

The Pope's Photographer

By LUCIANO CASIMIRRI

Rome — (NC) — Behind the camera of every photograph that has been taken within the papal household in the last six pontificates has stood a Felici.

If one could speak of a dynasty of photographers anywhere in the world, it would be that of the Felici who have been the sole official photographers of the papal household since St. Pius X so named them in a rescript dated October 11, 1903.

Present heir to the name and the title is Luigi Felici, who will be seen in formal attire with camera in hand every time and in every place that Pope John XXIII appears publicly.

Members of the Felici family have been taking photographs in the Vatican since the reign of Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903), for the first time. The occasion though it was only in the succeeding pontificate of St. Pius X that they gained the title of official pontifical photographers.

Founder of the Felici photographs was Giuseppe Felici, Luigi's grandfather, who came to Rome from his native Cagliari at the age of 22 to study the violin. In addition to his musical interests Giuseppe had the photography hobby.

He began by making tintypes of the pontifical zouaves, volunteer soldiers who came from Canada.

THE CANADIANS, like most soldiers, wanted pictures of themselves in uniform to send back home. The Canadian zouaves were so fond of Giuseppe that they tried to persuade him to return to Canada with them. But Giuseppe had a sweetheart, a Roman girl, and so he chose to remain here.

One day Pope Leo XIII was scheduled to grant an audience to a sports group in the Vatican's Belvedere Courtyard, and Giuseppe was invited to record the event with his camera. With this beginning Felici photography and papacy were wed.

In 1903 Pope Pius X named Giuseppe as official pontifical photographer "as a token of Our esteem," granting him "the right to use the coat of arms of the reigning pontiff on his business plate." After this, the certificate of nomination was renewed by every succeeding pope.

The first official photographs by Felici were taken of Pius X. Three different cameras were used for the sitting and the photographs were taken on large glass plates measuring seven by nine and a half inches.

Felici took his first transparent color plates of Cardinal della Chiesa of Bologna before he became Pope Benedict XV. He used the so-called "lumiere system," one of the first systems of color photography, photographing the Cardinal in the Vatican gardens.

The Felici photographic firm still treasures the first autograph of Pope Pius XI.

It was under Pope Pius XI in 1935 that Alberto Felici, son of Giuseppe, used electric flash for the first time. The occasion was the inauguration of a new spiral staircase in the Vatican Museums.

When the Pope did not see the billowing cloud of white smoke that normally followed the old-fashioned manganese powder flash, he turned to Felici and remarked: "This time you have not taken a good picture."

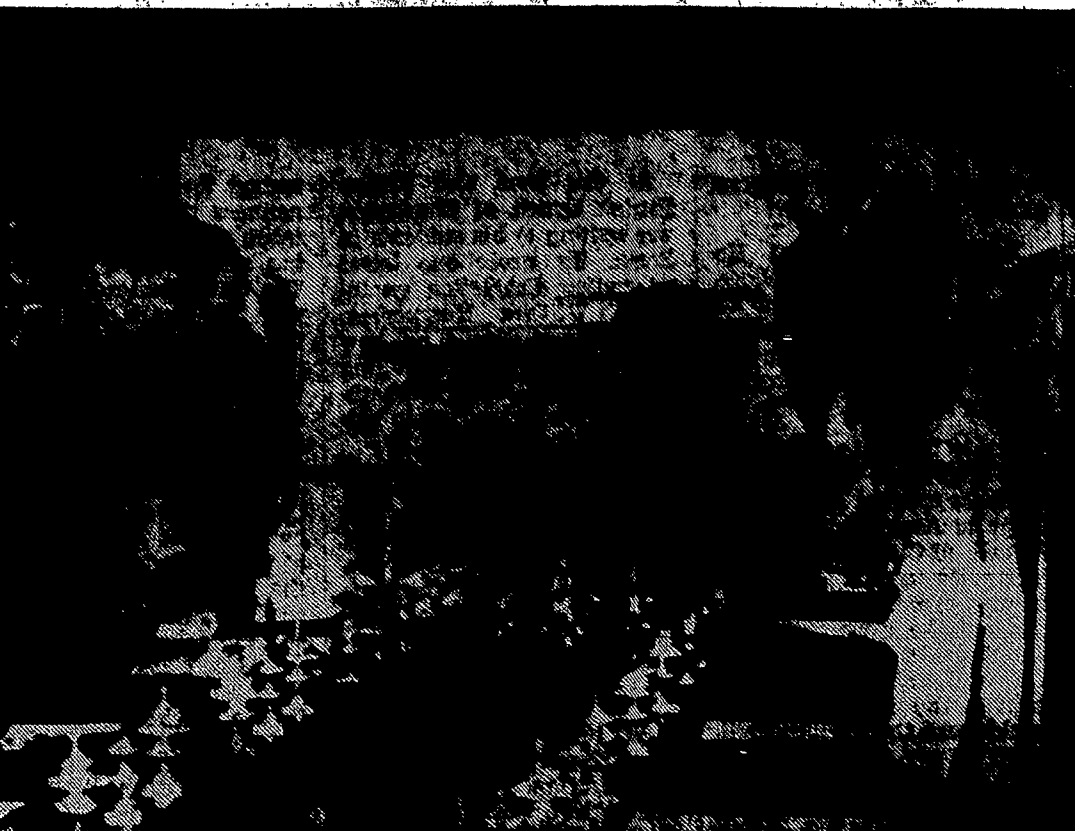
Luigi Felici, the present pontifical photographer, was born in Rome on October 19, 1907.

