

# Vatican Notes

Vol. IV

July 1955

No. III 7

## FRA ANGELICO



On June 27, 1955, the Vatican Postal Administration released a set of two commemorative stamps to mark the 5th centenary of the death of the famous Dominican painter, Fra Angelico.



The design was taken from a painting by Fra Angelico entitled, "The Ordination of St. Lawrence". The original can be found in the Chapel of Pope Nicholas V, located in the Vatican Museums. The design shows St. Lawrence kneeling before Pope St. Sixtus II. Further details of this issue will appear in a forthcoming issue of VATICAN NOTES.

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White Ace has released the set of pages for Roman States stamps reported in the last issue of the Notes. The pages provide for one of each major design and the re-issue of the 50 Baj. stamp in 1864. Though designed with the general collector in mind, these pages were so laid out as to provide an equally suitable home for even the most advanced collector. By careful arrangement and the purchase of additional sets of pages as required by your interests, you will be able to mount all of the various colors and varieties of Roman States stamps and still retain the "custom" look.

The pages were released to form a supplement to the White Ace Vatican City album pages and are arranged on the same colorful tableau. The price per set is 65¢ and can be obtained at any reliable dealer. Rev. C. Luke Leitermann and William Wonneberger, Jr., both VPS members have them ready for mailing.

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Since the formation of the Vatican Philatelic Society, we have

made every effort to bring those "extras" to you for dressing up you collection. Where it was advantageous, the society purchased the items and mailed them to you without cost. In other instances, you were provided with complete details, in the Notes, to obtain the items. In the later case, this always called for a stamped addressed return envelope and at times a modest request for a stamp or two to show appreciation to the person who obtained them.

A number of you have not followed the simple instructions. It has become so serious that we are strictly instructing all of the people who make such offers to you in the future to place any request, where the instructions are not followed 100% in the wastebasket. The instructions listed for these items are laid out to provide the minimum of time and expense needed to fulfill your request. If you can not show the person who is helping you to obtain the item a little consideration you are not entitled to it. Please keep this in mind in the event that you do not receive a reply to any request in the future.

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We are licking the problems in printing the Notes very rapidly and now plan to increase their size each month. We need your help to do it. It takes 50 members to pay for the printing of two pages per month each year. This means that if each of you would make an honest effort to enroll one member we can bring a 50% larger NOTES to you each month without any additional cost to you. Isn't it worth it?

The inside of the mailing sheet will be used each month for advertising. If you have an item or items to sell, or want to purchase anything in the Vatican line use this handy market. Each reader is a potential buyer or seller so you will be sure of good results. Classified advertising will be accepted at the rate of 3¢ a word. Display rates on request. Why not tell your favorite dealer of this wonderful opportunity to offer his stock. We will be glad to give him full details.

As this advertising is being accepted to help defray the cost of VATICAN NOTES we reserve the right to hold copy until we have enough to at least pay for the printing of the sheet.

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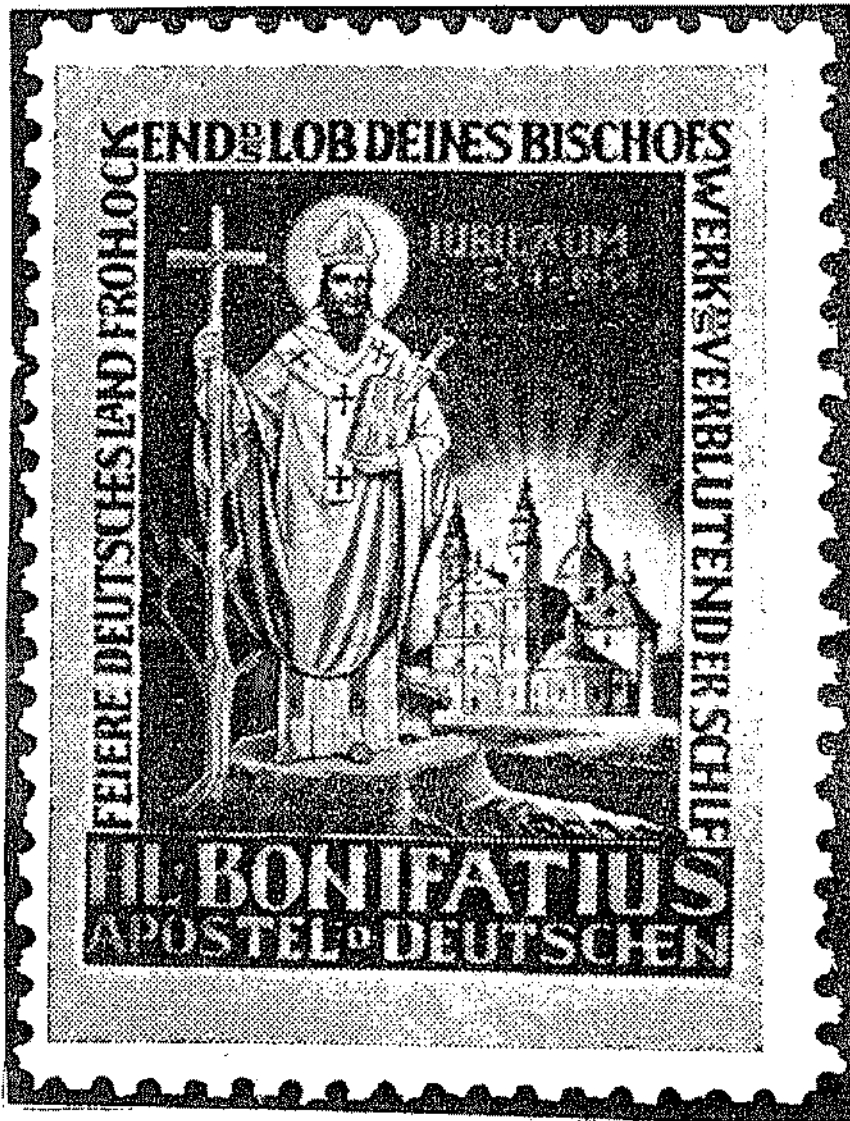
Do you have a typewriter or the use of one? If so why not offer to type material for future issues of VATICAN NOTES. We will supply the copy and all you need do is re-type it, you can do as little or as much as you want. If you are interested in helping VPS in this manner please contact Bill Wonneberger, Jr. 67 Jefferson Street Stratford, Connecticut

