

Kodak Team Gets Inside View of Masterpiece

X-rays Show Repairs to Broken Pieta

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Kodak x-ray expert George Corney shows photos he took of Pieta statue in Rome.

'I Froze In my Tracks'

Michaelangelo's famed masterpiece, the Pieta, its fingers broken and holes drilled in the head has been skillfully repaired by some unknown craftsman.

A riddle which has puzzled experts for centuries has been solved by x-ray photos taken in Rome by a team of Eastman Kodak Company technicians and made public today.

The x-rays show pins — perhaps of brass — hold the fingers in place today.

The first man to see the mystery revealed is George M. Corney, Kodak scientist, who took the x-ray photos four weeks ago in Rome prior to the Pieta's shipment to the New York World's Fair.

Vatican and Fair officials asked that the penetrating pictures be taken in safe packaging of the priceless masterpiece.

It survived its ocean trip without mishap and will be viewed at the Fair's Vatican Pavilion by millions.

TAKEING THE x-ray photos posed many problems.

No statue of the Pieta's size, complex design and value had ever before been attempted. Time was also limited — ten days, services couldn't be interrupted at St. Peter's," Corney explains.

The picture-taking had to be squeezed into three hour periods on four days, Monday through Thursday, March 23-26. This was fastidious in the Catholic Church's liturgy when all statues are veiled in purple.

"When I first saw the Pieta in Rome," Corney says, "I froze in my tracks. The statue was completely covered with a leaden shroud. I thought for a moment that we would be forced to make our exposures without ever seeing or examining the statue itself."

When he and his crew went to work, the Pieta chapel was walled off with a temporary partition and the shroud was removed.

Working with him were two Kodak technicians of Italy, Alberto Hautt and Mario Castagna.

They began their work each evening at 6:30 p.m. as soon as visitors were cleared from the vast basilica. They spent two hours taking their x-ray photos and then set up a ten hour, overnight exposure with a cobalt isotope which gives off gamma rays.

"We'd leave the church about 9 p.m. and go over to Kodak's office in Rome to process the x-ray photos we took that evening."

"Our first photos were experimental. We found the marble of the Pieta denser than the marble I experimented with in Rochester," Corney explains.

One Does Work of Ten In Sudan

Kampala, Uganda — (NC) — The Sudan's Interior Minister, Mohamed Ahmed Irya, has said that Sudanese priests have taken over churches and schools and filled the gap left by the deportation of all foreign missionaries from southern Sudan, according to a report here.

The report stated that the cabinet minister spoke in Khartoum, the Sudan's capital, after touring the southern provinces from which some 300 Catholic and Protestant missionaries were expelled in March following years of increasingly harsh anticolonial measures by the government.

The report did not state how, according to Irya, about 25 Sudanese priests can suddenly do the work of the 272 Catholic missionaries.

"We were back at St. Peter's at 6 a.m. to stop the gamma-ray exposure and twice we were able to get in some added x-ray pictures but the Pieta had to be shrouded again and the chapel made ready for visitors by 7 a.m."

"Then we went back to the Kodak office to process our gamma-ray photos and set our strategy for the evening," says Corney.

WHAT DID the x-ray and gamma-ray photos reveal?

They showed that the five fingers of the left hand of the figure of the Blessed Virgin and the little finger of the right hand of the figure of Christ, broken off in some unknown mishap years ago, have been put back in their places by means of pins inserted into cavities drilled into the marble hands and fingers.

The figure of the Virgin also has two holes drilled into its head by some pious vandal to hold a halo, long since removed.

