

How Cardinals Will Elect New Pope

By FRANK KEELY

While American Catholics are attending Mass next Sunday, Oct. 26, the Cardinals of the Church will be casting their first ballot to select a successor to Pope Pius XII.

The Cardinals, numbering 55, are now gathering in Vatican City to perform what probably is their most important duty—the selection of a man as the Vicar of Christ and the successor to St. Peter as ruler of the world's 500 million Catholics.

The conclave, held in the Sistine Chapel in the world's tiniest but most important state, will receive careful attention throughout the world.

THE NEW POPE known to God alone at this moment will be selected by a "two-thirds-plus one" vote by the 50 men who are expected to attend the conclave.

The outcome of their decision of this matter will decide the fate of the world.

Beginning with the singing of the Veni Creator on the evening of Oct. 25, the Princes of the Church will be totally out of touch with the world until a new Pope is selected.

This is done so these men will not be influenced by pressures from the outside.

The Sistine Chapel, where the voting will take place, is one of the most famous churches in the world.

The word "chapel," however, is a misnomer. Most churches in the world would fit comfortably inside its walls.

The magnificent beauty of the chapel has marveled the world since it was constructed in the 15th century.

Built at a time when the Renaissance was at its peak, the walls and ceiling of the chapel reflect the beauty of this golden age of art.

MICHELANGELO'S famous Last Judgement covers the rear wall of the chapel. The painting shows the dead breaking open their graves and shaking their shrouds as the seven angels trumpet the announcement of the Last Judgement.

Above the scene, Christ is shown seated, enthroned as judge. Other artists of the Renaissance painted from the creation of man to the life of Christ on the long walls and ceiling of the chapel.

The rich majesty of this scene will be the silent witness to the solemn rite of the conclave.

EACH CARDINAL as he enters the chapel on Oct. 25, will improve the guidance of God. The Cardinals will sign a printed oath obliging secrecy in their deliberation, after which they will retire to their quarters.

Sealed off from the rest of the world by a massive door at the conclave entrance containing locks on both sides, the Cardinals will retire to their own rooms for the night.

All this week, workmen have been white-washing the windows of the chapel. The windows, set high in the walls, will then be draped with can-

vass, turning the interior into a foggy twilight.

Each Cardinal as he enters the Sistine Chapel, after first saying Mass at a temporary altar within the conclave, will have the realization that he might be the one selected as Pope of the Universal Church.

Lining the chapel walls as the Cardinals enter will be over 50 low thrones. The gilt of the thrones will gleam with dull fire and the polished wood will shine softly in the fading light of the room.

The entire room will be converted into a sanctuary and the magnificent work of the artists of the Renaissance will form the backdrop of this solemn occasion.

The Cardinals will be assigned their individual chairs according to the way the ballots will be taken.

Each will be given his number on a little white ball and will be seated accordingly.

SUPERVISING the election will be three Cardinals, chosen by lot each time the vote is taken. Three others will be picked to count the ballots and three more are chosen to gather the ballots of sick Cardinals.

That the occasion of the balloting is most solemn can be seen in the oath each Cardinal makes when he casts his vote.

"I call to witness the Lord Christ, who will be my judge, that I am electing the one whom according to God I think ought to be elected."

Each Cardinal, dressed in the purple that marks the death of a Pope, advances to the altar, one by one, where only the Pope can officiate, kneels and says a short prayer and the oath, drops his folded ballot into a chalice, bows before the altar and returns to his throne.

When all have voted, the tellers take the chalice and count the ballots, placing them in a second chalice as they do so.

The hush of the chapel increases as first one teller and then a second and third announces each vote, each Cardinal present marking the vote on his own tally sheet.

One can image the inner excitement of each of the Cardinals as a candidate comes closer and closer to the necessary vote.

Here, the tremendous responsibility of the vote reaches a tremendous climax in each one



Famed Sistine Chapel at the Vatican with stirring paintings by Michelangelo. Cardinals will meet here to elect

new pope. When elected, new pope will have canopy remain extended over his throne, all others will be folded.

of them. The possibility of their making a mistake is always present for they are men, just like you and I, who are subject to human error.

When one man obtains the necessary two-thirds plus-one vote, the ballots are placed on a silver spike by one of the tellers.

The ballots are then placed in a small black stove at the rear of the chapel and burned. The white smoke coming out of the chimney tells the thousands of people outside in St. Peter's Square that a Supreme Pontiff has been chosen.

When the balloting is intensive, wet straw is mixed with the ballots in the stove, so that black smoke emerges from the chimney, signifying that a Pontiff has not yet been chosen.

The Cardinals are bound under pain of excommunication to keep their vote to themselves, thus making details of the balloting, which do leak out, impossible to verify.

When a candidate has received the required vote, the Cardinal Dean then asks him whether he will accept the decision of his electors, and also asks him what name he wishes to have as Pope.