## ORIGIN OF THE ST. BONIFACE STAMP DESIGN

by Rev. Aloysius Horn

When there was talk about Germany issuing a stamp to commemorate the 1200th anniversary of the death of the Apostle of the Germans, St. Boniface, the German St. Gabriel Stamp Guild got busy. This society contacted Brother Notker, an eminent artist at the Abbey of Maria Laach, in June 1953, and asked him to prepare a design for a special stamp in honor of Saint Boniface. This was then sent to the German Minister of the Posts, Dr. Schubert, but the design was rejected as being, "too Catholic in composition". The inscriptions as prepared for a

postage stamp were then altered and the design was prepared with a new text and then printed as labels or seals which were distributed by the German St. Gabriel Guild.



St. Gabriel Stamp Guild Seal  
enlarged

When you study the St. Boniface stamp, although the format was changed, you can readily see that the designer, E. Pizzi, took his idea from this German seal. One important detail has been lost in the Vatican stamp. In the original seal, St. Boniface stands on the stump of the oak, a pagan symbol, which he has cut down. The new cross, which is alive, sprouts from the old oak. The position of the hand of St. Boniface has been slightly lowered, and a few of the leaves are put above his hand, to show the living quality of this cross.



Design of the St. Boniface stamp issued by Vatican City on April 28, 1955.

All the other details are the same as in the German seal. The church to the right is the Cathedral or Dom of the Holy Redeemer at Fulda. St. Boniface founded this Cathedral and the Abbey connected with it. He is buried in the crypt of this Cathedral. It is plain to see that this detail, too, was copied from the German seal, the angle of perspective and the hilation behind the Cathedral, both are the same.

It is interesting to note that St. Boniface in no way expected his martyrdom. He was studying in his tent at Dokkum, now Holland, waiting to confirm a number of Christians who had recently been baptized. Suddenly, on June 5, 754, a band of hostile pagans burst in upon him. As one of the attackers raised his sword to kill Boniface, he took the book he was reading and placed it before his face. The sword came down in furious thrusts. The book was slashed in several places and did not long serve as protection for the saint. This book is still preserved at Fulda. The book was the Codex Ragnindrudis, and it is my opinion that it is this book with a sword thrust through it, rather than the bible, that is shown on the stamp and all the other statues and paintings depicting St. Boniface.

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Upon receipt of this article the editor requested Father Horn to supply information where members could obtain the depicted seal. He quickly replied that he would be very happy to obtain them for any member who was interested. To obtain a copy of this seal send a stamped addressed return envelope with two three cent commemorative stamps to Reverend Aloysius Horn 305 South Wayne Street Fremont, Ohio. Please allow at least two weeks for delivery as the seals must be obtained in Germany.

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933  
(continued)

- g. Imperforate left margin
- h. Imperforate right margin
- i. Imperforate vertically
- j. Offset
- k. "mother and child" pair.
- l. Bluish paper, front only
  - 1. imperf left margin
  - 2. imperf right margin
  - 3. imperforate
- m. Bluish paper, back only
- n. Bluish paper, front and back

In addition to the varieties listed for #45 and #46 there are various copies of extra perforations. These have not been listed due to the various positions and spacings between the extra perforations. To date, only margin copies are known with this perforation variety.

