



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1929

1929

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14

SURFACE COLOR TINTED PAPER



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*

The Papal Tiara or triple crown used at Coronations is generally believed to symbolize the sovereign authority of the Pope over the three churches — militant, suffering and triumphant or that the Pope is lawgiver, judge and teacher.

Its origin is lost in the veil of antiquity. Its evolution from one crown to its present three with gold cross is clothed in the venerable traditions of the Popes. The Crossed Keys is the insignia of authority of the Pope as successor to St. Peter, who as an Apostle of Christ received the original authority as the Bishop or Vicar of Rome.



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*

1-7 LH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1929

1929

UNWATERMARKED - PERF. 14



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI

Pope Pius XI (Achille Ratti 1857-1939). Born in Desio, Italy, was ordained a priest in 1879. After occupying several positions in the Vatican, he became Papal Nuncio to Poland. Became Pope Pius XI in 1922. In this capacity and in the face of the threatened World War II he guided the Vatican thru seventeen years of political and social upheavels in Italy and Europe.



Pope Pius XI

He installed the first modern communications, such as, telephone and radio in the Vatican. A great humanitarian, he issued many encyclicals on social and religious relations. His crowning achievement was the signing of the Lateran Pacts with Italy, establishing Vatican City as an independent State.



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES

1929

UNWATERMARKED - PERF. 14



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI

1933

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Vatican



Vatican

1945

UNWATERMARKED PERF. 14



Vatican



Vatican





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1931

THIRTY CENTIMES VALUE
OF 1929 ISSUE



OVERPRINTED IN
RED - C. 25

*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1933



Arms of Pope Pius XI



Vatican Palace



Vatican Palace



Vatican Palace

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Vatican Palace



Vatican Gardens



Vatican Gardens



Vatican Gardens



Vatican Gardens

14, 19-27 - L H





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PARCEL POST ISSUES

1931

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1929 OVERPRINTED "PER PACCHI"



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*

Q1-Q7 N-H





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PARCEL POST ISSUES

1931

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1929 OVERPRINTED "PER PACCHI"



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS OF 1929
OVERPRINTED "PER PACCHI"



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI

Q 8-15 -NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1933

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



St. Peter's



St. Peter's



St. Peter's

28.34 LH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SEMI-POSTAL ISSUES

1933

HOLY YEAR SERIES



Cross with Orb



Cross with Orb



Cross with Orb



Cross with Orb

Issued in commemoration of the nineteenth centenary of the Redemption.

B1-B4 -NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1934

STAMPS OF 1929 ISSUE SURCHARGED
WITH NEW VALUES



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL CONGRESS

1935



*Tribonian Presenting
Pandects to Justinian I*



*Tribonian Presenting
Pandects to Justinian I*



*Tribonian Presenting
Pandects to Justinian I*

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



*Pope Gregory IX
Promulgating Decretals*



*Pope Gregory IX
Promulgating Decretals*



*Pope Gregory IX
Promulgating Decretals*

This Congress of students and churchmen versed in Ancient Roman and Canon Law, assembled in Rome in 1934 to commemorate the presentation of the first codification or digest of Roman Law authorized by Emperor Justinian I and a similar presentation of canon or ecclesiastical law by Pope Gregory IX.

41-46-N-H





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CATHOLIC PRESS CONFERENCE

1936

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



Bell and Doves



Church and Bible



St. John Bosco



Bell and Doves



Church and Bible



St. John Bosco



St. Francis de Sales



St. Francis de Sales

Issued in honor of the International Congress of the Catholic Press in Vatican City 1936. Honored here in this connection are learned St. Francis de Sales Bishop of Geneva who, with the permission of the Church, read anti-religious literature with the express purpose of refuting it. St. John Bosco who, as founder of the Salesian Society, enlisted the aid of other clergy and laymen for the dissemination of information and the education particularly of younger boys.

Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

1938



Crypt of St. Cecilia



Crypt of St. Cecilia



Crypt of St. Cecilia



Basilica of St. Petronilla



Basilica of St. Petronilla

Picturing the Crypts and Basilica in the Catacombs of Domitilla, this group of stamps commemorates the International Archeological Congress held in Rome in 1938. Attending were students and scholars interested in the catacombs and restorations.



