

What Happens When Pope Dies?

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in Conclave after the three days given over to the funeral honors of the dead Pontiff, the "Novendial."

Thus on the afternoon of the tenth day following the Pope's death, after having attended the Mass of the Holy Ghost celebrated by the Dean of the College of Cardinals—now His Eminence Eugene Cardinal Tisserant—and heard the discourse on the election of the new Pope, the Cardinals were to enter into Conclave. This sermon, "De Eligendo Pontifice," is generally entrusted to the Secretary of "Brevi ad Principes" (Briefs to Princes), who is now Monsignor Antonio Bacchi.

At that time, the period of 10 days made it virtually impossible for Cardinals from the Americas and other places far from Rome to arrive in time for the Conclave. Thus Pius XI extended the limit to 15 days after the Pope's death, and gave the College of Cardinals authority to extend the limit to 18 days in case of necessity. During this time, the six Roman Masses of the "Novendial" will be celebrated on the days fixed by the Cardinals and the last three on the last three days preceding entrance into Conclave.

Each of the Cardinals may take two persons with him into the Conclave, one clerical or lay assistant and a personal servant. These persons may not be related to the Cardinal within the second degree by blood or marriage, and must be of the highest type of character. A Cardinal may take only one person with him, if he wishes, and in this case, the person must be a layman who will act as his personal attendant.

Pius XII's Constitution, "Venerabilis Apostolicae Sedis," is the legislation which currently governs the affairs of the Conclave and the election of the new Pope. Issued December 8, 1945, it incorporated previous legislation but incorporated features of all earlier laws.

Most important of the Constitution's innovations was the change in the system of voting. Previously a two-thirds vote had been necessary for the election of a new Pope. It is now the rule that the vote must be two-thirds plus one. This is directed against the possibility of a Cardinal's voting for himself, which is forbidden. Before, in the case of an exactly even vote of two-thirds, it would have been necessary to call for a check to be sure that none of the Cardinals had voted for himself, with all the confusion and embarrassment such a check would cause. Now, even if the Cardinal having the necessary score has voted for himself, the necessary two-thirds vote will be valid, leaving his own self-vote as practically useless.

Another interesting part of the Constitution is the prohibition against the introduction into the Conclave of telegraphic, tele-

phonic, radio, photographic or movie equipment or any other similar instruments. It is stated explicitly that this measure is taken to provide more carefully for the observance of the necessary secrecy.

THE VOTING

The voting takes place in the Sistine Chapel by secret ballot. Two ballots are taken each morning and evening until a new Pope is chosen by the necessary margin. When a ballot has failed to produce a decision, the ballots are burned in a furnace with damp straw, which produces a heavy black smoke. When they see this smoke coming out of the chimney, the people gathered in St. Peter's Square know that voting is still going on. When the Pope is finally elected, the ballots are burned without the straw, and the light smoke from the chimney is a sign that a new Pope has been chosen. Special ballots, devoid of the elector's name, seal or motto, are used.

During the Conclave the Cardinals occupy "cells"—really apartments—in a walled up section of the Vatican Palace. No one is allowed to enter or leave until the voting is finished. After three days, if a new Pope has not been elected, the amount of food sent in to the Conclavists is diminished. Formerly the rules provided that after five days the Cardinals should live on only bread, wine and water, but this law has been abolished.

When one has received the required number of votes, the Cardinal Dean proceeds to ask him whether he will accept the election and by what name he wishes to be known. Since the time of John XII, each Pope takes a new name in imitation of St. Peter's change of name.

The master of ceremonies lowers the canopies over the seats of all the Cardinals except that of the Pope-elect and he is conducted to an adjacent room, where he is clothed in the Papal garments. The Cardinals then advance and pay their first homage. Next the Pope either confirms or appoints the Cardinal Camerlengo, who puts on his finger the Fisherman's ring. This is followed by the proclamation of the election by the senior Cardinal Deacon to the people assembled in St. Peter's Square.

Once a Pope is elected he must accept the office before he is validly the new Pontiff. He is elected for life, although he may, if he wishes, resign. In such a case, a new election would be held, as after the death of a Pope. Theoretically, any male Catholic, even a layman, can be elected Pope. Should a layman be chosen he would have to be ordained and consecrated a Bishop. In practice, however, the College of Cardinals is virtually certain to choose one of its own members as the new Pope.

22 Years Mental Breakdown

Patient 'Never To Get Well' Recovers

Burlington — (NC) — The parents of five children stood at the altar of St. Joseph's Church and renewed their marriage vows after 22 years of separation.

The woman's faith and love endured through 22 heart-rending years while her husband was a mental patient at the Waterbury State Hospital.