It is reported, but unconfirmed, that the bluish paper varieties of #45 and #46 were experimental issues in pursuit of a type of paper that would prevent curling. This experiment was limited to these two stamps.



Vatican Gardens  
A16

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933  
(continued)

- 47 A16 30 cent. Black & Dark Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)  
b. Shifted center  
c. Offset  
d. Letter watermark
- 48 A16 50 cent. Violet & Dark Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 49 A16 75 cent. Brown Red & Dark Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)  
b. Inverted watermark
- 50 A16 80 cent. Dark Rose & Dark Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)



Pope Pius XI  
A17

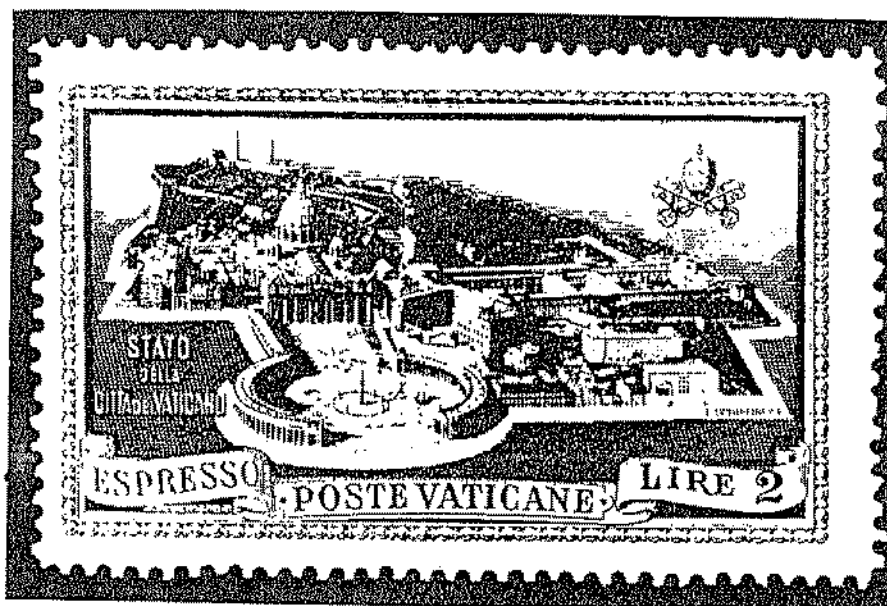
- 51 A17 1 lire Violet & Black  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 52 A17 1,25 lire Dark Blue & Black  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 53 A17 2 lire Dark Brown & Black  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 54 A17 2,75 lire Dark Violet & Black  
a. Saggio overprint (red)

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933  
(continued)



St. Peter's Basilica  
A18

- 55 A18 5 lire Dark Brown & Bronze Green  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 56 A18 10 lire Dark Blue & Bronze Green  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 57 A18 20 lire Black & Bronze Green  
a. Saggio overprint (red)



Aerial View of Vatican City  
A19

DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933  
(continued)

The stamps of this type were issued to prepay the special delivery rates.

- 59 A19 2 lire Dark Rose Red & Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)
- 60 A19 2,50 lire Dark Blue & Brown  
a. Saggio overprint (red)  
b. Shifted center  
c. Inverted watermark  
d. Offset  
e. Color through the stamp



Unofficial Issue

Upon the death of Pope Pius XI on February 10, 1939, an Italian by the name of Chirici purchased a few sheets of #51 and applied a black "mourning" border to them as illustrated. Three of the stamps were affixed to covers and officially cancelled and sent through the mails. Others were affixed to specially prepared covers when the Vatican officials refused to cancel them. In the order of rarity, the stamp is known officially used, NOT cancelled on cover, and mint.

Though this is a private issue, this stamp is much sought after by specialists. Beware of the many known counterfeits of this border. Use extreme caution in purchasing.



DEFINITIVE ISSUE OF 1933  
(continued)

Each pane of stamps bears a plate number assigned to that particular value. The number is that of the plate used for printing the frame and appears in the same color as the frame of each stamp.

No number was assigned for the plate used in printing the medallion. The same plate was used for all medallions of the same type.

These numbers are collectable in either single or block form.

Unlike the Conciliation Issue, these numbers do not appear in the corner of the sheet but in one of the margins of the pane. For clarity we first list the margin in which the number is found and directly after it, the side of the sheet it is nearest. For example, plate number 463 will be found in the top margin directly over the stamp on the left side.

