



# VATICAN NOTES

VOL. 1, NO. 9

APRIL, 1954

V.P.S. President Bill Wonneberger, Jr. has requested that we print the following statement:

"We are glad to hear from the members that the maximum cards of St. Maria Goretti and the booklet entitled "The Vatican" were appreciated by the society, but they are not the gifts of William Wonneberger, Jr. I have received notes of thanks from many members for sending them. These two items were ordered explicitly for the society, and the V.P.S. has paid all expenses of cost and distribution. The handling of such were the work of the officers, but thanks goes to Leo A. Stevens for calling "The Vatican" to our attention."

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## "SPECIALS"

While we're on the subject, there are a number of similar "specials" which could be made available to V.P.S. members if it were not for one drawback -- finances. We would like to have a sampling of YOUR opinion on the soliciting of an additional 50¢ per member for this purpose. The extra money would then be used for special books, cards, etc., and for that purpose only. As you undoubtedly realize, it is considerably cheaper to buy such items in quantity, rather than for individual members to purchase them themselves. A full accounting of this special fund would be given regularly in VATICAN NOTES. We are very anxious to have the opinion of EVERY MEMBER on this point, since it will effect you personally. Please fill in the blank on the final page and return it to the Editor.

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## MARIAN YEAR

The special Vatican City Marian Year stamps will be issued during the month of May, and will have a dual purpose: the commemoration of the Marian Year and the Centenary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. There will be two stamps of unannounced face value. One will have a portrait of Pope Pius IX incorporated in its design, the other a portrait of Pius XII. Bill Wonneberger advises that he will be bringing in some supplementary books from Rome for this event and they will be for sale to V.P.S. members.

MERGER??

It's unanimous -- or at least insofar as members who responded to our question in the last issue. V.P.S. definitely will not merge with "COROS". Virtually every member who wrote to express an opinion felt that such an action on our part would result in an almost complete "loss of identity."

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The Basilica issue of Vatican City (#122-31/E11-12), is now obsolete and is no longer available for prepaying postage. The St. Maria Goretti and St. Clare stamps are no longer available at the Vatican.

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VATICAN POST OFFICE

We have yet another piece of information to add on the Vatican P.O. discussion. There are, in all, four sub-stations to the Vatican Post Office, one on the right of the square; one on the left; one on the roof; and the fourth in the museums. The main P. O. is in the "village". In all, there are five stations within the Vatican.

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RUMORS!!!

Rumors are flying! One of them says that a stamp or set will be issued in 1955 commemorating the 16th Centenary of St. Augustine. As soon as anything definite is known, full details will appear in the "Notes".

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NOTE TO MEMBERS #101-117

Your St. Maria Goretti maximum cards are enclosed with this issue. Our apologies for not forwarding them sooner, but some of the cards in the initial shipment were mutilated and could not be sent out at the original date of which we sent them to members #1 - 100.

NEW ABROGHATE

The First Day of Issue on this was December 21, 1953 -- not December 28, as some members have been erroneously informed. The sheet exists in a very dark shade of blue as well as light blue. To date, the only error reported is a paper fold on the reverse side (leaving wide white streaks). Only two copies have been noted thus far.