"He was the type of case that is never supposed to get well," declared Dr. George Brooks, psychiatrist at the institution. "A year ago we were about to give up."

Then, Dr. Brooks related, the patient, who had been a painter and paperhanger, was needed to help prepare the hospital's new Rehabilitation House for its first occupants — patients from the Waterbury institution who were on their way to recovery.

He was sent to the house daily for redecoration work, with never a thought that he would become one of the occupants of the so-called "halfway house."

"His interest was aroused," Dr. Brooks said. "He had a feeling of accomplishment. He began to improve rapidly and consented to take the new dress of decoration."

Until this time, the man had not only done, but given money, but porting and advising on property

not been considered for rehabilitation. After several months' adjustment, living in the Rehabilitation House while continuing to work there as a painter, doctors decided he was ready to begin a new life.

Following his commitment in 1936 after suffering a breakdown, his wife moved to Buffalo, N.Y., where she worked to rear her five children and put them through school. When informed of her husband's improved condition, she gave up her home in New York state and returned to Burlington.

Then came the ceremony at St. Joseph's Church, and the renewal of the marriage vows. A party followed at the Rehabilitation House, where the reunited couple joined hands in cutting a big cake. The husband is now making good pay and his wife no longer has to support herself and the children.

"When she took her vows the first time, she meant them," commented Dr. Brooks. He witnessed the renewal of vows and admitted he was "tearing with the rest of them."

Catholic Agency Aids London Poor Buy Homes

London — (RNS) — A Catholic organization formed here at the beginning of 1956 to provide financial, legal and other assistance to homeless Catholic families has already enabled 54 families to buy homes.

THIS WAS disclosed in a report presented at the second annual meeting of the Catholic Housing Aid Society over which Archbishop William Godfrey of Westminster presided.

The report noted that the society had given money, but porting and advising on property

lends it on advance deposits, loans to people unable to borrow it on their own credit. It said that 21 Catholic lawyers are giving their professional services without charge. Meanwhile, it added, Catholic employers have given many days' work exemption to porting and advising on property



"Little Singers" Visit A Friend

Washington — (RNS) — The Little Singers of Paris, famed Catholic choir, visits President Eisenhower at the White House during their three-month 11,000-mile tour of the United States and Canada. On the President's left is Msgr. Fernand Maillet, the

group's director, and Father Roger Delisnie, assistant director. (right), Mr. Eisenhower first became acquainted with the choir when it sang a special concert for him after the liberation of Paris in 1944.

Missions Report 'Bad' Year

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called that the first two of the illicit consecrations took place last April 13 in the Hankow cathedral with Bishop Joseph Li of Puchi acting as consecrator.

Fides reported that prior to the consecration, Bishop Li had stated publicly:

"If I had two souls I would sacrifice one of them and perform this consecration, but since I only have one, which I wish to save, I shall never perform this consecration without having received authorization from Rome."

The news agency added that the Bishop was "summoned by the communists and subjected to a week of indoctrination." Then he performed the consecration. It continued:

"What happened during that week? We shall perhaps never know. It seems that communist victims are ready to make any concessions whatsoever after 10 sleepless days. The physical forces of any man have their limits; there comes a time when an exhausted man is nothing more than an irresponsible robot..."

TURNING TO the "growing suspicion" of missionaries, Fides

Governor Sets 'Doctors Day'

Albany — (NC) — Gov. Averell Harriman of New York has issued a proclamation declaring the Feast of St. Luke, Saturday, Oct. 18, as "Physicians and Surgeons' Day."

St. Luke of Antioch is the traditional patron of doctors.

recalled that over 5,000 foreign missionaries have long since been expelled by the Chinese communists as "troublesome and dangerous individuals." It then stated:

"That hostility is extending itself to some other countries of Asia where missionaries though still tolerated are watched and looked upon with suspicion."

Fides confined its remarks to the harassment of missionaries in northern India. It is in Africa, the news service said, that "Christianity must urgently multiply its efforts while there is still time." The missions in Africa south of the Sahara are progressing everywhere, it said, and in central Africa progress is "spectacular."

Fides cited the fact that from 1953 to 1957, about a million and a half persons, entered the Church in central Africa—specifically in French Equatorial Africa, the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi—bringing the total number of Catholics to 7,257,000. But, it said, that area has only half enough priests, and thus strenuous work for the development of the native clergy and for more missionaries is essential.

"The matter is urgent," Fides said. "Islam and communism are both striving to win Africa below the Sahara. This threat against Africa is one of the most important factors of the present missionary year."

In concluding its mission year roundup, Fides said that while the picture is not optimistic, "it at least has the merit that it will make Catholics face the real situation and their responsibilities in its regard."

one skirt doesn't make a wardrobe

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