

Vatican Notes

Volume IX

July - August 1960

Number 1

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS

Additional details have been learned on the set of stamps to commemorate WORKS OF MERCY.

As presently scheduled, the issue depicting the Works of Mercy will depict the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy with designs as follows:

1. To Feed the Hungry
2. To Give Drink to the Thirsty
3. To Clothe the Naked
4. To Harbor the Harborless
5. To Visit the Sick
6. To Ransom the Captive
7. To Bury the Dead
8. Pope John XXIII
9. Pope John XXIII

The above nine values will NOT replace the previously announced ordinary postage issue scheduled for release in the fall as has been reported by various persons. The ordinary postage issue, depicting the works of Michelangelo and Raphael, will be postponed for a short time to enable the release of the Works of Mercy issue first.

While no additional details of design are known the set has been tentatively scheduled to be released in September or early October. The purpose of this issue, other than to call the world's attention to the works of mercy, is not known. Its release however has particular favor during this, the World Refugee Year.

The forthcoming regular postage issue, of 13 values, has achieved progress. The work of the Italian State Printing Office has advanced to the point where a proof of some type has been submitted for approval. While not officially reported, it has been learned that the Michelangelo-Raphael issue will be printed in more than one color from engraved plates.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS:

Rev. Wm. Fletcher of Box 532, Fairfield, Connecticut, has been appointed Chairman of the Nomination Committee. Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be accepted from any VPS member in good standing.

NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE ON NOVEMBER 10th.

President William Wonneberger Jr. has notified your editor that, due to the extreme press of other duties, he will not be a candidate for office this year.

Vice-President Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, Secretary Wallace R. Smith and Treasurer Frederick J. Levitsky, the incumbents, have announced their availability to serve for another term.

All Nominees will be listed on the official ballot to be used for the election of officers in the November-December issue of the NOTES.

All nominations must be sent to Father Fletcher at the above address.

SEND YOUR NOMINATIONS TODAY

The latest membership list should be in the hands of all members by now. The typing was done through the courtesy of Lt. Gen. E. W. Snedecker. Father Phinney, and his Sister, spent about 40 hours on the printing, mailing and sorting of these lists and I want to extend, on the behalf of the entire membership, a big Thank You for a job well done. Any notice of errors or omissions should be sent direct to Rev. Herbert A. Phinney, 377 Walnut Ave. Roxbury 19, Mass.

A letter of interest has been received from one of our members, Lucas Graber, # 1140. Earlier this year he sent two covers to the Vatican bearing mint sets so that he could have the used sets for his collection. One cover had the Lateran Pact set and the other had the Martyrs set. He received his Martyrs set back on April 26, 1960 with an April 21, 1960 cancellation of the Vatican: The Lateran Pact set was then received on May 13, 1960 with a Vatican Cancellation of April 21, 1966. He is wondering if any others have such cancellations of this date or a similar error on other dates.

NOTICE ON PAYMENT OF DUES:.

In paying the annual dues of \$ 2.00 many members have been mailing it to the Membership Chairman: A. Houston Barnett.

All dues must be mailed to Wallace R. Smith, Secretary
165-15 Union Turnpike,
Flushing 66, N. Y.

SLIDE PROGRAM:

There apparently was some confusion on the wording of the article carried in the January-February issue announcing a contest for write-ups on Vatican slides owned by the Society. Write-ups (which would take no longer than 30 seconds to read) are wanted for each distinct design of Vatican stamps (not each individual stamp, e.g. Vatican #1-7 are one design; #8-13 another, etc.). Type each write-up on a 3" x 5" file card, if possible. Entries are to be sent direct to the Rev. Robert W. Contant, St. Mary's Church, Decatur, Indiana. The new closing date for entries is Dec. 31, 1960.

The prize for the best entry will be 12 different Vatican Maximum Cards.

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Due to illness the schedule of VATICAN NOTES has gone awry. The worse is over and the NOTES will again be on schedule with the September-October issue.

VPS LOCAL CHAPTER NEWS

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER - This outstanding chapter held its annual banquet and exhibition on June 26th at St. Richard's Hall, Roxbury, Mass. with 50 members and guests in attendance. Twenty-four frames were exhibited and Judges Tom Boland and John Iacovelli awarded 1st Prize to Fred Levitsky's VATICAN ERRORS; 2nd Prize to Father Phinney's DESIGNS AND AUTOGRAPHED STAMPS BY CASIMIRA DABROWSKA; and 3rd Prize to Tom Burke's COVERS OF THE 1958 SEDE VACANTE ISSUE. Bill Quinn, Chairman of the event, awarded Paul Revere Bowls to the winners.

