

13/10/1958

LASTE HOMAGE TO POPE

Body of Pope Pius XII lies in awesome splendor in St. Peter's Basilica since Friday Night: noble guards flank red-draped catafalque; tall candles flicker.

In these three days the doors of the Basilica, the world's largest church, were thrown open at dawn, to let the long procession, a moving river of humanity, enter and pay the last homage to the Pope of Peace.

It enters doors at the right, moving slowly shoulder to shoulder, held within borders by wooden stands, circle the catafalque and then shuffle slowly out through the other side door.

As in the tremendous audiences that Pius XII held in the 1950 Holy Year, the humanity that flows around the Pope's body now includes people from all parts of the world: they are of all races and color, but their thoughts are much alike; they are hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, tourists besides Romans: all are solemnly subdued.

A small band of faithful had camped all night and through the early morning hours at the very doors of St. Peter's. Because they were over 2000 people jammed on the wsteps of St. Peter's early in the morning, custodians open the gates 45 minutes before schedule (at 5,15 a.m.). Traffic was paralyzed by one of the greatest manifestations of devout affection shown any Pope in the 2000-year history of the Roman Catholic Church. Streets leading to the lofty domed Basilica of St. Peter's where the Pontiff's body lies in state, were clogged with human traffic, cars and buses. Many had traveled all night from remote corners of Italy and farther.

103801
11 October 1958

ROME MOURNS AS PIUS XII RETURNS
(fifth reportage)

The mournful procession which ended at St. Peter's began at Castelgandolfo where the doors of the Papal Palace were thrown open yesterday at 2.23 p.m. An almost oppressive hush, broken only by the tolling of bells, fell on a tight-packed throng in the small public square.

The motorized hearse carrying the Pontiff had glass walls: on the top there was a huge golden tri-regnum, symbol of the papal office; on each corner of the hearse was a golden angel. The Pontiff's coffin was covered by red silk, and the body was not visible.

Rome police reinforced by policemen from other cities were stationed to hold back the crowd, but that was scarcely necessary: the people stood silent and almost awed.

The body of the Supreme Pontiff was brought informally from the Papal summer home at Castelgandolfo to St. John Lateran, Pope Pius' See as Bishop of Rome. As Pope, the Supreme Pontiff had been in the basilica only twice: the first time was in splendor to take possession of the Basilica after his election as Bishop of Rome and Head of the Roman Catholic Church on March 2, 1939; the second time was on August 26 during the 1950 Holy Year, when garbed as a simple priest, he visited the basilica as a pilgrim.

The Pontifical hearse passed through the ancient Porta di San Giovanni and then moved slowly toward the front of the massive basilica of San Giovanni. Italian troops here stood at attention: crowds stood silently. In front of the basilica, its canons knelt, as pallbearers lifted the late Pontiff's coffin and carried it into the basilica. The Pontiff's chair-bearers - who in life carried Pius XII triumphantly in portable throne, slowly carried the coffin; at their sides were Noble Guards of the Pontifical Court in full dress and with plumed helmets.

The casket was turned so that the dead Pontiff would enter it with his head toward the altar: Cardinal Tisserant headed the procession to the altar; cardinals, high prelates and the entire diplomatic corps to the Vatican representing nearly 50 nations were present.

The rite here of absolution and benediction lasted a few minutes: it was administered by Benedetto Cardinal Alisi Masella, archpriest of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and - temporarily - as Camerlengo, head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Then from the Basilica of St. John, the hearse moved formally at the pace of a walk slowly toward St. Peter's. Alongside it walked noble guards. The procession was opened by a Carabinieri police band playing funeral music followed by plumed carabinieri, prelates, priests, members of religious orders, student priests, members of Catholic Action and many, many others. The tremendous cortege moved slowly by the Colosseum 4.20 p.m. when the rays of the setting sun were already beginning to slant down low.

Slowly it proceeded through downtown Rome (via ~~Via~~ Imperiali, piazza Venezia, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, piazza San Pietro) toward Vatican City and St.

16-228701

Peters , where nine days of solemn funeral ceremonies officially begin today.

The mournful procession arrived at St. Peter at 6.10 hours p.m. The hearse was followed by the Pontiff's relatives, ~~wpekktttwkwy~~ by the Premier Fanfani and government members, high prelates and diplomatic corps.