This practice of selecting a new name dates back to the 10th century. In emulation of the first Pontiff, whose name was



This is the ballot to be used by Cardinals at next week's conclave. Each Cardinal writes name of his choice in center. Latin phrase says, "I vote for Supreme Pontiff the Reverend Cardinal . . ."

change from Simon to Peter when he became head of the church.

THE CANOPIES over the thrones of the Cardinals are lowered and the new Pontiff is led to the altar where he kneels in prayer.

He is then taken to the sacristy of the chapel, where he is vested in the white papal cassock. There are three sizes, small, medium and large placed in the sacristy beforehand and the new Pope is fitted into the one that fits the best.

When he is led back to the



White smoke over the Vatican will tell the world a pope has been elected.

The sign of office, the Fisherman's Ring, is next placed on his hand by the Cardinal Camerlengo.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT to the faithful—written outside the square by the senior Cardinal Deacon—is filled with excitement. The milling crowd suddenly falls silent as the Cardinal says: "I bring you tidings of great joy: we have a Pope, the most

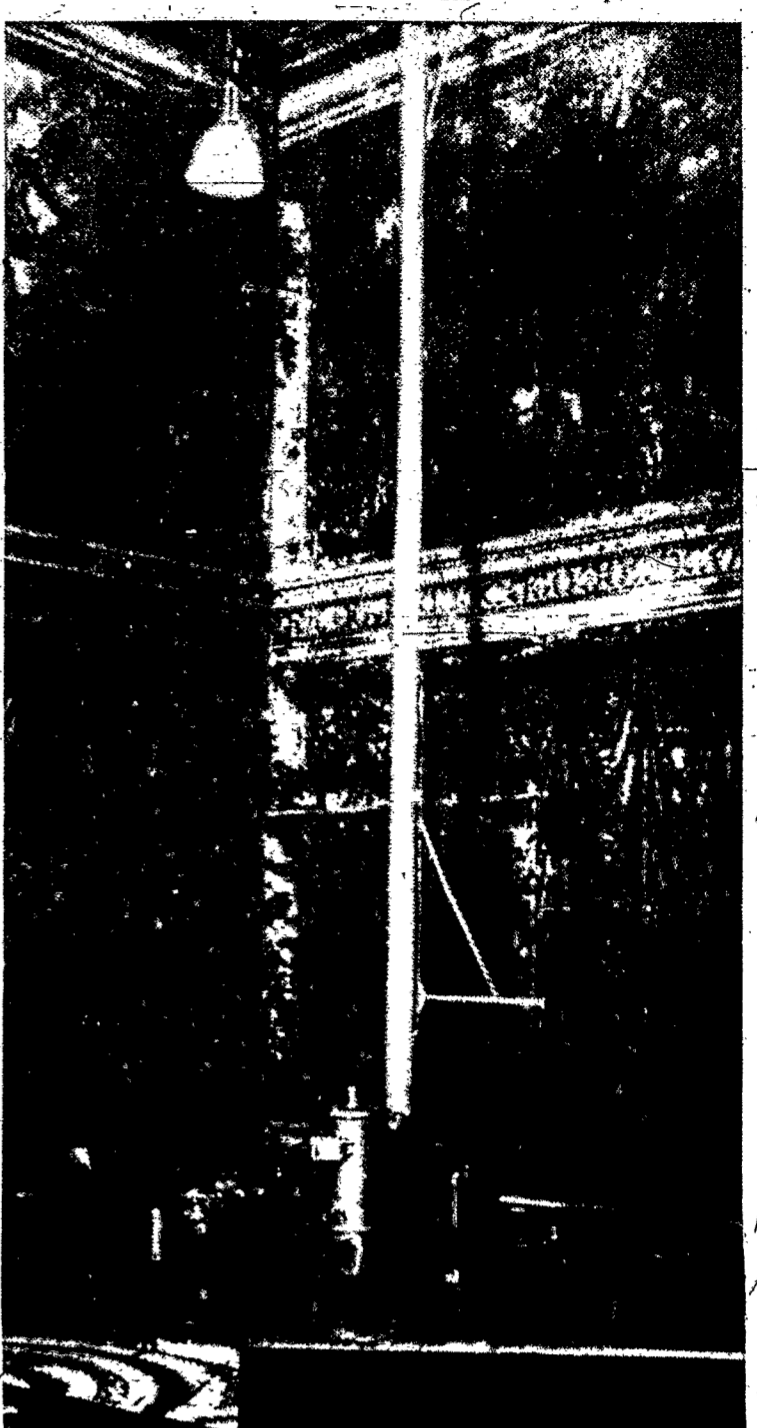
everend Lord

Then the cheering crowd waits expectantly for the new Pope to appear.

The colorful Swiss Guards, the Noble and Palatine Guards, and the diplomatic corps are arrayed in the square.