Basilica of St. Petronilla

55-60



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

AIR MAIL ISSUES

1938

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Statue of St. Peter



Dove of Peace



*Elijah's Ascent
into Heaven*



Our Lady of Loreto



Statue of St. Peter



Dove of Peace



*Elijah's Ascent
into Heaven*



Our Lady of Loreto

This represents the first set of airmails issued by Vatican City. Figures taken from various art treasures, are allegorical of the religious concepts of heaven and man's conquest of the air for peace.

C1-C8 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POPE PIUS XII CORONATION

1939

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



Coronation of Pope Pius XII



Coronation of Pope Pius XII



Coronation of Pope Pius XII



Coronation of Pope Pius XII

The occasion of the coronation of the Pope is a great day in Rome and for the Church. It is the culmination of centuries of tradition and is not an ordinary occurrence. On this day, March 12, 1939, the tiara or triple crown was placed on the head of Cardinal Pacelli, newly elected Pope Pius XII. The blowing of silver trumpets from the Dome of St. Peter's announces the beginning of the ceremonies. At the coronation of Pope Pius XII, eighty-five thousand people were crowded into St. Peter's with another half million outside to watch this five hour procession. It was the first coronation to be held outside the Basilica in 93 years.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

INTERREGNUM ISSUE

1939

STAMPS OF 1929 ISSUE OVERPRINTED "SEDE VACANTE"

From Feb. 10, 1939, on the death of Pope Pius XI, to March 2nd, day of the election of Pope Pius XII, the Catholic Church was without a head.



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*

"Sede Vacante" indicates that the chair is vacant. During this time, Cardinals from distant countries hasten to Rome to elect a new Pope.



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*



*Papal Tiara and
St. Peter's Keys*





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1940

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII

Pope Pius XII (Eugenio Pacelli) was born March 2, 1876 at Ponte near Rome. Because of his father's relationship with the Vatican, Pacelli practically lived there. He was a brilliant student at the Pontifical Gregorian University and at the age of 24 celebrated his first Mass. Desiring assignment to a Parish, he was far more valuable to the Vatican and was apprenticed to the Secretary of State. Subsequently, due to the death of Pope Pius X, he was elevated to the Congregation of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs. He became Papal Nuncio to Bavaria and in this capacity was consecrated Archbishop by Pope Benedict in 1917. In 1929, he was made a Cardinal and from then on toured extensively as Papal representative and on his return to the Vatican was made Secretary of State. He was elected Pope Pius XII on March 2, 1939.

72-76 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PRISONERS OF WAR SERIES

1942



Picture of Christ

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



Picture of Christ



Picture of Christ

Issued to bring international attention to the efforts of the Vatican on behalf of the prisoners of World War II.



77-79 NH

Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

EPISCOPAL SILVER JUBILEE

1942

UNWATERMARKED - PERF. 14



*Consecration of Archbishop
Pacelli by Pope Benedict XV*



*Consecration of Archbishop
Pacelli by Pope Benedict XV*



*Consecration of Archbishop
Pacelli by Pope Benedict XV*



*Consecration of Archbishop
Pacelli by Pope Benedict XV*

Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the consecration of Archbishop
Pacelli, who was to become Pope Pius XII: by Pope Benedict XV.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



PONTIFICAL ACADEMY ANNIVERSARY

1944

WATERMARKED CROSSED KEYS - PERF. 14



Raffaelli Sanzio



Antonio de Sangallo



Carlo Maratti



Antonio Canova

This issue commemorates the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the Pontifical Academy. Members of this Academy are men of outstanding achievements in the arts and sciences. Membership is by Pontifical invitation, in recognition of their work. Honored here are: Raffaelli Sanzio — famous painter and decorator of the Vatican; Antonio de Sangallo — architect for Pope Leo X; Carlo Maratti — painter of religious works, and Antonio Canova — Sculptor, famous for Orpheus and Eurydice.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



PRISONERS OF WAR SERIES

1944

INSCRIBED "MCMXLIII"



Picture of Christ



Picture of Christ

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



Picture of Christ

1945

WATERMARKED WINGED WHEEL

INSCRIBED "MCMXLIV"



