

### Famous Popes Named John

(N.C.W.C. News Service)  
A saint, a scholar and a military leader are among the most distinguished popes who have taken the name of John.

THE SAINT was Pope John I, first pontiff to choose the name. He ruled from 523 to 526, dying in prison, where he had been placed by Theodoric, King of the Ostrogoths and of Italy.

One of the highlights of his career was a diplomatic mission to the Emperor Justin in Constantinople, where he was received with great dignity and even crowned the emperor at his request.

King Theodoric, however, had hoped that this mission would promote his interests with the Emperor and those of the Arian heretics to whom he was friendly. Instead, it was Pope John who seemed to have profited most. The angry king had the pontiff imprisoned at Ravenna when he returned to Italy and there the Pope soon died.

The Latin Church has placed Pope John I among its martyrs. His feast day is commemorated on May 27.

POPE JOHN VIII, Roman Pontiff from 872 to 882, is generally regarded as one of the outstanding popes of the ninth century. Among his many activities he encouraged St. Methodius in his missionary work in Moravia, giving him permission to use the Slavonic language in the liturgy.

One of the outstanding features of his reign was his vigorous campaign against the Saracens, who were then a military menace to Christian Europe.

Pope John VIII not only strengthened the fortifications of Rome—he even took to the seas and patrolled the coast of Italy at the head of a fleet. In 876 he won a crushing victory over the Saracen pirate fleet.

POPE JOHN XXI, Pontiff from 1276 to 1277, was known as a distinguished scholar.

In 1271 he became professor of medicine at the University of Siena and it was there that he wrote his "Summa Logicales," which was widely used as a logic textbook until well into the 16th century.



Pope John XXIII As Patriarch Of Venice

Vatican City (RNS)—Pope John XXIII, former Angelo Cardinal Roncalli, is shown in Venice in March, 1953, as he was escorted to the Basilica of San Marco to assume the post of Patriarch of Venice. In

his honor, a colorful procession was held along the city's Grand Canal, witnessed by thousands of persons. The new Pontiff, 76, was Papal Nuncio to France before he was appointed Patriarch of Venice.

## Dynamic Pontificate Seen

(Continued from Page 1)

Cardinal Roncalli was born of humble family, Bergamo, November 25, 1881, at Sforza il Monre in the Diocese of Bergamo. At the age of 11 he began his studies at the Episcopal Seminary at Bergamo. In 1900, he began his theological studies at the Corsola College in Rome where he received a laureate in theology in 1904. He was ordained August 10, 1904, in the Church of Santa Maria in Monte Sano.

From 1905 until 1914, he was private secretary to Bishop Radice-Tedeschi of Bergamo. In addition, he was professor of church history, dogmatics and later, pathology at his alma mater, the Bergamo seminary.

During World War I he was first a sergeant with the Medical Corps of the Italian army and after a year he became

chaplain at military hospitals. In addition he helped to provide spiritual comforts to the Civil Defense Corps.

After the war he organized the first "Student's Home" in Italy at Bergamo. This institution provided free assistance to the children of the military class, attending public schools.

He also was instrumental in the establishment of the first school of religion at the Bergamo Teacher's College. At the cultural conferences in the University of Bergamo, and of the foundation of the first center of young women in the city and diocese.

In 1920 he gave a major address at the Eucharistic Congress at Bergamo, speaking on "The Eucharist and the Madonna." The following year he was

named president of the Italian Society for Propagation of the Faith. He centralized the regional centers of the society. A new constitution of the national council of the society was another of his accomplishments while there. During this time he did considerable traveling, visiting important centers of the society in Italy, France, Belgium, and Holland.

He was named Apostolic Visitor to Bulgaria in 1925. On March 29 of that year he was consecrated Archbishop of Areopolis. He continued as apostolic visitor to Bulgaria until 1930 when he was named Apostolic Delegate to that country.