His first pursuits were not in photography but in the study of English. When he failed in his examinations, his father urged him to leave school and help him in the business.

Shortly after this Luigi received his first big photography assignment. With only 24 hours warning, he was summoned to take photographs of the signing of the Lateran treaties. After working under great tension, he returned to the darkroom to develop the films and watched for the results with great anxiety. When he saw that they were a success, he broke down and cried.

The only holiday that Luigi has taken in the last 20 years was in 1947 when he went to New York to organize a photographic exhibition of the principal pontifical ceremonies and activities. Except for that one time he has always been on call at the Vatican.

His daily program is to go to the Vatican in the morning where he waits to be summoned to take photographs of persons visiting the Pope. Most every great personage in the world—and many thousands of unknowns, too—have stood in front of his camera.



Historic photo shows Mussolini and Vatican officials at signing of Lateran Treaty.

Warning Given On 'Not Listed' Films

New York—(NC)—The National Legion of Decency has warned Catholics against foreign or independently produced movies which are not submitted either to the Motion Picture Code Administration or the legion.

"For the practical moral guidance of our people, any film which does not carry a Legion of Decency rating is by that very fact unworthy of the patronage of the faithful," Msgr. Thomas F. Little, executive secretary of the agency, said.

(The Courier Journal indicates such films as "not listed" in the weekly Theatre Guide for downtown Rochester movie houses.)

Msgr. Little's comment was contained in a memorandum to diocesan legion directors. He said the memo was prompted by

"continued inquiries about 'unrated films'."

HE CITED the Nov. 30, 1960, statement of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Motion Pictures, Radio and Television. The committee, discussing foreign films and those independently produced in this country, said:

"These films are rarely submitted for moral appraisal either to the Production Code or the Legion of Decency or to any organization and are very often of a salacious and seriously objectionable nature."

"The very fact that such films ignore any reasonable control or criticism is clear evidence of moral and social irresponsibility and we urge Catholic people not to give them the support of their patronage."

Maryknoll Parish

American Know-How In Peru

By FLOYD ANDERSON

Lima — (NC) — The door bell rang loudly at St. Rose of Lima parish here at 2 a.m. Father Vincent Mallon, M.M., of Brooklyn, one of the assistant pastors, hurriedly dressed and rushed down the stairs.

Outside the door was a young man, with a little too much to drink, and his girl friend. "See," said the Peruvian, "I told you these Fathers from the States answer the bell any time."

Then he pointed to the rectory name plate, which does say in Spanish: "We attend you any hour of the day or night."

FATHER MALLON chuckles now, but the humor of the incident was not so evident at the time. There is, however, a very real reason for the notation.

Father John Lawler, M.M., of New Bedford, Mass., is pastor of St. Rose, the first parish dedicated to the first saint of the New World. When he was pastor near Cochabamba, Bolivia, he wondered why he never got sick calls at night.

One Sunday he talked about it at Mass, saying: "People are usually unconscious when we are called. A lot of people get sick at night; there is no need to wait till morning." He put up a sign to that effect on his rectory. In Bolivia, as he has here in Lima, "As a result," he says, "we are one of the few parishes that gets sick calls at night."

Father Lawler is a young, dynamic American priest who has accomplished at least minor miracles here. He came to Lima on November 20, 1960, to establish St. Rose of Lima parish.

He had nothing then — no home, no chapel, no rectory. Today he has a beautiful church, a rectory which houses four priests and three Brothers, a convent for 12 Maryknoll Sisters, a social service center, a school auditorium, a grammar school, a high school and a commercial high school. Now he has about 17,000 people in his parish — yet his average Sunday collection will be from \$60 to \$65.

How does he do it? From the very beginning the Maryknoll Society has paid all the living expenses of the priests and the Brothers, and 65 per cent of the expense for the Sisters.

The people give little money at collections because they grew up accustomed to the Church's being supported by the state — and lots of them think it still is. They never got into the habit of giving money to the Church.