Picture of Christ



Picture of Christ



Picture of Christ

84-86

99-101 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1945

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1945 OVERPRINTED WITH
BARS AND NEW VALUES - UNWATERMARKED PERF. 14



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



POSTAGE ISSUES OF 1945

UNWATERMARKED - PERF. 14



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Arms of Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius XII



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



1945

SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES

REGULAR ISSUE OF 1945 OVERPRINTED WITH
BARS AND NEW VALUES - UNWATERMARKED PERF. 14



Vatican



Vatican

F7-E8 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE DUE ISSUES

1931

1945



UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14

J1-J12 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

COUNCIL OF TRENT SERIES

1946



St. Maria Maggiore Church



St. Angela Mericia



St. Anthony Maria Zaccaria

UNWATERMARKED — PERF. 14



St. Ignatius of Loyola



St. Cajetan of Thiene



St. John Baptist Cardinal Fisher



Christopher Cardinal Madruzzo

The Council of Trent was originally convoked June 2, 1536 by Pope Paul III to be held at Mantua in 1537, but because of various difficulties and oppositions did not open until 1545 and then only by pressure of Pope Paul.

Essentially, the Council was to bring order, definitions and organization out of the various dogmas, creeds and dissensions existing in the Vatican at that time. It covered every subject, regardless of its relations to the Church.

Pope Paul III died in 1549 while the Council was meeting and, upon his succession, Pope Julius III ordered a re-establishment of the Council to prevent its termination. Sessions then continued until 1552 when the Council was suspended. It did not reopen until ten years later in 1562 under Pope Pius IV.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

COUNCIL OF TRENT SERIES

1946



Reginald Cardinal Pole



Marcellus Cardinal Cervini



*Gian Maria Cardinal
Cioocchi del Monte*



Emperor Charles V



Gian Matteo Giberti



Pope Paul III



Caspar Cardinal Contarini

In effect, the Canons of Trent are the doctrines and citadel of Rome as it exists today. Also, they resulted in a complete break from Protestant opinions forever and further re-established the hierarchy of the Church and resulted in greater strength for the Pope, though the original intentions were to circumscribe his powers.

Pictured on the stamps in this group are the personages historically identified with the political and religious aspects of the Council.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

BASILICAS AND TITULAR CHURCHES SERIES

1949



Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem



Church of St. Agnes



Basilica of St. Sebastian



Basilica of St. Lawrence



Church of St. Clement



Basilica of St. Paul

This set pictures the seven Penitential Basilicas of Rome which pilgrims visit to gain special indulgences. Four others picture Titular Churches and the other one shows a likeness of Pope Pius XII. The designs for the Basilicas and Titular Churches were taken from old engravings and are not entirely the reproductions of the buildings as they exist today. These are the works of Giambattista Piranesi (1720-78), a famous copper engraver of Roman antiquities, and Luigi Rossini (1780-1857), who followed closely the work of Piranesi. The likeness of Pope Pius XII was done by Prof. Corrado Mezzana.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



BASILICAS AND TITULAR CHURCHES SERIES

1949



Church of St. Praxedes



Basilica of St. Mary Major



Church of St. Mary in Cosmedin



Pope Pius XII

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Basilica and Piazza of St. Peter in Vatican City



Basilica of St. John Lateran

124-125
130-131
E11-E12 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

AIR MAIL SERIES OF 1947-48



Dove of Peace over St. Peter's House of Our Lady of Loreto Dove of Peace over St. Peter's



Swallows Circling Cross

House of Our Lady of Loreto

Swallows Circling Cross

Swallows Circling Cross

This series of seven stamps shows three different symbolical designs. The dove, with olive branch of peace in its beak and St. Peter Basilica in the background, is associated with the constant efforts for peace emanating from the Holy See. The second shows the Holy House of Loreto, so called from the tradition that the house, wherein the Holy Family dwelt at Nazareth, was transported by angels to the city of Loreto, Italy. Appropriately, the Madonna of Loreto has been acclaimed the patroness of aviators. The third design shows swallows flying around the cross and emblem of the three hills atop the Egyptian obelisk in the Piazza of St. Peter.



Younger Tobias and Heavenly Guide

Younger Tobias and Heavenly Guide

The design of these stamps, taken from a little known painting of Alessandro Botticelli (1447-1510), depicts the Old Testament incident wherein the younger Tobias was accompanied on his journey to the City of Rages by a dog and by a heavenly guide, the Archangel Raphael.

