

"Open To Me The Doors Of Justice"

On Christmas eve, in the presence of hundreds of photographers, moviemen, correspondents, members of the diplomatic corps, and over 30,000 pilgrims, Pope Pius XII, the two hundred and sixty second successor to St. Peter ushered in this Holy Year of reparation and expiation.

Some of us had the good fortune to enjoy the radio commentator's reverent word's eye view of this historic event. The Holy Father, carried in his sedia gestatoria, flanked by the colorful bearers of the traditional ostrich-plumed fans, and surrounded by the dazzling medieval-attired Swiss guards, proceeded from the papal apartments to the vast Roman portico.

As the solemn procession wended its way through the Vatican halls other dignitaries of the Church and state joined the group--papal chamberlains in their high, fluted collars and velvet jackets, gaily bedecked Knights of Malta and of St. Gregory, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus with their colorful ceremonial dress and drawn swords, hundreds of surpliced priests and monks, purple-clad monsignori, abbots, bishops and archbishops, and scarlet-clad Cardinals from the Sacred College---all of these accompanied the Holy Father to the Holy Door, where to the melodious heralding by silver trumpets and to the accompaniment of the ringing of the church bells in the hundreds of Roman Churches, the Pope struck three slight blows on the historic door, as he uttered the command: "Open to me the doors of justice; open the door, for God is with us."

There will be many pilgrimages to the Holy City from now until Christmas 1950; there will be hundreds of other colorful and traditional ceremonies in Rome from now until the end of the Holy Year. There will be canonizations, than which there is nothing so gorgeous or awe-inspiring in the traditional liturgy of the Church. But the primary and essential purpose of this Holy Year is one that should strike home to each of us individually---it is a year of reparation and expiation.

Whether or not we make a pilgrimage to Rome, we will be able to gain many of the Holy Year indulgences right here at home (An Indulgence is the remission in part or in full, of the temporal punishment due to sin.) Subsequent bulletins will discuss necessary conditions.

If we do go to Rome, the purpose of the visit during this Holy Year will not be for pleasure but to enable us to offer to an outraged God some small reparation for the many insults and blasphemies that are being heaped upon Him by a godless and Christless society. The pilgrimage will enable us also to reap an abundance of indulgences, partial and plenary, for ourselves and for the souls in purgatory. Finally the pilgrimage will be a public expression of our Catholic Faith and loyalty to Christ's Vicar on earth.

On Monday evening at 6:45, room 117, Main Building, the Pilgrimage Club of Notre Dame will have its first meeting. Anyone interested in the Notre Dame pilgrimage to Rome (including also Fatima, Lourdes, Paris, Brussels) early next summer, is invited to attend this meeting.

Prayers: Father of Fr. Ray Murray CSC (dec.); father of Sr. Joan Therese, SSJ (dec.); Fr. McNamara of Mt. Clemens (dec.); Alfred White ('09) (dec); grdmthr of Joe Acey (Dillon) (dec.). Ill: Phil DeSchroyer(M) and Mother Rose Elizabeth, CSC (both in St. Jos. Hsptl). Fr. Wendell Corcoran, CSC; mother of Edmund Grochowski (Sor); Fr. of Thos. J. Doyle, critical (Sor).