

# Death Comes Just Before Pius' Anniversary

### Pontiff Continues Labors to Very End; Had Suffered Almost Ceaselessly for Past Two Years

Vatican City.—(Special)—with his feeble hand up-raised in benediction and with a prayer for peace on his lips, Pope Pius XI, 261st Vicar of Christ on Earth, the Pope of Peace, ended his long and fruitful reign as Supreme Pontiff. Seventeen years before, he had dedicated his reign to peace with these words, "Pius is the name of peace—then Pius shall be my name," and since then he had labored for peace and justice and charity. As death came near, the Pontiff who had several times recently offered his life as a sacrifice for accord among men spoke his last words: "Jesus and Mary—peace to the world."

Thus worn out with his ceaseless labors for religion and for all

humankind, his aged body racked with over two years of almost constant suffering, Pope Pius died of cardiac asthma in the early morning two days before the 17th anniversary of his coronation. Fulfilling his promise to continue his labors up to the very last, the Pope in the short days of his last illness was still making plans for his audience with the Italian Bishops on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Lateran treaty with Italy and for the ceremonies marking his coronation jubilee.

**Condemned Abuses But Loved All the People**

From beginning to end of his 17-year reign, Pius XI devoted himself to the cause of peace. When he bitterly condemned atheistic Communism and pagan Nazism, he spoke his love for the Russian and German peoples. He

prayed that the people subjected to the tyranny of godless government would be given the peace of Christ, that they would have all God's blessings in their lives. He loved all men.

His last words recalled his statement of a few months ago: "While millions of men are living in anxiety because of the imminent danger of war and the threat of disaster and ruin without precedent, we receive in our fatherly heart with tremulous feelings our numerous sons. With all our heart, we offer ourselves for the health and peace of the world."

**Was Serene In Last Moments**

After fighting off a dangerous illness at the end of last November, the Pope had continued his normal round of work at the Vatican. On Feb. 7, 17 years and one day after his election and self-dedication to peace, the Pope was taken ill. At first he was thought to be suffering only a cold from which he would soon recover. On Feb. 9 came a series of heart attacks, from the first of which he rallied for a time. And then early on the morning of Feb. 10, the Holy Father, well knowing that death was at hand, received the anointing of Extreme Unction and then with his last breath spoke his prayer for peace. He was serene in death, ready for the immolation he had so often spoken about.

After Dr. Filippo Rocchi, who attended the Pope in the absence of Dr. Aminta Milani, notified Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli at about 4 a. m. that death was inevitable, the Pope was prepared for the Last Sacraments. Around his bed were Cardinal Pacelli; the Penitentiary of the Church, Lorenzo Cardinal Lauri; Count Franco Ratti, the Pontiff's nephew; Monsignor De Romanis, the Pope's sacristan; a few nurses, and other dignitaries. Dr. Milani was called in to care for the Pope in his dying moments. He had been ill himself.

Monsignor De Romanis administered Extreme Unction, and the dying Pontiff by movements of head and hands showed that he was participating in the rites. At 5:30, Monsignor De Romanis approached the Pope and asked him to repeat the prayer: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may my soul expire in peace with you." It was then that Pius lifted his hand in blessing and said his last feeble prayer for peace. As the feeble words ended, the Pontiff's head turned gently to the side of his pillow. Life was gone.

**Attendants Choked With Grief**

The dignitaries and doctors at the bedside were choked with their grief and Cardinal Pacelli could hardly speak as he pronounced the official statement of death after calling softly the name of the Pontiff he had served long and well.

As news went out over the world that the Pope of Peace was dead, men of all nations were stricken by grief. The first news came to America in a National Broadcasting company program from a hotel overlooking St. Peter's square, where Phillips McKenzie had maintained an 18-month vigil.

Donna Camilla Ratti, the Pope's sister, was reported confined to her bed because of shock. She collapsed at the deathbed after kissing her brother's hands.

The Pontiff's body, robed in the white garments of the Papacy, was laid out in the Sistine chapel, watched over by members of the Noble Papal guard. Among the guards was Bruno Benziger of New York, a secret Chamberlain of the Cape and Sword. Masses were said for the Pope in Vatican chapels, and Cardinals and Bishops who had gathered for the audience Pius had planned to give the bier to pay their respects to their departed master.

Bitter grief reigned in the Vatican, but the inspired machinery of the Church worked on to give the dead Pontiff the honors due him as Christ's Vicar on Earth and to plan for the conclave that will choose his successor, Cardinal Pacelli took over active direction of Vatican affairs. Diplomats and Churchmen filed in to pray for the Pope as he lay in death. Thousands of Romans jammed the square outside St. Peter's, standing about almost dumb with grief, wanting to be close to their Bishop and Holy Father.

