

Full-Length Painting Of Pope Completed

London — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII's 82nd birthday has been marked by the completion of the first full-length painting of him ever made from actual sittings. Originally commissioned for a London church, the painting is to remain instead at the Vatican.

The artist is a Scottish Presbyterian who has his studio in London—46-year-old Leonard Boden.

THE PAINTING of the Pope was commissioned by Charles Forte, millionaire Indian-born restaurateur, popularly known as "Mister Piccadilly" because he owns so many famous restaurants amid the bright lights of Piccadilly Circus.

Charles Forte already had his own portrait painted by Leonard Boden. In commissioning the portrait of the Pope, his intention was that it should be presented to London's Italian church, but the Pope liked the portrait so much that the priest at the church decided it should be presented to him, and Charles Forte agreed.

Mr. Boden made four trips to Rome to do the painting. The Pope sat for him both at the Vatican and at Castel Gandolfo, the papal summer palace. Said the artist: "It was a unique opportunity. The Pope is a wonderful sitter. He has a most compelling personality."

IT HAD LONG been known that the portrait was being painted. Bureau well kept secrets are now revealed for the first time. First is the identity of Charles Forte. Hitherto, Mr. Boden would speak of an anonymous donor. Second, the nature of the painting is now known. It is full length portrait. Mr. Boden had not let it be known whether he was painting a full figure or just the head and shoulders.

The portrait shows the Pope seated on a throne, his hands clasped before him and an open book on his knees. He is looking up from the book to gaze at the artist. Characteristically, he sits

Senator Hits Bid To Tax Church School

Los Angeles — (RNS) — Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts said here that on historic and economic grounds he is opposed to the property taxation of private and church-related schools.

The legislator, mentioned in many quarters as a leading candidate for the Democratic 1960 presidential nomination, took his position at a press conference here.

"Certainly, private education in this country has been religious. On historic and economic grounds, these schools should be tax exempt. And I oppose the former tax exemption for the latter."

In California, residents will vote this month on an initiative to abolish the tax exemption granted to private nonprofit elementary and secondary schools.



Diplomats Attend Pope's Mass

Washington, D.C. — (NC) — More than 50 nations were represented at the Pontifical Mass here in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, marking the 19th anniversary of the coronation of Pope Pius XII. Pictured are five ambassadors attending, from left, Mr. Hugues Le Gallais, ambassador of Luxembourg; Signor Manlio Brosio, ambassador of Italy; Senor Don Jose M. de Arelliza, ambassador of Spain; Mr. John Joseph Heenan, ambassador of Ireland; and Senor Don Fernando Berckemeyer, ambassador of Peru.

NAM Urges Aid To Private Colleges

New York — (NC) — The National Association of Manufacturers has issued a brochure strongly urging contributions by business corporations to the support of privately financed colleges and universities.

Pointing to the expected doubling of college enrollment within the next decade, the brochure notes that most students are expected to enter tax-supported institutions.

There will therefore, be the danger that support of private colleges will be minimized or neglected in the face of increased tax burdens.

"IT WOULD BE a grave error to upset the balance of our educational system. No matter how excellent the tax-supported institutions, the private colleges have a unique practical and symbolic significance for our way of life," the brochure says.

Entitled "Our Private Colleges: Our Heritage, Our Investment," the brochure was prepared by the education department of the NAM.

"Freedom of choice with respect to education is as important to the nation as freedom of expression," the brochure asserts.

It recommends that business operations which plan to aid private colleges do so by channeling contributions through the various fundraising associations established by private colleges and universities in 39 states and regions.

THESE ASSOCIATIONS, formed through the cooperation of a number of schools, now include 388 member institutions, the NAM publication said. There are 464 colleges, and 372 of these are church-affiliated. It noted.

The NAM said the brochure is part of its campaign to aid higher education which began in 1951 when the board of directors adopted a resolution calling upon membership to "find a way to support the whole educational program effectively, regularly and now."

New Church Building Drops In February

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Church construction, which has been enjoying the greatest boom in history, may be starting to feel the effects of the present business recession, the Department of Commerce and Labor disclosed here.

NEW CONSTRUCTION of church edifices totaled \$64,000,000 during February, \$1,000,000 less than the figure for February, 1957. It was the first time in two years that church construction has failed to set a new monthly record.

Construction dropped \$4,000,000 from the January figure. New construction for the first two months of 1958 totaled \$132,000,000, exactly the same as for the first two months of last year.

The decline was significant because other lines of building activity, which have been showing a downward trend for three or four months, started to pick up in February, reaching a point 2 percent above a year ago.

CONSTRUCTION by non-public schools and colleges continued, as it has in recent months, running just a little behind previous levels. February construction was estimated at \$40,000,000, down \$2,000,000 from January and \$1,000,000 less than in February a year ago.

Construction by private hospitals and institutions, most of which are church-related, continued on a large scale, with \$47,000,000 worth of new buildings started in February, the same as in January. This was an increase of \$13,000,000 over a year ago.

Prisoner Also Doing Congress Advances Religious Art Bill

Jackson, Mich. — (RNS) — An inmate of Southern Michigan prison here is painting a portrait of Pope Pius XII as a gift to the Catholic chaplain who befriended him.

Enrique Peralta, 31, hopes to have the painting finished by the time he is scheduled for release three years from now. He will give it to Father George B. Lanning, who started the convict on his painting "career."

Father Lanning was the chaplain at Indiana State Reformatory at Pendleton, Ind., in 1954 when Peralta was imprisoned there as a narcotics addict.

The prisoner painted the 11 stations of the Cross in the reformatory's new chapel. Now in the prison here as a repeat offender, Peralta is taking art lessons and says his start on the Pope's picture "was the beginning of a new life for me."

Prelate Asks Citizen Rights For South African Negroes

Grahamstown, South Africa — (NC) — Archbishop Denis E. Hurley, O.M.I., of Durban has called for citizen rights for South African Negroes as "the first great step" toward restoring stability and security in their family life.

THE PRELATE said here that it is the duty of white South Africans to provide the conditions where the family life of the African can be restored. But he said the prelates' apartheid policy of segregation to the white man is an "un-Christian and inhuman policy" postponing the fulfillment of this obligation.

"The first great step of achieving this end," Archbishop Hurley declared, "is the recognition of the African as citizens of South Africa."

NEXT, HE SAID, the members of the African National Congress must be satisfied by providing

Census To Count Missouri Catholics

St. Louis, Mo. — (RNS) — The first statewide census of all Roman Catholics in Missouri will be undertaken this fall under the direction of Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis.

The door-to-door census will be made by some 30,000 members of the Councils of Catholic Men in the state's four dioceses.

Purpose of the census is to secure accurate information on which to forecast parochial school and parish growth, according to Auxiliary Bishop Leo C. Byrne, episcopal director of the project.

St. Bernadette Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio inaugurated a series of daily broadcasts on the life of St. Bernadette Soubirous, the peasant girl to whom Our Lady of Lourdes appeared in 1858.

New Library Latrobe, Pa. — (NC) Cardinal Spellman will officiate at the dedication of a \$500,000 library building at St. Vincent College here on April 17.

SIBLEY'S DOWNTOWN STORE WILL BE OPEN EVERY MONDAY FROM 9:30 TO 5:45



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