C9-C17 NH





JUBILEE HOLY YEAR

1949



Christ Giving Keys



Basilicas in Rome



Pope Boniface VIII



Pope Tapping Holy Door



Christ Giving Keys



Basilicas in Rome



Pope Boniface VIII



Pope Tapping Holy Door

Issued on December 21, 1949, this set commemorates the Holy Year which opened officially on the following December 24th. Four designs were used. The 5L and 20L represent Christ giving the keys, symbolical of papal primacy and temporal and spiritual power, to St. Peter, the first pope. This design is the central section of a mural painting in the Sistine Chapel of the Vatican, painted by Pietro Vannucci, usually known as Perugino (1445-1523). The 5L and 25L values show the four major basilicas of Rome to be visited for gaining the Holy Year Indulgence, - St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul. Although the design has a medieval flavor, it is likely of recent origin. The 8L and 30L values bear a fresco found in St. John Lateran, attributed to Giotto (1276-1337), representing Pope Boniface VIII proclaiming the first Jubilee Year in 1300 A.D. The year 1950 is the 25th regular Jubilee Holy Year, the intervals having been shortened gradually to 25 years. The 10L and 60L stamps show the Pope tapping the Holy Door with a silver hammer, the opening of which indicates the beginning of the Jubilee Holy Year.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION

1949



Angels with Clasped Hands



Angels with Clasped Hands

Angels with clasped hands in flight around the earth symbolize the Universal Postal Union on its 75th Anniversary. The illustration was designed by Nello Ena and the engraving prepared by M. Colombati. These much needed high value air post stamps were released on December 3, 1949.

PALATINE GUARD

1950



Palatine Guard



Palatine Guard



Palatine Guard

The Palatine Guard was organized by Pope Pius IX on December 14, 1850, from two previously existing bodies of militia. Ordinarily the duties consist mainly of standing guard during solemn functions and papal processions under the direction of the majordomo and the high chamberlain. The members are all Roman citizens and receive no remuneration for their services except a stipend for their uniforms. The set was issued on September 12, 1950.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

DOGMA OF ASSUMPTION

1951



Pope Pius XII



St. Peter's Square

This set of two stamps was issued on May 8, 1951 and commemorates the Enunciation of the Dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin made the later part of 1950. The 25 lire value shows Pope Pius XII proclaiming the Dogma from the Balcony of St. Peter's Church. Cardinals Canali and Mercati appear in the background. The 55 lire pictures St. Peter's Square thronged with Holy Year pilgrims applauding the proclamation of the Dogma by the Supreme Pontiff.

FIFTH CENTENARY OF GRATIANUS

1951



Franciscus Gratianus



Franciscus Gratianus

A set of two stamps was issued on December 20, 1951 to mark the Eighth Centenary of Francis Gratianus. He was a noted Italian Canonist and the founder of the science of Canon Law. Gratianus was a monk and taught in the Convent of San Felici in Bologna. His great work is the Decretum Gratiani.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

BEATIFICATION

1951



Pope Pius X



Pope Pius X



Pope Pius X



Pope Pius X

The beatification of the late Pope Santo (Pius X) forms the subject for this special commemorative set issued in June 1951. The four stamps show the head of the Pope in profile or full face against a gold background.

145-148 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

BASILICA OVERPRINT

1952



Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem

On March 15, 1952 a 12 lire provisional stamp was placed on sale. This was made by surcharging the 13 lire value of the Basilicas issue in red.

CENTENARY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

1952



Mail Coach

154-155 KH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CENTENARY OF POSTAGE STAMPS

1952



*Centenario del 1° Francobollo dello Stato Pontificio
1852-1952*

Mail Coach

Issued to commemorate the centenary of Roman States stamps. The design shows a mail coach coming out of the historical PONTEMOLLO Bridge in Rome. In the lower left corner is a reproduction of the 50 bajocchi stamp of the Roman States. The souvenir sheet, composed of four of the stamps, shows the Vatican coat of arms across the top.

