

CREATION OF CARDINALS

Looking across the river Tiber towards the church of St. Peter. Its majestic dome in the Vatican City looks down upon the site of Nero's circus, where, in Ancient Rome, so many Christian martyrs perished. In the shape of a Latine cross, it was built four centuries ago and remains the heart of the Roman Catholic world.

Untouched by the war, the architectural glories of St. Peter's are still one of the show pieces of Christendom.

Here was passed the week of ceremonies devoted to the creation of 32 new Cardinals. And for the first time in history Pathe News was privileged to enter the sacred precincts where the silver trumpets sound the entry of the Pope. Pius XII is carried in the Sedia Gestatoria to the Papal Throne for the public consistory at which the Red Hat of a Prince of the church was to be conferred upon the new Cardinals. His Holiness takes his place attended by members of the Sacred College in purple robes and white capes.

First comes the ceremony of obedience when the old Cardinals mount the steps of the throne to pay the accustomed homage. This as will be seen includes kissing the Pope's ring and his slipper.

At this point, speaking in Latin, four black-robed laymen make their plea for the canonisation of four new saints. Included, was one American who would be the first American saint in Catholic history.

When the speeches ended the new Cardinals also paid their homage with all the impressive pageantry traditional of the great peacetime ceremonies of the Vatican and the singing of an unseen choir. The creation of so many new Cardinals brings the Sacred College to its full strength of seventy members, forty two of whom are not Italian. This means that a future Pope may well hail from Britain, America or, (since the election of Cardinal Tien) even China. A conspicuous figure in crimson Arab-like dress, was the bearded Armenian Patriarch, Agagian.

British Roman Catholics were represented by Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. This day was his forty-seventh birthday, making him the youngest member of the Sacred College.

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Culmination of the ceremony was the Pope's formal gift of the tasselled Red Hat, symbol of a Cardinal's office.

When the last Cardinal had resumed his place the Pope pronounced a blessing. With the congregation at an emotional pitch, His Holiness prepares to leave.

Once more in the glittering gestatorial chair, and accompanied by his Cardinals, old and new, Pope Pius made a complete tour of the Cathedral, flanked by the Armoured Papal guard, in their ancient uniforms. With the full implication of these new elections still lying in the future, so ends an historic occasion.