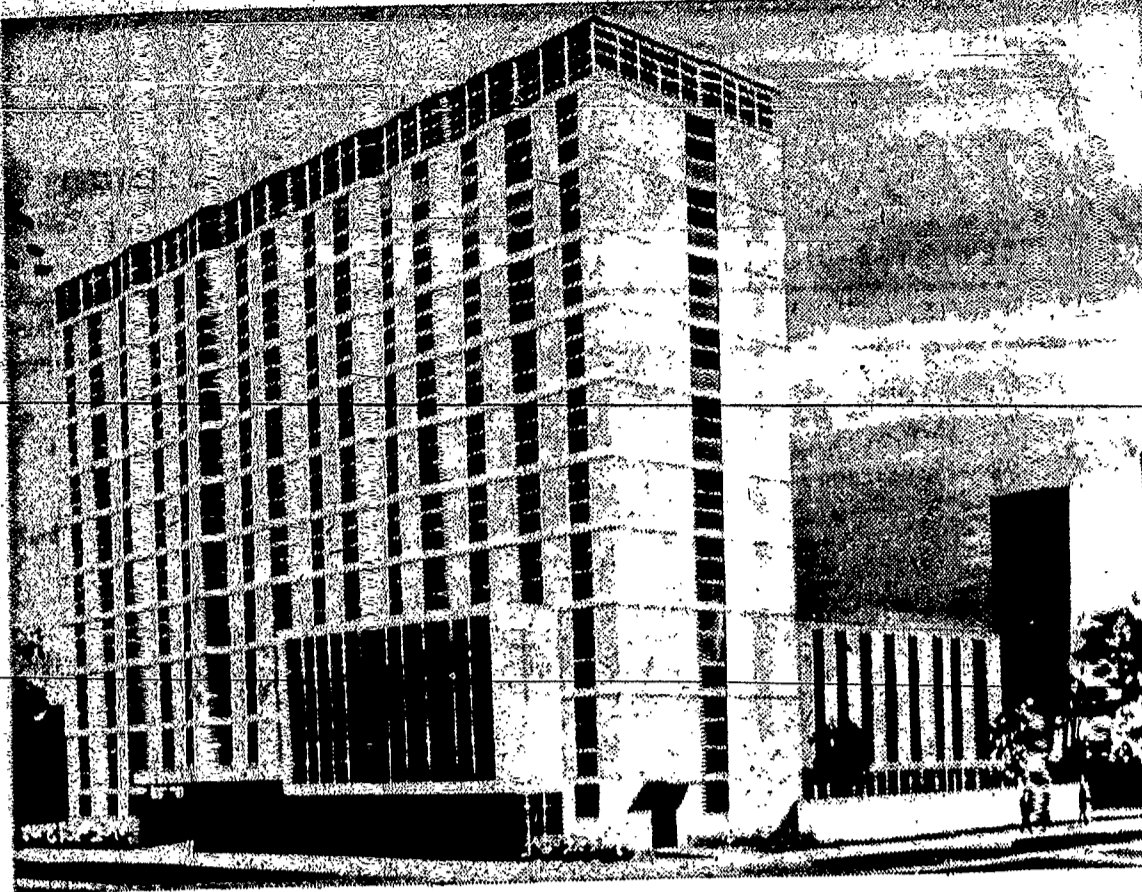
No priests were in attendance and no religious services were held at the cemeteries, however, at the Citadel and the Junkowa cemeteries, the crowds spontaneously sang the hymn "Holy Mary, Queen of Poland."

Leftists Oust Florence Mayor

Florence, Italy — (NC) — Giorgio La Pira told newsmen he had resigned as mayor of this city that his sole aim in politics had been to make Florence a center of Christian civilization.

Mr. La Pira, famed for his Christian approach to political affairs and his asceticism in private life, had to resign from office during a municipal crisis caused by leftist parties.

"May the Lord keep the light of Christian civilization shining on the spiritual and civic heights of Florence," he said, "because it is the only light which has given to the city in the past... and will give it in the future a just claim to its mission of beauty, devotion and peace."