Value	Number	Position
5 cent.	463	Top Left
5 cent.	464	Right Top
10 cent.	509	Right Top
12½ cent.	510	Top Left
20 cent.	516	Top Left
25 cent.	517	Right Top
30 cent.	519	Top Left
50 cent.	520	Top Left
75 cent.	521	Top Left
80 cent.	525	Top Left
1 lire	526	Top Left
1,25 lire	527	Top Left
2 lire	528	Top Left
2,75 lire	529	Top Left
5 lire	540	Top Left
10 lire	541	Top Left
20 lire	542	Top Left
2 lire (S.D.)	545	Top Left
2,50 lire (S.D.)	552	Top Left

PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1934

First Day of Issue: June 16, 1934  
Last Day of Validity: January 1, 1941  
Designer of Ovpt.: Enrico Federici (?)  
Printer: Camerale Typography  
Printing: Unknown  
Printing Method: Typography  
Type of Issue: Regular

The above statistics apply to the surcharge only. All other details are the same as those of type A2

The issuance of this series was made necessary through a revision of the postal rates.



A20

- 61 A20 40 cent. (black) surcharge on stamp #8
  - a. Wide spacing between "4" and "0"
- 62 A20 1,30 lire (black) surcharge on stamp #9
  - a. Second printing
  - b. Small surcharge (Saggio)
- 63 A20 2,05 lire (black) surcharge on stamp #10
  - a. Second printing
  - b. Missing comma

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Dear Vatican Collector:

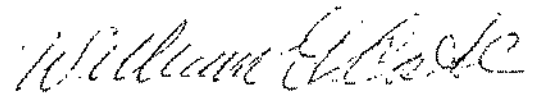
You may be wondering what the VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY is, what are its aims, what are the advantages of membership? Our object in this letter is to introduce you to VPS. We hope you will find our organization of interest and that we may soon have the pleasure of numbering you among our members!

The VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY was originated for the purpose of promoting the collection of stamps of the Vatican City State and the Roman States, and to provide an opportunity for the exchange of knowledge concerning them. It came into being in mid-1953 and in addition to the dissemination of current and background information on stamps and their subjects has also made available to members several VPS Specials, including a Saint Maria Goretti Maximum Card and a partial reprint, in color, of Ann Carnahan's book, THE VATICAN. As time goes by it is anticipated that similar bonuses will be provided. A complete catalog, in English, of all Vatican issues and errors is now being compiled and will be published in the near future.

VATICAN NOTES is the official organ of VPS, is published monthly and is distributed free to members. The NOTES contains up to date information on new and future issues and provides a monthly record of the activities of the VPS and Vatican philately in general. A popular feature currently appearing in the NOTES is the coming Vatican catalog in fragmentary form, illustrated and in English. This gives the members an opportunity to see right away what a fine and remarkable catalog they will be able to own before too long! Another one of the frequent features in the NOTES is a coverage of all phases of Roman States philately by experts in that field.

Our dues are outlined on the application blank enclosed with this letter and we are confident you will see fit to use it! Doesn't the VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY sound interesting to you? Wouldn't you like to avail yourself of the numerous advantages of membership? If so the undersigned Membership Secretary will be glad to hear from you and to process your application!

Sincerely,



William G. Cote  
616 Graydon Avenue  
Norfolk 7, Virginia

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Membership Blank

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby apply for membership in the VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print or type)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

I collect VATICAN stamps in the following forms: (Check)

Mint singles \_\_\_ Used singles \_\_\_ Mint blocks \_\_\_ Used blocks \_\_\_ First Day Covers \_\_\_

Postal stationery \_\_\_ Varieties & errors \_\_\_ Special items ? \_\_\_\_\_

I collect ROMAN STATES in the following forms: (Specify below)

I can aid the VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY by: (Check)

Photography \_\_\_ Drawing \_\_\_ Artwork \_\_\_ Photostating \_\_\_ Translating \_\_\_

What language ? \_\_\_\_\_ Writing for VATICAN NOTES ? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you belong to other Philatelic Societies? \_\_\_ Which ones? \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \* \* \* \*

Dues are \$2.00 a year - Fiscal year begins on July 1st.

Applicants joining in July, August or September	Remit	\$2.00
" " " October, November or December	"	1.50
" " " January, February or March	"	1.00
" " " April, May or June	"	.50

Make all checks or money orders payable to the VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
Please return this completed blank to:

William G. Cote  
616 Graydon Avenue  
Norfolk 7, Virginia

Be sure to enclose your dues as outlined above!

\* \* \* \* \*

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE - FOR SOCIETY USE

Application received \_\_\_\_\_ Dues received \_\_\_\_\_ Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number assigned \_\_\_\_\_ Membership card mailed \_\_\_\_\_  
\* \* \* \* \*

Proposed by: