

59/25.

THE POPE VISITS 4,000 SICK.

From all parts, people suffering from sickness or injury came to St. Peter's, Rome, on the Feast of St. Joseph. They were promised a blessing by the Pope, and his prayers for their recovery. St. Joseph's Day is the Pontiff's own saint's day, for though he bears the title of Pope John, he was christened Joseph. The 4,000 sufferers who were brought to the Basilica hoped that after the pilgrimage their sickness might yield to cure. It was an unusual congregation in St. Peter's that awaited the Pope's arrival.

Already that day Pope John had celebrated mass for the 6,000 street cleaners of Rome, as well as given his blessing to an assembly of 8,000 tourists in St. Peter's Square. Like the Founder of Christianity he now ministered to the sick, praying that their faith would set them on the road back to health.