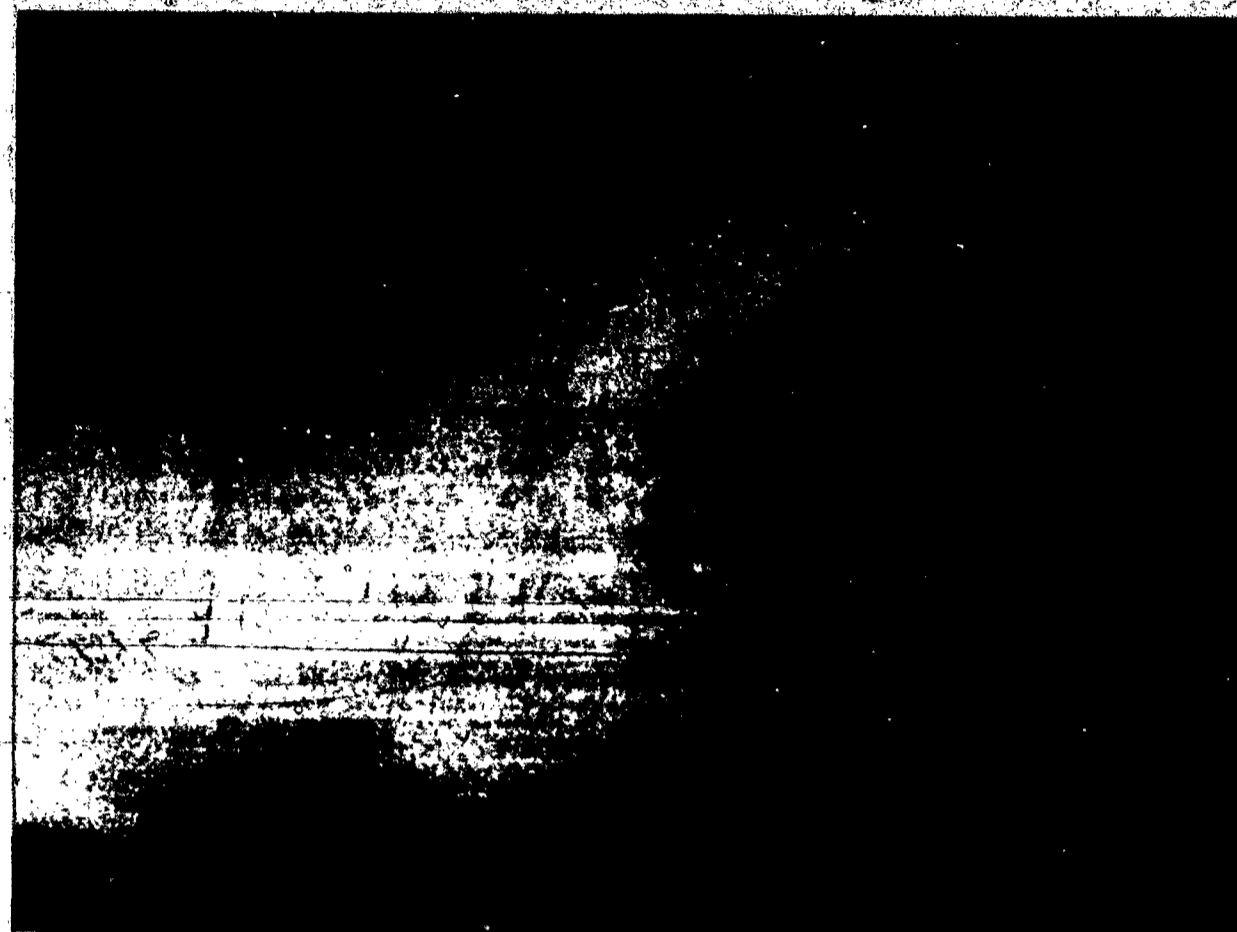
History holds scanty records of the Pieta other than that it has been moved five, or perhaps six times since carved in 1498 by the 24 year old Michelangelo Buonarroti of Florence, Italy.

The Kodak project in Rome was co-ordinated by Edward M. Kinney, chairman of the transportation committee for the Vatican's Fair Pavilion and Count Enrico Galeazzi, governor-general of the Vatican.

Corney calls his Pieta assignment "the most challenging and fascinating project I have undertaken in 25 years of radiographic work."

He is a technical consultant and research physicist for the Kodak Company and lives at 474 Lakeshore Drive, Hilton.

Mrs. Corney accompanied her husband on the Rome trip. "She saw the City and I hope I can go back someday to see it too," said the scientist. "My time was spent on the Pieta — and I doubt, no matter where I go or what I see, I'll ever have a privilege comparable to those four days—the rest of my life."



X-ray photo of the Pieta shows left hand of the figure of the Virgin Mary is held together with metal pins.

Pope Paul's Goals for Council Freedom of Faith, Press

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has given virtual assurance that the Second Vatican Council will issue a pronouncement on the question of religious liberty.

He did so during an audience to 150 representatives from 15 countries gathered in Rome for a United Nations seminar on freedom of information.