On the balcony, a formal procession of Cardinals appear, dressed in their most elaborate regalia, preceding the Holy Father.

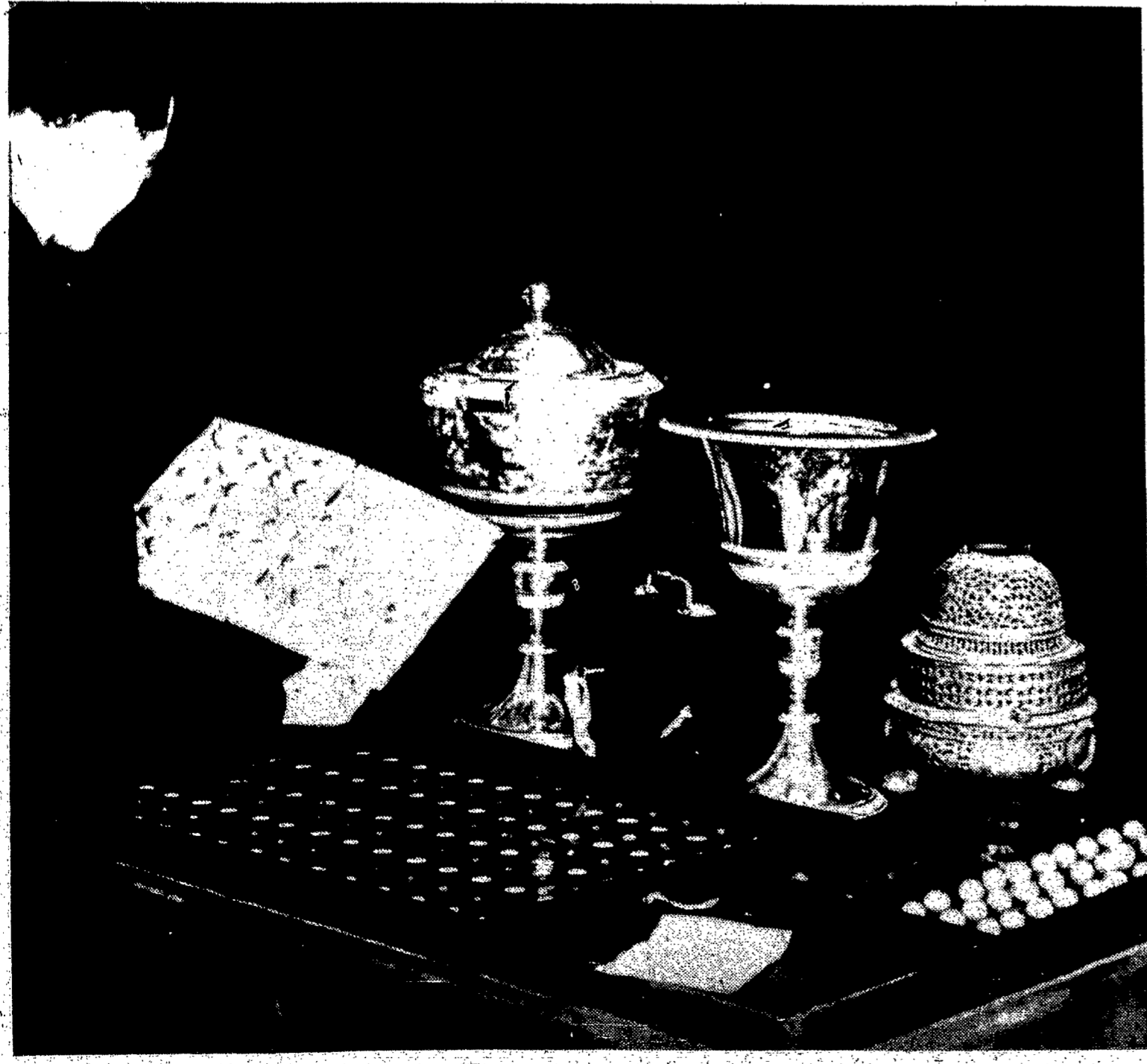
He comes into view, dressed in the Papal white, surmounted by a magnificent red mantle. His blessing is the "urbi et



The simple stove in which ballots are burned after vote is courted. Wet straw is burned with ballots to make black smoke if no candidate receives required "two-thirds plus one" votes. Dry straw is used to make white smoke when new pontiff is selected. Throngs watch chimney for indications of results.



Papal throne shows Christ giving keys, symbol of church authority, to St. Peter.



Sistine Chapel altar will hold these items as Cardinals file in for conclave to select a new Supreme Pontiff. Silver balls will be drawn by Cardinals to determine order of balloting. Large chalices will be used to receive ballots.



Cardinals will place their sealed ballots through slit in paten into chalice to cast their vote for new pope.



Cardinal Aloisi Masella as Camerlengo aids in arranging Conclave of Cardinals