155A NH





COUNCIL OF CALCEDONIA

1952



General Council in Session



Pope Leo Meeting Attila the Hun



General Council in Session



Pope Leo Meeting Attila the Hun



General Council in Session

The Council of Chalcedon was summoned in 451, by Pope Leo the Great. The purpose of the Council was to condemn the errors of the Eutyches who believed Christ had only one nature, and to confirm that there were two natures in Christ. One design shows the General Council in session while the other pictures Pope Leo the Great meeting Attila the Hun.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POPES

1953



St. Peter



Pius XII



St. Peter



Pope Sylvester I



Pope Julius II



Pope Paul III



Pope Sixtus V

158-164 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

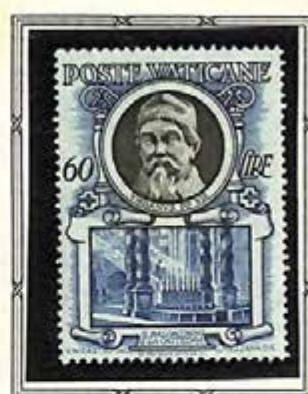
POPES 1953



Pope Paul V



St. Peter



Pope Urban VIII



Pope Alexander VII



Pope Pius XII



Pope Pius VI

This set of regular postage stamps has the history of Saint Peter's Basilica as its theme. Each stamp depicts a Pope along with his contribution to the basilica's embellishment. The basilica was erected over the tomb of St. Peter, the first pope, and is the largest church in the world today.



NH



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT MARIA GORETTI

1953



Saint Maria Goretti



Saint Maria Goretti

Saint Maria Goretti, Martyr of Purity, is one of the youngest saints of the Roman Catholic Church. At the age of 12, she met her death by refusing to sacrifice her chastity. This set commemorates the 50th anniversary of her martyrdom.



Saint Clare of Assisi

SAINT CLARE

1953



Saint Clare of Assisi

Born of a noble family of Assisi, in 1212, Saint Clare founded the order of Franciscan nuns, which spread rapidly through Europe. She guided the work of the order until her death in 1253. Two years after her death she was canonized by Alexander IV. Her festival falls on August 12th.



Saint Peter's Dome

DOME OF ST. PETER'S AIRS

1953

This new airmail set depicts the roof and dome of St. Peter's Basilica. The dome was designed by Michelangelo and erected at a cost of over 200,000 gold scudi. It is a familiar sight to visitors at the Vatican.



Saint Peter's Dome

156-57
168-70
C22-C23

NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT BERNARD

1953



Virgin Appearing to St. Bernard



Virgin Appearing to St. Bernard

St. Bernard was one of the last Fathers and Doctor of the Church. His accomplishments included the founding of monasteries, preaching the crusade, assisting at Councils, refuting Abelard, and writing treatises and sermons. This issue marks the eighth (8) centenary of his death.

PETER LOMBARD

1953



Episcopal Seal

Issued to mark the seventh (7) centenary of "Quatuor libro Sententiarum", compiled by Peter Lombard, the Archbishop of Paris. The design of the stamp reproduces his Episcopal Seal which also appeared in this theological work.



Pius XI and Vatican City

LATERAN PACT

1954



Pius XI and Vatican City

Issued to mark the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Lateran Pact that established the independent and sovereign State of Vatican City which is composed of 107.8 acres within the city of Rome.

173-175-NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POSTAGE DUES

1954



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys



Papal Tiara and Crossed Keys

SAINT PIUS X

1954



Saint Pius X



Saint Pius X



Saint Pius X

Issued on May 29, 1954, this series was released to mark the canonization of Pope Pius X, the 4374th Saint of the Catholic Church.

J7-J12 NH
182-183 NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

MARIAN YEAR

1954



Pius IX



Pius XII



Pius IX



Pius XII



Pius IX



Pius XII

Marian Year was the first year dedicated to the Mother of God in the annals of the Church. It began on December 8, 1954 and extended to December 8, 1954. This special jubilee marked the centenary of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

SAINT FRANCIS BASILICA

1954



Saint Francis Basilica



Saint Francis Basilica

Issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the elevation of the Basilica of St. Francis at Assisi to the rank of Patriarchal Basilica by Pope Benedict XIV on March 23, 1754.