Tom Boland presented a Court of Honor of special Vatican Album pages designed by him and reproduced by silk screen process, bearing the coats of arms of Pius IX, Pius XI, Pius XII and John XXIII, the stamp issuing popes. Combinations of variously colored pages and inks made for a colorful display. These pages will be made available to Chapter members in quantity at a later date, it is hoped.

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER - We are in receipt of the June and July issues of this chapter's bulletin ' The Nuncio ' and to read it it seems that the members are true Vatican philatelists. The July issue marked the beginning of the second year for this chapter and the interest shown has exceed all their predictions. Their schedule of topics, for various meetings, is one of the main reasons for the number of members they have.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Annual Treasurer's Report: Period July 1, 1959 - June 30, 1960

TO: President, Vatican Philatelic Society

Balance Reported on June 30, 1959: -----\$ 519.39Received:

Dues:	1 Payment for 1958-59 -----	\$ 2.00
	500 Payments for 1959-60 -----	1000.00
	1 Payment for 1959-60 @ \$ 1.50 -----	1.50
	44 Payments for 1960-61 -----	88.00
	4 Payments for 1961-62 -----	8.00
	1 Payment for 1962-63 -----	2.00
	1 Payment for 1963-64 -----	2.00
	49 New Members at \$ 2.00 -----	98.00
	23 New Members at \$ 1.50 -----	34.50
	45 New Members at \$ 1.00 -----	45.00
	15 New Members at \$ 0.50 -----	7.50
	1 Reinstatement at \$ 1.50 -----	1.50
	1 Reinstatement at \$ 0.50 -----	.50
	Sale of back issues of VATICAN NOTES -----	9.75
	Sale of V.P.S. Letterheads -----	22.75
	Income from Sales Department -----	57.24
	Donations for V.P.S. Slide Program -----	4.26
	Donation from Delaware Valley Chapter -----	23.02
	Special Contributions -----	1.60-1409.12

Total -\$ 1928.51

Paid:

Bank Account Service Charges -----	\$ 10.51
Bad Dues Check returned by Bank -----	4.00
Envelopes (1500) -----	6.77
Postage -----	76.51
Membership Cards (1000) -----	11.30
V.P.S. Letterheads (4000) -----	39.00
Rubber Stamp -----	3.49
Shipping Charges: Membership Chairman Material	5.11
V.P.S. Slide Program -----	65.75
Filmstrips (2) -----	10.00
VATICAN NOTES	
Printing (5 issues) -----	656.50
Postage (5 issues) -----	127.37
Supplies (5 issues) -----	45.76
Shipping Charges -----	4.39
Mailing Permit -----	10.00
Bulk Mailing Fee -----	20.00
Cover Sheet Printing Plate -----	4.50-1100.96

Balance on deposit at Worcester County National Bank -----\$ 827.55

Respectfully submitted,

S/ F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

The Cancellations of the Pontifical State

In writing a series of articles, on the various cancellations of the Pontifical State, perhaps the most misunderstood is the famous Saint Andrew Cross cancellation.

This cancellation is a heavy black cross in the form of an X and gets its name from the cross and the manner of the death and crucifixion of Saint Andrew, brother of Simon Peter and Disciple of Christ, one of the Twelve Apostles. Tradition tells us that Saint Andrew longed to share his Master's fate and when brought to the place of his execution he exclaimed " O good Cross, so long desired, and now made ready for my longing soul! I come unto thee with confidence and joy; do thou also joyfully receive me, the disciple of Him, who hung upon thee. " With this finished he was crucified head downward, feet fastened to the upper cross beams, hands to the lower section.

This cancellation is found in one other phase of philately, the watermark of the Austrian classic stamps. The use of this type cross in these two areas had no inter-relation.

Three districts used this cancellation, Ferrara, Comacchio, and the district of Pontelagoscuro, and its character differs in each although the general form is the same. Its original use and purpose give philatelic historians a field for rich imagination and hypothesis, and in not a rare instance ground for the show of some bigotry. The result is no little confusion and the following sampling of these conjectures show the extremes authorities can produce:

1. By virtue of the Austrian Treaty of 30 March 1852 and effective on 1 October of the same year, all mail going to the exterior of the Pontifical State, to Austria in particular, was to carry a cross: "...on the address side of the prepaid mailing matter two lines in the form of a cross must be applied. "

As for this theory we can say that the cross exists in both pen and block cancellation, the earliest pen variety dated 27 August 1852 and the block styling 16 September 1852. The Treaty does not specify that the block cancellation must be used, neither does it mention style or size.

