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PIUS XII HONOURS MARY AS "QUEEN"

Pope Pius XII, in the highest ceremony of the Rome's Marian year, yesterday crowned an ancient painting of the Virgin Mary ("Salus Populi Romani") and asked her aid as "Queen of Heaven and Earth, Queen of Mankind". About 50,000 faithful crowded into St. Peter's Basilica, while other thousands of people filled the giant Square outside. Some 300 Cardinals, archbishops and bishops attended the rites.

While silver trumpets played the papal hymn, the Pope was brought through the basilica on his golden gestatorial chair. First He had crossed the square among the acclamations of the crowd.

(Inside the basilica the 78 years old Pope ascended his throne and delivered his 2000 words speech, in ringing tone, without a sign of weariness of his recent illness. During the ceremony He greeted representatives of about 300 solidarity groups from all parts of the world. Then He pinned golden medals of 15 banners of the procession, belonging to the most important shrines in the world. Biggest banner was that of the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. At the climax of the ceremony the Pope has placed a jewel-studded crown on the Virgin image of the Virgin and one on that of the Child, after having blessed them. Immediately after the coronation, choirs burst into a joyous, thanking "Te Deum").

Afterwards the Pope crossed the square again, and entered the Virgin Vatican Palace through the bronze door. The Ceremony ended with the Blessing "Urbi et Orbi" which the Pope gave from the balcony of the Vatican Lodge. (with the crowned image of th

Yesterday's ceremony honoured the Virgin on the centenary of the dogma of the immaculate conception, and in the 4th anniversary of the dogma of the assumption, which Pius XII proclaimed himself.

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