

World Mourns Supreme Pontiff

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Bishop Kearney first met Pope Pius XII when he visited the United States in 1936. The meeting was at the late Pope Pius XI, the future Pontiff, when as Cardinal Pacelli, Secretary of State, the two prelates took place at Fordham University, New York City.

'Pope Of People'

By FRANK KELLY

Thousands of people from all walks of life went to church this week to pray for a friend.

The friend is Pope Pius XII, the "Pope of Peace," but also the "Pope of the People" — for he was just that.

Catholics and non-Catholics alike and the boy were treated the same by this man who could claim only one enemy — the forces of evil.

EVERYONE who met him in closing scores from our Bishops in Diocese was left with ten impressions: the sincerity of his friendship and the saintly character of this man who as the Vicar of Christ was the spiritual leader of the world's Roman Catholics.

Ask any U.S. serviceman who met him during and after the war. They will say, "he is my friend."

Triumph of the sacrament of Eucharist for him was when he met some 60 sailors from the U.S. Sixth Fleet. After the Pope's speech, a chief petty officer and a sailor broke out with "Waboy, a say, boys? Three cheers for His Holiness!" The "Hip, hip hooray" of His Holiness ruffled the crystal chandeliers.

And, it didn't matter much where you came from or what language you spoke. Time after time, he would greet pilgrims in their native tongue.

Conversations with the common people lasted several minutes — not just a greeting, but a genuine interest in what each person was and did for a living.

One Protestant pilgrim described his audience. "As he spoke to us, we had the feeling that, for at least a fleeting moment, he was only interested in our personal welfare. His is a warm and friendly personality and it is easy to see why he is so highly esteemed, both as a human and as a spiritual personality."

This friendly man who reigned in a time of conflict and cold war, even showed affection for the enemies of his God.

When the late Joseph Stalin asked, "How many divisions has the Pope," his answer, given to Sir Winston Churchill, showed his love for humanity. "Tell my son Joseph he will meet my divisions in Heaven."

Thus he showed that he loved his oppressors, although he condemned their Godless doctrines. He could still love Joseph Stalin, as a person and still hope to have him attain Heaven in spite of his errors.

Pope Pius reflected the true spirit of Christianity: the love of God and the love of his fellow man.

This was the secret of his magnificent personality. Here was a man without hate, thus he was loved by all who met him.

THIS WAS TRUE of the rulers of mighty nations, of the ordinary street peddler, of everybody. People from all walks of life paid tribute to him, for here was a man's man. And God thought so much of this man. He paid him the highest tribute that a man could receive on this earth. He granted him the magnificent sight of a vision of Jesus Christ, the Savior, when Pope Pius lay near death four years ago.

This man, the Vicar of Christ, the Successor of St. Peter will be remembered through succeeding generations.

But more than that, he will be missed by the common man, because he was their friend.



HIS HOLINESS, POPE PIUS XII
Vicar of Christ, 262nd Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church

Pope Pius XII Sought Peace

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Pope Pius XII, Pope of Peace, supreme head of the Church during the stormiest and most fateful period in history, has become one of the great figures of all time.

A worker of boundless energy and enormous talent, he won the admiration of the world by his outstanding achievements in many different fields. A profound scholar, brilliant teacher, amazing linguist, distinguished diplomat and a great and saintly pastor of souls, his reign would have been notable had he excelled in but one of these roles. That he was everywhere acclaimed for extraordinary attainments in all of them places his Pontificate at the very forefront of epochs.

His reign also presents a striking contrast. Its beginning saw the most widespread and devastating war mankind has yet known; its latter years an uneasy truce, marked by the ruthless and relentless persecution of Catholics in an ever lengthening list of nations. Yet he was universally known as the Pope of Peace. Always he worked to secure for all a peace based on justice and charity, and to point out the errors that were again leading men to wars and destruction, no matter how he spoke and how often he defended the rights of the Church wherever they were threatened.

He was the undisputed leader in the world-wide struggle against the menace of atheistic communism. In 1948 his stern and timely warnings saved Italy from Red seizure. His stirring messages to Catholics, behind the Iron Curtain gave them renewed hope in their courageous battle to preserve the Faith in their home lands. His 1949 decree excommunicating those who knowingly and willingly belong to the Communist Party or help spread its propaganda was one of the most telling blows yet struck against the forces of the Kremlin.

REMARKABLE CAREER
As a student he won high scholastic honors and earned three doctorates while hardly more than a youth.



N. Y. Cardinal Greeted Ailing Pontiff

Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, in a 20-minute private audience at the papal summer residence just four days before suffering a stroke. Earlier he had been reported as troubled with fits of hiccupping, similar to those which had harassed him a few years ago.

He proclaimed the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, the liberalized the "Eucharistic" last and first Papal definition of a doctrine, and revived the sacred Holy Week rituals.

Highlights Of Life

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

- 1876, March 2—Born in Rome
- 1899, April 2—Ordained
- 1900, February—Appointed to Secretary of State by Leo XIII
- 1905, May 8—Elevated to rank of Domestic Prelate
- 1914, Appointed Secretary of Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs by Benedict XV
- 1917, April—Appointed Papal Nuncio to Bavaria
- 1917, May 13—Consecrated Titular Archbishop of Sardis by Benedict XV
- 1920, December 16—Created Cardinal by Pius XI
- 1930, February 10—Appointed Papal Secretary of State
- 1934, October—Papal Legate to Buenos Aires Eucharistic Congress
- 1935, April 1—Papal Legate to Lourdes Triduum
- 1935, April—Appointed Camerlengo of Holy Roman Church
- 1936, October—Trip to United States
- 1937, July—Papal Legate to consecration of Lisieux basilica
- 1938, March—Papal Legate to Budapest Eucharistic Congress
- 1939, March 2—Elected Pope on 63rd birthday
- 1939, March 12—Crowned Pope
- 1939, December 21—Issued Christmas message outlining conditions necessary for just peace
- 1946, February 18—Created 82 new Cardinals, at largest Consistory in history
- 1949, December 24—Opened Holy Door at St. Peter's to start Holy Year
- 1950, November 1—Proclaimed dogma of Our Lady's Assumption
- 1953, January 6—Issued Apostolic Constitution granting permission for evening Masses

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The death of Pope Pius XII is a great loss not merely to the Church but to the whole world.

No pope in history has ever come so close to the people. Throughout his pontificate millions have listened to him personally, received his blessing, kissed his ring. He has been a good shepherd, thinking always of the sanctification of his flock.

His legislation on the Eucharistic fast and his modification of traditional hours for Mass have endeared him to his flock, who felt they had in him a real father.

There is no question that he will go down in history as one of the majestic figures in the papacy, and at once a gentle and kindly father who loved all the children of God and prayed incessantly for that peace which the world cannot give.

God rest his noble soul!
"Now cracks a noble heart
Good night, sweet prince
And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

James E. Kearney