Body transferred to Chapel in St. Peter's

On the day after death, the Pope's body was carried in solemn procession from the Sistine chapel to the Chapel of the Sacrament in St. Peter's Basilica. Fifty thousand people jammed the square outside St. Peter's, all but a few striving in vain to get a glimpse of the Pope's body as it was moved from one resting place to another. The fisherman's ring, symbol of the Papal power was broken, and 31 of the Cardinals met to plan the rule of the Church until a new Pope is chosen. It was reported that the Italian Bishops were given the text of the address Pius had planned for them.

Envelopes, each containing a 1,000-lire note, were presented to the Cardinals and the 170 Bishops of Italy who had come to Rome. Pope Pius had prepared the envelopes for presentation on the occasion of his anniversary celebration. His Holiness planned to offer them with the words: "It gives us happiness to present this to you to cover the expenses of your trip to Rome."

On Sunday, Feb. 12, came the first of the novendialia, the nine days of funeral rites for the Pope, and half a million people from princes to peasants, filed past the Pontiff's remains, lying on a slanting funeral couch. Over the Pope's white robes was a red chasuble, on his head was a mitre, in his folded gloved hands was a small crucifix, on his feet were red slip-

pers. Above his head were Michelangelo's frescoes of the last judgement, grimly alive in the flicker of candle-light.

Without time to pause and kneel at the iron grill in front of the Pontiff's bier, the thousands of sorrowing people filed slowly and sadly past. Hundreds of them whispered to their neighbors, "Dorme"—"He is sleeping." Most of the day the crowd was calm but, as evening neared, some of the thousands gathered in the square surged forward, fearful lest they miss their chance of seeing the Pope for the last time. Under the press of the crowd, a wooden barricade went crashing down and Italian police were called to aid the Vatican gendarmes in controlling the crowd.

On Monday and Tuesday, the throngs continued to come, as many as 80,000 at a time standing in the cold rain waiting their turn to enter the Basilica. Many of the devout who wished to kiss the slipper of the dead Pope found that the body was removed far back from the grill-work in front of the chapel. In former times it was the custom to project the Pope's feet beyond the grill-work for that purpose. Instead, hundreds kissed the foot of the nearby bronze statue of St. Peter, worn smooth by the lips of countless thousands. INS reported that a million and a half mourners filed past the Pope's body Monday.

San Francisco, March 3 (CNA)—War Memorial Opera House was completely sold out for first of two concerts by Marion Anderson, Negro contralto, to whom the Daughters of the American Revolution refused the use of their Constitution Hall in Washington, D. C.

Washington, March 3 (CNA)—Outstanding white musical leaders and civic groups joined this week the rising chorus of protest against refusal of officials to permit Marion Anderson, world famous singer, to give a concert in Constitution Hall or Central High School Auditorium here.

The reactionary Daughters of the American Revolution, which owns and operates Constitution Hall, was the first to ban Miss Anderson's concert April 9. Attempts to transfer her concert to a local school auditorium failed when the school board refused its permission. Present plans call for Miss Anderson to sing in a church auditorium.

Washington citizens of all races and religions protested the discrimination at a spirited mass meeting last Sunday night at the Mt. Pleasant Congregational Church, 14th and Columbia Road N. W. The meeting was sponsored by more than 35 organizations, including civic, religious, educational, professional, parent-teachers, trade union, and fraternal group.

Protest telegrams and letters are pouring in from all parts of the country to Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., president of the DAR. One of the sharpest telegrams was received from the New York offices of the American Union for Democracy, William H. Osborn, president.

Richmond, Va. March 3 (CNA)—Students of William and Mary college (white), observed Negro History Week with a Chapel program sponsored by the American Student Union Chapter with James E. Jackson, Jr., a leader of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, as a principal speaker.

"Frederick Douglass stands in relation to Abraham Lincoln, as Thomas Paine to George Washington," Jackson said. "The period of our history just prior to the Civil War, the period in which Douglass made his greatest contribution, affords a remarkable parallel to our own time.

"The hesitating, vacillating attitude of the Northern states, have their modern counterpart in the bewildering conduct of the democratic powers, in not yet taking positive concerted action to stop the aggression of fascism.

"While lecturing in Ireland, Douglass pointed out that 'so long as chattel slavery exists in the world there will be no security for free labor in any part of the world, the spiritual source of the existing oppressive condition of the working men of London and Dublin has its roots in the system of Negro slavery in the United States.'

