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THE POPE'S BIRTHDAY.

On the morning of his 80th birthday, Pope Pius the Twelfth receives greetings from all over the world - but he gives special precedence to a party of 200 children from Catholic schools of 24 countries. In the Vatican's Consistory Hall, the children receive the Pope's blessing, and present him with branches of almond blossom.

This is a double anniversary; for it was on his birthday 17 years ago that Roman-born Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was elected Pope Pius the Twelfth. Seventeen years of the grimmest conflicts in world sorrow - but for the millions of his flock, this is a day, not for recalling sorrow, but for rejoicing.

To a lover of peace, these children bring wishes for many more peaceful years.