Chicago Nun's Scholasticate

Modern to the minute is a new 10-story Scholasticate building that will be erected by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Chicago, opposite Mundelein College. The building, shown in an architect's sketch from office of Neess and Murphy of Chicago, will house 100 student-sisters and will cost an estimated \$1,500,000. Motherhouse of the order in Dubuque, Ia. (NC)

Former Chaplains Recall Battle Days

Detroit — (NC) — Two former army chaplains who were buddies in the Battle of the Bulge back in 1944 recalled memories over "chow" in the rectory of St. Lucy's parish, St. Clair shores.

They were Bishop Harold Henry, newly consecrated vicar apostolic of Kiangsu, Korea, and Msgr. HUMPHREY A. MALNO, St. Lucy's pastor.

Both were chaplains with Gen. Patton's Third Army which helped stop the German big push nearly 10 years ago. Bishop Henry, a Columbian missionary, is also a veteran of a more recent campaign, the communist invasion of South Korea.



Hungarian's First Blessing

Father Joseph Mate, S.J., first Hungarian refugee to be ordained a Jesuit priest in the U. S. since the 1956 revolution, bestowed his first blessing upon Father Andrew C. Vargas, S.J., Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus of Hungary. Father Mate was ordained in Fordham University Chapel, New York, by Bishop Joseph M. Perricone, Auxiliary of New York. (NC)

Indian Cardinal Takes 'Rest Cure'

Monsignor, Switzerland — (RNS) — His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, is undergoing a "completely successful rest cure" in a Catholic institution here "after overwork and strain," his secretary said.

He said the Cardinal hopes to return to India in about three or four weeks.

Negroes Ordained In Mozambique

Lourenco Marques, Mozambique — (RNS) — Two Negroes were ordained Roman Catholic priests by Teodosio Clemente Cardinal de Gouveia, Archbishop of Lourenco Marques in Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception church here.

Puerto Rico — (NC) — Thirty-four U. S. priests are taking an eight-week course at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico here that will prepare them to assist Puerto Rican migrants in the United States.

Funeral Rites Given British Agnostic

(NC) — Gilbert Murray, the British classical scholar and lifelong agnostic received Extreme Unction on the day he died, it was revealed here.

Murray had confirmed a wish to the effect that he should be buried in the grave of his father, who was a Catholic, and that he should receive the sacraments before he died.

His father, who was a Catholic, had been a member of the Anglican church, now the Episcopal church, in the United States.

THE UNIVERSE, nationally circulated Catholic weekly, quoted Father Crozier as saying that Dr. Murray came to "his point of departure from agnosticism" after months of informal talks with the priest.

It quoted the Oxford priest as follows: "In our talk on January 31 we discussed agnosticism, and I gave what I thought was the Church's answer to the problem."

"He (Dr. Murray) weighed the full meaning of the definition and said that he accepted it fully."

"He asked me for textual references to my statements and I promised to let him have them."

"WHEN I SAW him again on March 22, I read the definition from the book from which I had copied it. After I had read it, he motioned as if to get out of his chair, saying that he would like to copy out the statement."

"I said: There is no need for that. I will give you a copy tomorrow." That I did.

"Unknown to each of us, that was our last discussion and I look upon the definition as his point of departure from agnosticism."

FATHER CROZIER said the text accepted by Dr. Murray was this passage from the 1870 definition by the Vatican Council on Faith and Reason:

"The Divine Mysteries by their own nature so far transcend the created intelligence that, even when delivered by revelation and covered with the veil of faith itself and shrouded in a certain degree of darkness so long as we are pilgrims in this mortal life, not yet with God."

Noted Jurist's Son To Be Ordained

Washington — (NC) — The son of a distinguished judge and former high government official will be ordained to the priesthood in the Order of St. Benedict in the chapel of Trinity College here, July 7.

He is Charles T. Fahy, son of Judge Charles Fahy of the U.S. Court of Appeals here who was Solicitor General of the United States from 1941 to 1945.



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