176-181
185-186



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT AUGUSTINE

1954



Saint Augustine



Saint Augustine

This issue marks the 16th centenary of the Birth of Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo and one of the Fathers of the Church.

MARIAN YEAR TERMINATION

1954



Madonna of the Spiked Gate



Madonna of the Spiked Gate



Madonna of the Spiked Gate

The termination of Marian Year is marked by this set of three stamps based on a religious painting, "Madonna of the Spiked Gate" which graced a portal in the Jagellon Wall of Vilna. The identity of the artist appears to be a mystery.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ST. BONIFACE

1955



St. Boniface & Cathedral



St. Boniface & Cathedral



St. Boniface & Cathedral

Issued to mark the 12th centenary of the martyrdom of St. Boniface on June 5, 754, at Dokkum, the Netherlands. Saint Boniface, the German Apostle, is buried in the crypt of the Cathedral of the Holy Redeemer at Fulda which is pictured on the stamp.

FRA ANGELICO

1955



St. Lawrence & Pope Sixtus II



St. Lawrence & Pope Sixtus II

To mark the fifth centenary of the death of the famous Dominican painter, Fra Angelico, this set of two stamps was released on June 27, 1955. The design is taken from one of his paintings in the Chapel of Pope Nicholas V, located in the Vatican Museums.

192-196-NH





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POPE NICHOLAS V

1955



Pope Nicholas V



Pope Nicholas V



Pope Nicholas V

This set commemorates the fifth century of the death of Pope Nicholas V. His most outstanding achievements were the centralization of the Church government at the Vatican, patron of the arts, and his planning of the Vatican which earned him the title of, "The Father of the Modern Vatican."

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

1955



Saint Bartholomew



Saint Bartholomew



Saint Bartholomew

Issued December 29th, this set commemorates the ninth centenary of Saint Bartholomew of Grottaferrata. Shown in the background is the Grottaferrata monastery where the chapel named after him is located.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

1956

On February 22, 1956, this set of nine air mail stamps was released featuring the Archangel Gabriel. The designs were adopted by C. Dabrowska from three famous fifteenth century works of art: a painting by Melozzo da Forlì; a mosaic by Pietro Cavallini and a painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

The Archangel Gabriel, a messenger of God, was chosen patron of postal and tele-communication workers—the messengers of the people.



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel



Archangel Gabriel





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARDS

1956

To commemorate the 450th anniversary of the Pontifical Swiss Guards, this set was released on April 27, 1956. The designs depict Pontifical Swiss Guards in their present day uniforms. The effigy of Captain Gaspar Roust appears in the set.



Captain Gaspar Roust



Corporal with Cuirass and Great Sword

It recalls the most gallant stand of the Corps during the Sack of Rome in 1527 when they fought a delaying action to permit Pope Clement VII to attain safety. The Guardsmen who manned the barricades did not retreat, but were slain to the last man.



Swiss Guard Drummers



Captain Gaspar Roust



Corporal with Cuirass and Great Sword



Swiss Guard Drummers

SAINT RITA

1956



Saint Rita



Saint Rita



Saint Rita

The fifth centenary of the death of Saint Rita of Cascia was marked with this issue released in Vatican City on May 19, 1956. Saint Rita was known for her devotion to the Crown of Thorns. This devotion is illustrated in the stamps shown here.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

1956



Painting



Painting

The four hundredth anniversary of the death of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, was marked by this set picturing Saint Ignatius presenting the Society's rules to Pope Paul III on September 27, 1540, as his benefactor, Cardinal Contarini, looks on. The design for the stamps is taken from a painting in the Gesu Church in Rome.

SAINT JOHN OF CAPISTRANO

1956



St. John of Capistrano



St. John of Capistrano

Saint John of Capistrano, known as the Apostle of Europe, was honored by this issue on October 30, 1956 coinciding with the fifth centenary of his death. Not only was Saint John known as a writer and religious leader, but history tells us he was a warrior as well. He preached a Crusade which he led to defeat one hundred twenty thousand Mohamedans at Belgrade in 1455.