In 1935 Archbishop Roncalli was transferred to the Titular Archbishopric of Mesembria and was named Apostolic Delegate to Turkey and Greece. He was also appointed Apostolic Administrator

## New Pope Repaired Rift Between France, Vatican

Paris — (NC) — Pope John XXIII is remembered here as a skilled diplomat who promoted cordial relations between the Vatican and France at a most difficult time of French history.

From December 1944, until his elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals in January, 1953, and his appointment as Patriarch of Venice, the then Archbishop Angelo Roncalli served as Papal Nuncio to France.

He was named Apostolic Nuncio to France in 1944 at a time when Vatican-French relations were under severe strain.

It was late in World War II. The German occupation of France had ended, the unpopular Vichy government had ceased to exist, and French nationalism was resurgent in the provisional government of Gen.

Charles de Gaulle.

Extremists among the French felt they had a grievance against the then Nuncio to France, Archbishop Valerio Valeri, who had been accredited to the Vichy regime, and against certain French bishops who had allegedly cooperated with the Germans.

It was at this crucial time that Archbishop Valeri returned to Rome and Archbishop Roncalli succeeded him as Nuncio to France.

The first sign of his success came with the appointment of a French ambassador to the Holy See in February, 1945.

## New Pope John Linked With Eastern Rites

Rome — (NC) — By his nearly two decades of work in Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey, and his membership as a Cardinal in the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church, His Holiness Pope John XXIII has an intimate knowledge of Eastern Rite Catholicism.

The new Pontiff began his active association with Eastern Catholics when he was sent by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to be Apostolic Delegate to Bulgaria.

In 1935 he was transferred to the Titular Archbishopric of Mesembria and was named Apostolic Delegate to Turkey and Greece through most of World War II.

Near the end of World War II, in December 1944, Archbishop Roncalli was named Apostolic Nuncio to France. During the immediate postwar years, Archbishop Roncalli's abilities as a diplomat won him the respect of the most diverse political parties and the various aspects of the nation.

After he was named cardinal, he received his red biretta from French President Vincent Auriol, continuing a tradition of four centuries.

His writings include two historical studies about the Bergamo Seminary — one on its establishment and the second on the Apostolic Visitation by St. Charles Borromeo. He has also written monographs on Cesare Cardinal Baronio and Bishop Radice-Tedeschi.

In 1956 Cardinal Roncalli issued a pastoral letter warning the clergy and faithful of the Venice patriarchate against the so-called "opening to the left," a term used to describe closer collaboration between Catholic-oriented political parties and communist and allied parties.

He criticized as erroneous the attitude of Catholics who, in the political field, desire complete freedom from episcopal authority, saying:

"With regard to Catholics this constitutes a serious mistake and a flagrant violation of Catholic discipline. The mistake is that of practically sharing the Marxist ideology which is the negation of Christianity. The violation of discipline lies in openly disobeying the living Church."

A year later when the Italian Socialist party held its convention in Venice, the Cardinal urged Catholics to give delegates a friendly reception but warned anticlerical socialists that "a modern economic and social system cannot be solidly built on a foundation which is not that of Christ."

On Easter, 1957, he issued a pastoral repeating his warning against cooperation with the leftist parties.

Later in the year he was awarded the Grand Cross of Merit by the German government for his activities on behalf of German prisoners of war while he was Apostolic Nuncio to France.

Cardinal Roncalli was a member of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith and the Congregation of Religions.

### President Greet New Pontiff

New York — (NC) — In a message sent from New York City, President Eisenhower extended his congratulations to newly elected Pope John XXIII. The Chief Executive's message said:

"Your Holiness, it is with great pleasure that I have learned of your election as supreme pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church. I join with other Americans in extending my congratulations on your elevation to this high office. My best wishes for the success of your endeavor are, I am certain, shared by men of good will everywhere."



Cardinal's Rank  
Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, 76, formerly Angelo Cardinal Roncalli bestowed in November, 1953, as one of five new Cardinals who received their Red Hats, from Pope Pius XII at Castelgandolfo.

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