But they will give for special things according to their means. In Father Lawler's parish, 650 families have pledged themselves to a monthly quota, and there is an annual raffle and bazaar which provides the biggest income for the year.

When Father Lawler came to Lima, he spent almost four months looking for a place he could rent in the parish. He had been given money by Maryknoll to rent and furnish a house and to take care of himself for the first year. But every place he looked, the rents were too high.

Then a zealous Catholic laywoman, Mrs. Maria Rosario Aroz, offered Father Lawler her home as a temporary rectory.

Father Lawler had a little chapel in the house for daily Mass and baptisms. Then he got permission to use the patio of a Japanese school for Mass on Sundays and holidays.

After studying the situation in Lima, he felt the most important need was for an American-style parochial school. There were none in Lima. There were schools run by Religious, but they were all full. There was no place for middle class or poor people, except the public schools, which were not considered very good.

Father Lawler wrote to the Maryknoll Sisters in the U.S. asking if he could count on getting Sisters for this school. He got a reply in August, 1961, saying that on the feast of St. Rose of Lima two Sisters would depart for Lima.

"When I found the Sisters were coming," recalled Father Lawler, "I had to do something." And he did. Juan Cardinal Guevara of Lima laid the

cornerstone on August 30 and Father Lawler began building.

When the Sisters arrived, they lived for a while with the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters of Philadelphia and learned Spanish. When the first part of the school was finished, the Sisters moved into one of the classrooms.

Then, said Father Lawler, "I felt I had to get going on the rectory, which was to be smaller than the convent." When that was done, the Sisters moved into the rectory.

As the school grew and the number of Sisters increased, Father Lawler continued his building program, till now he is putting the third floor on the high school — and hopes this marks the end of construction. So far the cost has been approximately \$1.4 million.

The idea of a parochial school was a new one to the Catholics of Peru. It was not accepted by many people, who felt you could not put up a school till you had built a church.

But this has now changed. In 1955 the Bishops of Peru announced that they wanted every new parish to follow the plan of Santa Rosa — with a parochial school and temporary chapel first, and then the actual church.

The people like the school too. Each year Father Lawler has added a class of about 100, but he gets an average of 400 to 450 requests for these 100 places from people in the parish.

Lay Missioner Jobs Listed

Washington — (NC) — Latin American Church leaders have asked for 270 U.S. laymen to serve in their countries as Papal Volunteers for Latin America.

Though only two countries were canvassed extensively, bishops and religious communities in eight Latin American nations requested Papal Volunteers.

THEY ASKED for 78 teams of volunteers, including 195 unmarried men, 29 unmarried women and 23 married couples, to do such jobs as:

— Four single men, specialists in catechetical instruction, to establish and direct a diocesan school among Indians in Huancavelica, Peru.

— A doctor, a laboratory technician and a radiologist to work in a mission hospital in Guama, Brazil.

— Two married couples to organize Christian family life movements and teach reading and writing to Indians in Ayacucho, Peru.

— Three craftsmen to establish a manual training school in Barquisimeto, Venezuela.

— Three communications experts to set up an educational radio station in Riohacha, Ecuador.

— Three single women social workers for clinics in the workers' section of San Jose de Mayo, Uruguay.

The list of requests was made public here by Father John J. Considine, M.M., director of the Latin America Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference. The bureau is the official agency for receiving invitations for U.S. volunteers. The national secretariat of the program is at 720 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

The timetable for the program calls for the first U.S. volunteers to be in the field next fall. Objective for 1961 is to obtain sponsors for and train 75 to 100 persons.

Requests for volunteers above that number will be answered as soon as the personnel are available, Father Considine said.

Major attention so far has centered on only two Latin American countries — Peru, from which 46 of the 78 requests for teams came, and Bolivia, from which 11 requests came. Father Considine expressed gratitude for the cooperation of the Apostolic Nuncios in those two countries — Archbishop Romero Carboni in Peru and Msgr. Carmine Rocco in Bolivia.

The six other countries from which requests have come are: Brazil, three teams; Chile, six teams; Ecuador, five teams; Mexico, three teams; Uruguay, one team; and Venezuela, three teams.

Carlos Siri, assistant director of the N.C.W.C. Latin America Bureau, speculated that if all 20 Latin American nations had been canvassed, "we would have had requests for more than 1,000 teams."

He said the initial requests do not represent the total need in Latin America, but only skim the surface.

The Papal Volunteers program was launched last August by the Holy See to help meet the needs of the Church in Latin America.

Father Considine stressed that the "basis of all action" in the program is its status as a cooperative venture of Latin American and U.S. Catholics. The goal is to enlist U.S. laymen to help train Latin lay leaders to increase the effectiveness of their work on behalf of the Church.

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