In the course of a talk in which he discussed the Catholic Church's attitude toward freedom of the press, the 66-year-old pontiff stressed that of intimate and even more vital concern to the Church was the issue of religious liberty.

"It is a question," he said, "whose importance and extent are such that the Ecumenical Council has dealt with it. One may legitimately expect on this point a text which will be of great importance not only for the Church, but for all those — and they are very numerous — who will realize that an authorized declaration in this matter concerns them."

Religious liberty is the subject of one of the chapters in the schema on ecumenism which the Vatican Council is expected to take up when its third session opens in September.

In discussing the theme of the international seminar, the Pope recalled that in his social encyclical, *Pacem in Terris*,

Mass Said For Unity of Protestants

Princeton — (RNS) — A Catholic observer at sessions of the Consultation on Church Union here told his Protestant hosts that he had offered a Mass for the success of their discussions.

Msgr. William W. Baum, vice chancellor of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., said his prayers for Protestant unity would continue and asked for Protestant petitions to God for the Second Vatican Council.

Msgr. Baum and Father George A. Tavaré, A.A., of Mount Mary College, Pitts-burgh, Pa., were appointed by the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity to observe the Protestant union talks. It was the first time Catholics have been present in the three-year life of the Consultation.

Protestant bodies participating in the Consultation are the Methodist, United Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Evangelical United Brethren and Christian (Principles of Christ) Churches and the United Church of Christ.

Integration Work Praised

St. Louis — (RNS) — Father John F. Cronin, assistant director of the National Catholic Welfare Conference's Social Action Department, praised Protestant denominations for their work against Southern segregation.

"The witness of the Protestant faith in the South is without equal by anyone anywhere," he said. "But in the North and Eastern population centers, civil rights advances have been up to Catholic action."

There is nothing like the forthright stand of a strong Catholic bishop to get things done."

Father Cronin observed that the state of Catholic support in the nation's plight over civil rights is "mixed," but "getting better all the time."

'Kind Words' Hurt Atheism

Prague — (RNS) — A Slovak Communist Party organ complained here that too many people in this country are giving up the struggle against religion because of the kind words Communists have been saying about Pope Paul VI and his predecessor, Pope John XXIII.

Pravda, published in Bratislava, said that even party members have come to regard ideological opposition to religion as "a sign of Stalinism."

"However," it warned, "a slackening of atheistic propaganda is a symptom of a retreat from a basic ideological position and is incorrect and harmful."

Dispensation For May 1st

Bishop Kearney by virtue of a special directive granted by Pope Paul VI to Catholics everywhere, dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Rochester from the obligation of abstinence on May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

New Retreat House for Men

A new retreat house for men will be built overlooking Canandaigua Lake.

It will accommodate 150 retreatants and is expected to cost more than \$700,000.

Site of the present retreat house property on Alexander St., Rochester, is currently under negotiation.

Announcement of the new retreat house was made today by Very Rev. Michael Downing, C.S.S.R., rector of Notre Dame Retreat House and Thomas Hughes, president of the diocesan Laymen's Retreat League.

"The present site of the retreat house has outlived its usefulness," Father Downing said.

"It is no longer prudent to

continue to pour thousands of maintenance dollars into this property. The new site we hope to build on is on the west side of Canandaigua Lake and consists of about 55 acres of beautiful, rolling ground. It affords a panoramic view of picturesque Canandaigua Lake and its wooded terrain will be a restful atmosphere for the proper conduct of our parish retreats."

"We have engaged the architectural firm of Ribson and Roberts and they are presently at work designing the facilities to be erected on this new site," said Father Downing.

"The plans are being drawn to accommodate husband and wife retreats as well as the ever increasing members of lay-

men who are currently members of the retreat league."

Hughes added, "The present rate of growth of the retreat movement in our Rochester Diocese has compelled us to assess our present facilities and to make this bold step. This new retreat house will prove to be the answer to the prayers of our members that there be a retreat house centrally located with all the atmosphere conducive to prayer, meditation and rest."

The firm of Foley and Associates has been retained to assist in raising the necessary funds from among the retreatants and the building fund will be under way in late summer and early fall of this year. It is hoped that construction will be completed in late 1965.

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Statue of the Sacred Heart looks over Canandaigua Lake at site of new laymen's retreat house.

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