2. The cross overprint was temporarily applied to Pontifical State postage to validate such stamps used in Romagna.

The answer to this is evident: the cancellation began in 1852 and Romagna did not come into existence until 1859 when it was cut off from the Pontifical State.

3. The cross was used to invalidate Pontifical State stamps which were used for prepaid mail instead of the Romagna postage.

To this we can only say refer to the dates and its very idea negates practice regardless of thrift.

4. The cross was used to mark all mail from the legation of Ferrara and all mailing arriving in this Province from other districts during the Cholera of 1855.

Such a practice lacks substantiation for all covers, well over one hundred, in my collection, do not have the rastel cuts for fumigation or the cholera cancellations used in all areas after 1816. The date also contradicts this explanation.

5. The cross was used to mark all mail blessed by the Pope during the 1855 Cholera to prevent infection.

The origin of this theory smacks of the well known anti-Catholic attitude of some members of the historical-background-of-the-Papacy literature.

In reality the Saint Andrew Cross, whether it be from Ferrara, Comacchio or Pontelagoscuro, is nothing more than a Pontifical State cancellation - a postmark used in many sections in various forms. The inked cross was the antecedant of the block type. In all its forms it existed from 1852 to 1863 as far as this writer knows. With the development of this field of philately such dates can well change. One cannot be emphatic and dogmatic in this matter for research and further knowledge may certainly add to our present facts. On the covers, of this writer's collection, the cancellations take the following forms and their sizes vary accordingly:

FERRARA -----2x18x20 mm.
2x19x20½ mm.



COMACCHIO -----3x17x17 mm.
3½x15x15 mm.
3x15x16 mm.



PONTELAGOSCURO -----3x15x17 mm.



St. John Capistrano

John was born at Capistrano in Abruzzi, and progressed in both sacred and profane learning. Because of his great knowledge of law he was made governon of several cities by King Ladislaus of Naples. He was attempting to restore peace to that troubled area when he was seized and jailed. He was delivered from captivity and joined the Friar Minor. As a Franciscan he studied under St. Bernadine of Siena, and imitated him in spreading devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus and to the Mother of God. He refused appointment as Bishop of Aquila and lead a mortified life.