The coverage shows:

- Authorities of Castelgandolfo waiting for the outcoming of the hearse
- Mournful procession outcoming from summer residence
- Mournful motorcade along via Appia
- Italian army ~~units~~ units
- The President of Catholic action follows the hearse
- The cortege enters Rome through Porta San Giovanni
- The hearse reaches the basilica of St. John Lateran
- The coffin is lifted by the chair-bearers
- Following the coffin are Pontiff's sister, nephews and relatives.
- After the rite, the formal procession moves towards St. Peter's through Colosseo, via Impero, Corso and bridge Vittorio Emanuele.
- In piazza San Pietro, religious orders and faithful crowd await
- The hearse at last arrives at St. Peter's square
- Swiss Guards full dressed with cuirass and halberd escort the hearse
- Several shots of St. Peter's square as the cortege passes by.
- The coffin is brought into the basilica, ending the Pope's last journey

LAST¹ HOMAGE TO POPE

13/10/1958

(sixth coverage)

- The hearse arrives in St. Peter's square
 - Premier Fanfani and members of Italian government follow
 - St. Peter's bells toll
 - The coffin of the Pope's body is being borne into the basilica
 - The coffin is being opened
 - The cardinals are watching on.
-
- The crowd mill in St. Peter's square anxious to pay its last homage to the Pope of Peace
 - The catafalque where Pius XII's body lies in state
 - Various shots of the mourners circling around the catafalque and passing by the Pope's body into St. Peter's
 - President Sen. Merzagora arrives in St. Peter's with members of Italian government of Senate
 - More shots of people in St. Peter's square longing for entering the basilica and reach the catafalque
 - Members of diplomatic corps to the Holy See arrive
 - President of Chamber of Deputies, on. Leone, into the Basilica for his homage to Pius XII's body
 - More shots of personalities stepping within borders reserved to officials, towards the basilica.

POPE BURIAL

seventh reportage

Pius XII "The Pope of Peace" was buried yesterday shrouded in crimson and gold and thrice bound in caskets of cyprus, lead and elm. The burial in the solemn breath-taking splendor of St. Peter's Basilica before an invited crowd of 5000 climaxed five days of ceremonies. The body of Pope dressed in white and red was borne to Altar of the Confession, as the choir of the Julian Chapel without accompaniment sang. The body of the Pope was brought to the altar. After the absolution, the men who bore the Pope's throne when he was alive, now carefully placed the body in the coffin; the Pope's face was covered with a white veil, another was placed at his feet; then it was folded the red and gold shroud over the body. Then it was read a biography and eulogy. Followed the individual absolution by all cardinals. At the conclusion of the rites at the Altar of the Confession the single casket made of three was wheeled back to the entrance to the grotto beneath the Basilica. There a system of ropes and pulleys was used to lower the coffin for final placement in the Clementine crypt near to the reported burial spot of the Basilica's namesake St. Peter. The entire ceremony lasted for the spectators two hours from 16.00 to 18.06. Upon the lowering of the casket on the floor of the crypt, the casket was wheeled through the narrow passageway beneath the church for placement in the vault.

Unassembled Coverages shows:

- The interior of the Basilica, beneath the dome
- The columns of the Altar of the Confession, behind the Pope's body in state
- Some shots of the body in state, flanked by Noble Guards and Swiss Guards
- The body is removed and lowered into coffin
- The casket is wheeled back to the entrance to the grotto
- Cardinals, one after another, pass and bless the body
- The body is placed into the coffin
- A brass tube containing a script with the accomplishments of the Pontiff's reign and the eulogy is placed into the coffin along with a bag containing replicas of every coin and medal struck during the reign of Pius XII: this is intended as an historical legacy for future generations and to identify the remains if there is no other way
- Closing of the coffin
- A Mass is being officiated
- Closing of the coffin
- Blessing of the coffin
- The entrance to the grotto by the Altar of the Confession
- The coffin placed in the Vatican grotto
- The Vatican pass by the coffin
- C.U. of the casket (of polished elm bearing plaques on the top)
- The invited people admitted to attend burial ceremony, is in prayer.

POPE BURIAL (seventh reportage)

14/10/1958

Pope Pius XII has been buried yesterday night in full regalia in the dark, damp grottoes under St. Peter's Basilica, where he once descended in worker's overalls in a successful quest for the tomb of the apostle.

Seeking the tomb of the Prince of the Apostles had been one of the main dreams of Pius XII since the first days of his Pontificate.

By an impressive coincidence, the fact that first inspired him to the search occurred days before his election to the Papal throne.

In his Christmas speech of the 1950 Holy Year, he was able to announce to Christendom that the tomb of the Galilean fisherman and first Pope had been found: the Catholic Church had always held that St. Peter's Basilica was located on the exact spot where the Apostle Peter was buried in a pagan cemetery after his martyrdom in 64 or 67 A.D.; but there had been no material evidence to support this belief.

It is a few feet above the tomb of St. Peter, in the Chapel of the Presentation, on the upper floor of the grottoes that Pius XII has been buried. His tomb, which he said in his testament "will be the more gratifying the more it is obscure" is in the back wall of the chapel, flanked on the left and right walls by the tombs of Benedict XV, the Pope who made him a bishop and nuncio, and Pius X, the Pope he was proclaimed a saint.

The ceremony began at 4.00 p.m. and ended for the spectators at 6.05 p.m. when the ropes lowering the casket sagged limply, indicating that the coffin was resting on the floor of the crypt.