

POPE PIUS INAUGURATES HOLY YEAR

To St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome come Catholics from all over the world. They are here to observe the ceremonies of the Holy Year and to gain, what is called by the Roman Church, "the Great Pardon." Prime Minister and citizen, humble and rich, celebrate one of the greatest of Roman Catholic festivals - a festival lasting a whole year.

To usher in this 25th jubilee year, Pope Pius XII is carried in state to the atrium of his Cathedral, there to open the Holy Door.

With age-old ritual, the Pope strikes the door three times with a golden hammer. Slowly, it swings inwards. Opening an atom-age half century, the Holy Year presents a challenge to mankind. For never has the Church faced greater problems. Persecuted in the East, its priests driven underground, its prelates jailed, the Church's authority opposes the materialistic atheist teachings of Communism. May the new Year bring about a change in the hearts of men.