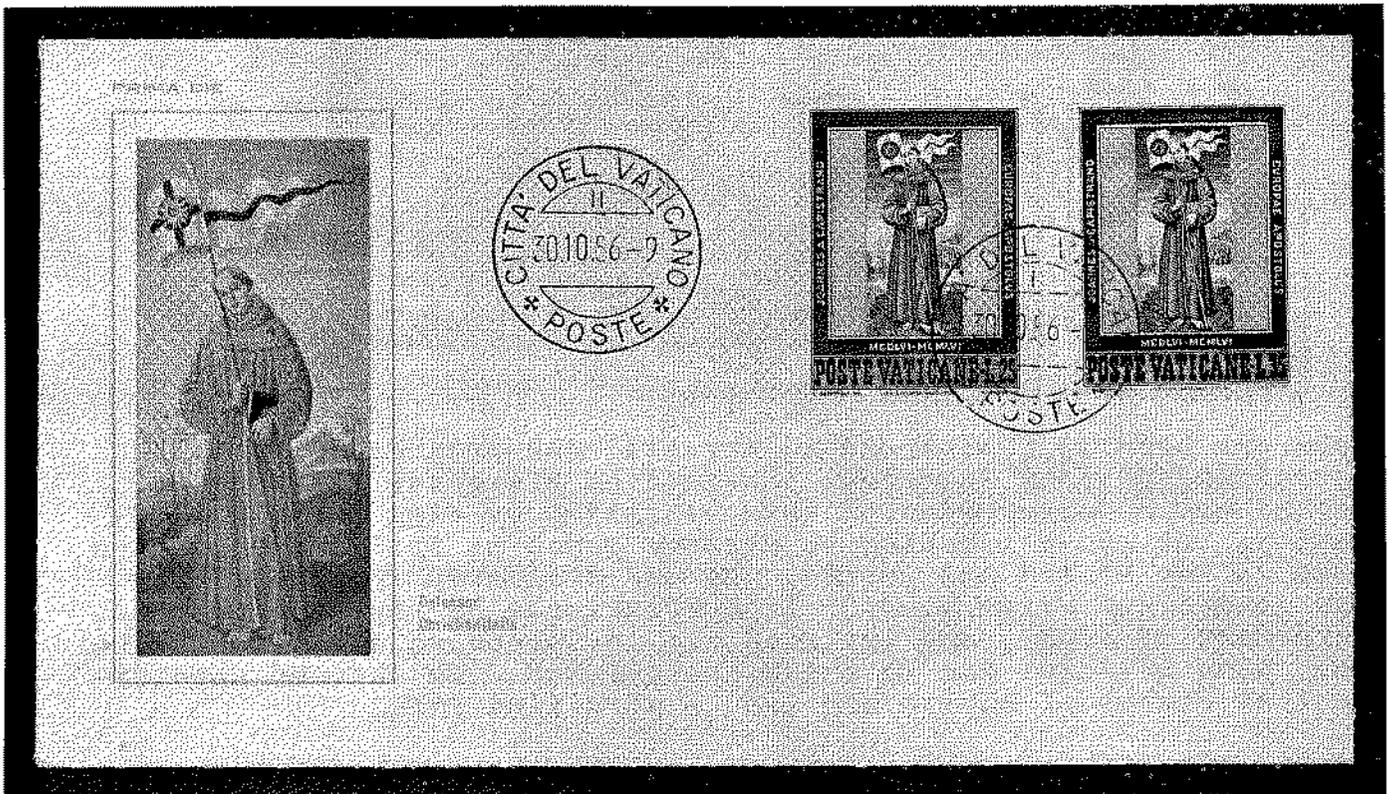
Giving himself, without ceasing to preach, he travelled through almost all of Italy, and brought many souls back to the way of salvation by his preaching and miracles.

At the Council of Florence he brought back the Armenians to the Catholic Church.

Nicholas V sent him to Germany, as Apostolic Nuncio, at the request of Emperor Frederick III, to bring back to the Catholic faith those who had fallen into heresy. Six years of missionary work brought back to the church countless numbers of Hussites, Adamites, Taborites and others by his preaching and further miracles.

At the instigation of John, Pope Callistus III proclaimed a Crusade against the Turks. John hastened into Panonia, and other provinces, and raised 70,000 soldiers. It was mainly through his advice and courage that victory was gained at Belgrade where 120,000 Turks were either slain or fled.

Seized by a fatal illness he was taken to Illak and died on October 23, 1456. He was canonized by Alexander VIII in 1690. Leo XIII extended his feast to the Universal Church on the date of March 28.



St. Ignatius Loyola

Ignatius, a Spaniard, born of a noble family at Loyola in Cantabria, attended the court of the Spanish king, and later followed a military career. Wounded in the leg at the defense of Pampalona, he lay seriously ill, and by the chance reading of some pious books was inflamed with the desire to follow in the footsteps of Christ and the saints. He went to the shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, hung his weapons before her altar and kept a night vigil. Taking the clothing of a beggar he retired to Marresa, living there for a whole year: living on bread and water obtained by begging, practicing penances. He received revelations from God during his meditations and here he composed his Book of Spiritual Exercises.

To make himself more fit for gaining souls, he determined to secure an education, and started to study grammar among boys. At Paris he was joined by nine companions at the University of Paris, who had masters degrees in arts and theology. There, at Montmatre, he laid the foundation of his order, which he was later to institute at Rome. He added to the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, a fourth vow, concerning the Missions, thus binding his order close to the Holy See. Paul III welcomed and confirmed the Society, as did other Popes and the Council of Trent. Ignatius sent Francis Xavier to missionize the Indies, and others to other parts of the earth, while he remained to wage war against heresy and superstition. He combatted the errors of Luther so successfully that many popes felt that he was raised up by God for this special purpose.

But his first care was the restoration of piety among catholics. The beauty of sacred buildings, giving catachetical instructions, frequent attendance at devotions and reception of the sacraments were fostered by Ignatius and his followers. He opened schools throughout Europe for the education of youth in piety and letters. At Rome he founded the German College. To these, and other works of piety, he devoted himself, without stint, to gain souls for God.

He died at the age of 65 and was canonized by Pope Gregory XV. He was declared by Pope Pius XI as patron of all Spiritual Exercises. His feast is July 31st.



