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POPE'S BIRTHDAY

On occasion of the 80th birthday of Pope Pius XII (besides the 17th anniversary of his election as head of the Roman Catholic Church) numerous greetings poured from the various parts of the world in Vatican.

Among the various ceremonies and augural audiences held this day, the Pope received this morning in the Consistory Hall, out of the usual protocol, the homage of 200 children, as representative of the Roman schools of any rank, and 24 of the various nations, here resident.

First of all children listened to the Pope's word, then offered him some branches of almond in blossom.

Some four-year old kids helped by their teachers, presented the Pontiff with a huge cake with 80 candles.

After some four-voice chorus - among which "Oremus pro Pontifice nostro Pio" sung by Italians, fourteen children in their own languages expressed the augural greetings of their nations: France, Denmark, Holland, Greece, Ireland, England, Spain, U.S.A, Germany, Canada, Poland, Hungary, Russia, Indonesia.

By the end of the audience, the children in a cheerful, joyful round circling turned around the delighted holy father, who was green and white dressed, with red and white shoes.

His blessing closed the unusual audience and once more he was enthusiastically and warmly gratefully greeted.