"In our own time: so long as slavery or fascism exists in the world, the people of the democratic nations can never have that security necessary for their peaceful development."

During the past week, Jackson, who is also a leader of the Tobacco Workers Union, addressed assemblies at Virginia Union University, Plyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA, Virginia Manual Labor School, and the Tobacco Workers Industrial Union.

**WHITE ARTISTS, CIVIC LEADERS ASSAIL BAN ON MARION ANDERSON**

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**Ran 'Subversive'**

Jascha Heifetz, noted white concert violinist, has denounced the DAR outfit and local school board officials for their action in barring their auditorium to Miss Anderson because of her race.

After a concert in Constitution Hall, Heifetz said he felt "ashamed" appearing in this auditorium which had been denied Miss Anderson.

"To think that this hall in which I played has been barred to a great artist because of her race made me ashamed," he said.

Heifetz was joined by Lucy Monroe and Frederick Jagel, Metropolitan Opera Company soprano and tenor, in protesting the Jim-crow ban. Miss Monroe said it was difficult to believe that "they won't let the greatest singer in the world sing in an auditorium of the nation's capital."

Miss Anderson has been hailed by Maestro Arto Aruro Toscanini as the world's greatest singer.

The ban on Miss Anderson was denounced as un-American and subversive by the American Union for Democracy in its telegram to the DAR president:

"We read with astonishment the

reports in the press that the Daughters of the American Revolution have refused the use of the Constitution Hall to Marion Anderson, the Noted Negro singer. This action, occurring as it does between the anniversaries of the birth of our country's two most revered Presidents, Washington and Lincoln, makes a mockery of the ideals for which they struggle and which every patriotic American should make his own.

"It subverts the clear meaning of the United State Constitution and particularly of the Bill of Rights, and places your organization composed of descendants of those who fought to make America the land of freedom, in the camp of those who today seek to destroy Democracy, Justice and Liberty.

"We can only hope that this amazing action reflects the opinion of some irresponsible official, and that your membership will be as vigorous in protesting as are we and all the lovers of our country."

In similar vein, Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relation Board, said that the DAR lacked "appreciation of the fundamentals which inspired the forefathers to whom the ladies now do lip service but whose ideals they now traduce." Smith spoke at a meeting of the Descendants of the American Revolution, a new society of men and women dedicated to fighting the modern Tories.

**WHITE VIRGINIA STUDENTS HONOR FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

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**AUTO WORKERS' JOURNAL COMPARES JEWS AND NEGROES**

Detroit, March 3 (ANP)—In a recent issue of the United Automobile Worker, UAW official organ, a writer asks the question, "Will the Negro worker in America become the Jew in Germany?" Amplifying on his theme, the writer berates sections of the country where Negroes are not allowed to walk on the same side of the street with white people, touches on discrimination in eating places and public meetings, declares the Negro workers in America face many of the conditions recently imposed on the Jewish people of Germany by Hitler.

The article continues, "The 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States freed the Negro as a chattel slave, but made a wage slave out of him. Many Negro workers today recognize that life, liberty and pursuit of happiness guaranteed them by the Constitution has merely given them the liberty to seek livelihood at the lowest wage, at the most menial tasks, and the liberty to

seek happiness which is as exclusive as the phenomenal prosperity which is periodically lurking around some unknown corner.

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**U. OF I. STUDENTS WRITES ENGLISH LESSON FOR ADULT PUPILS**

Campaign, Ill. March 3. (ANP)—Reginald F. Fisher, popular university of Illinois student and a leader in campus activities, has been given the difficult task of writing a series of English lessons that are being used by Adult Education teachers, assigned to the school's extension department.

Fisher is one of the student officials of the University YMCA, a member of the Men's Glee club and University chorus, the International Council of Religious Education, Committee on Allied Youth, Emergency Peace committee and other campus organization. He sings in Bethel AME Church choir, here, and belongs to Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and several honorary organization.

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**GEORGIANS ASK FULL EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS UNDER GAINES RULING**

Atlanta, March 3 (ANP)—There should be no compromise with the supreme court decision in the Gaines case, and Negroes should receive full benefits under the ruling either through admission to the state university system or by having built for them a separate but equal educational system, Negro members of the special committee on education of the Georgia Interracial committee declared in a special meeting Thursday.

Just what will be recommended by the committee will not be known until after a meeting on March 3.

Negro members include C. A. Scott, John Wesley Dobbs, B. T. Harvey, E. L. Brookes and college presidents Forrester B. Washington, J. W. Holley, B. F. Hubert, M. S. Davage and Rufus E. Clement.