The Black Madonna of Czestachowa

There are no concrete facts known about this picture prior to 1382, but popular legend gives us the following story. Our Lord Jesus Christ had learned the trade of carpentry from his foster father, St. Joseph, and built a table for his mother at their home in Nazareth. After the death of Christ Mary, as directed by her Son, went to live with St. John, and her household furnishings went with her. While St. Luke was learning from the Blessed Mother the story of the infancy of Christ, at the instance of a group of women, he painted on the table a portrait of the Mother and Child. This group of women formed the first religious community of women in the Church and, after the death and assumption of the Blessed Virgin, they kept this portrait in their community, bringing it to the town of Pella to escape the destruction which was wrought on Jerusalem in 70 A.D.. It was preserved in the east until 326 when St. Helena, mother of

Constantine the Great, came to the Holy Land seeking relics of the Holy Places. Constantine was, at this time, building the New Rome of the East, Constantinople, whose patroness was the Mother of God. To this city the painting was brought and placed in a church especially built for it, and to many who prayed at the shrine there came great graces and many miracles. At one time the picture was carried in procession and saved the city from assault and capture. It remained in Constantinople for 500 years.

The painting escaped the iconoclasm of Leo the Isaurian, because the Empress Irene concealed it in the imperial palace, and it was handed down from Empress to Empress. Soon the female side of the imperial family received it as part of their marriage dowry. Through the intermarriage of the Imperial Family and Russian Nobility the painting came, as a dowry, to Russia and eventually to the Castle of Belzki, where it remained for 500 years. In the expansion of Poland, under Casimir the Great, the Castle of Belzki came under Polish Rule and eventually under King Ladislaus.

When he ascended the throne he had to recapture the Castle of Belski, and his first public act, on occupying the Castle, was to give honor to the miraculous painting. Shortly afterwards the Tartars besieged the castle and, in the fight, an arrow entered the chapel through a window and struck the painting leaving a scar on the throat of the Virgin. This angered the defenders so that they overwhelmed the Tartars.

King Ladislaus decided to take the sacred painting to his birthplace, Opala in Upper Silesia, and while traveling there spent the night in Czestachowa and placed the painting in the Church of the Assumption for the night. In the morning the painting was placed in a wagon to continue the journey but the horses refused to move. Ladislaus prayed before the painting for enlightenment and twice, in dreams, was directed to leave the painting in Czestachowa on Jasna Gora. On August 26, 1382, the picture was carried in procession into the Church of the Assumption. Ladislaus ordered the erection of a church, convent and cloister on Jasna Gora, and brought to Poland some Pauline priests from the Convent of Nosztre, Hungary, and to these monks of St. Paul, renowned for their holy lives, entrusted the sacred painting.

On the face of the picture of the Blessed Mother are two scars in addition to the one on her throat. These were made by the Hussites in 1430. During the reign of King Jagiello, when the painting was restored, these three scars were retouched, but could not be effaced, and they reappeared.

For decorative purposes the portrait has two dresses, one made of jewels donated by Polish noble women, and it is priceless. The second is of beads in rich colors, which were donated by the peasant women of Poland. Another gown, made of pearls, was stolen off of the painting in 1909. The present crown on the picture was a gift of Pope St. Pius X. The former crown was a gift of Pope Clement XI in 1717, and was stolen in 1909 at the same time as the pearl dress. The first coronation in 1717 was performed by Bishop Jan Krzystof Szembek, and at the celebration 148,000 received Holy Communion. The second coronation was in 1910 when 500,000 assembled at the shrine to see the coronation of the Virgin performed by Bishop Stanislaus Zdzitowiecki.

The picture itself is about 19 inches high and 13 inches wide on boards half an inch thick. It was restored in 1430 under Jagiello after it had been partially destroyed by the Hussites. A second restoration was made under King John Sobieski in 1682, and the most recent was performed between November 1925 and March 1926. On three occasions the picture was brought outside Czestochowa. It was brought to Cracow for repairs, and was twice taken to Upper Silesia, once to Glasgow, and one to near Lublin, to protect it from desecration.

Twice it was removed to the Church of St. Barbara in Czestochowa. Under the title "Queen of Poland" Our Lady's shrine at Czestochowa had been one of the most visited in Europe, and great honor has been given to the Mother of God. The name "Black Madonna" comes from the fact that the face of the Virgin is bronze in color.