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

1956



Our Lady of Czestochowa



Our Lady of Czestochowa



Our Lady of Czestochowa

In 1656, King John Casimiro proclaimed Our Lady of Czestochowa as Queen of Poland. This issue marks the 300th anniversary of the proclamation and depicts the famed painting, attributed to St. Luke, with the ornate plate of precious metals and jewels superimposed on the original painting.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO

1957



St. Dominic Savio



St. Savio & St. Bosco



St. Dominic Savio



St. Savio & St. Bosco

Issued on March 21, 1957 to commemorate the centenary of the death of St. Dominic Savio. A student of St. John Bosco, St. Dominic is best remembered as the organizer of the Company of the Immaculate Conception which formed the nucleus of the Salesian Order. St. Dominic Savio was beatified in 1950 and canonized in 1954.

CAPRACANA COLLEGE

1957



Cardinal Capranica & College



Cardinal Capranica & College

The fifth centenary of the Capranica College was marked by this set issued on June 27, 1957. This, the oldest college in Rome, was founded by Cardinal Domenico Capranica in his own palace. Its constitutions, drawn up by the Cardinal, are regarded as a model of their kind. Two years after his death a special building for the college was erected by his brother, also a cardinal.



Pius XII & Plaque



Pius XII & Plaque



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

1957



Academy of Science

The 20th anniversary of the reorganization of the Pontifical Academy of Science by Pope Pius XI was marked by the release of this set on October 9, 1957. The academy's purpose is to promote the study and progress of the mathematical, natural, and physical sciences and their history. This, the first scientific academy, dates back to 1603. Its buildings now are the former Casino of Pius IV in Vatican City.



Academy of Science

MARIAZELL

1957



Mariazell Basilica



Mariazell Basilica



Altar & Miraculous Statue

Another set in a series to honor famous Marian Shrines throughout the world was released on November 14, 1957, to mark the eighth centenary of the Mariazell Shrine in Austria. Mariazell is the most famous Marian Shrine in Central Europe. A miraculous statue of the Madonna and Child is enshrined in the basilica. The statue is a 22 inch carving in Linden wood which in spite of its 800 years shows no sign of decay.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

APPARITIONS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

1958



Blessed Virgin



Invalid



St. Bernadette



Blessed Virgin



Invalid



St. Bernadette

The first apparition of the Blessed Virgin to St. Bernadette occurred on February 11, 1858 at the grotto in the Massabielle Cliff at Lourdes in southern France. This was the first of eighteen apparitions. Thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine annually where many verified miraculous cures have taken place. To commemorate the centenary of the apparitions, this set was placed on sale February 21, 1958 . . . one hundred years to the day when huge crowds first gathered at the grotto.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ANTONIO CANOVA

1958



Pope Clement XIII



Pope Clement XIV



Pope Pius VI



Pope Pius VII

The bicentenary of the birth of the renowned sculptor, Antonio Canova, was marked by this issue which pictures four of his most famous works: the statues of Clement XIII and Pius VI found in St. Peter's Basilica, the bust of Pius VII in the Vatican Museum, and the statue of Clement XIV in the Church of the Apostles, Rome. Canova, known as the founder of the modern classic school, was named Marquis of Ischia by Pius VII for his negotiations with Paris which resulted in the return of the art treasures pillaged from Rome by Napoleon.

BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

1958



Pope Pius XII



Vatican Pavilion



Vatican Pavilion



Pope Pius XII

This issue commemorates the Vatican participation in the Brussels International Exposition at Brussels, Belgium. The Vatican pavilion, "Civitas Dei" (City of God) consisted of three segments: a church, public hall and a dining area. It marked the first time that the Holy See participated in a non-religious affair of this nature.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



BRUSSELS EXHIBITION

1958

The special souvenir sheet, as well as the regular stamps, were placed on sale June 19, 1958. The stamps composing the souvenir sheet differ in size, color, and perforations from those of the regularly issued set. In addition to being sold at the Vatican post offices, the souvenir sheet was on sale in a specially cacheted envelope at the Vatican pavilion in Brussels.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



Cathedral

SAINT PETERS AIR MAILS

1958

This new airmail set depicts the roof and dome of St. Peter's Basilica. The dome was designed by Michelangelo and erected at a cost of over 200,000 gold scudi. It is a familiar sight to visitors at the Vatican.



Cathedral

SEDE VACANTE

1958



Coat of Arms



Coat of Arms



Coat of Arms

Released October 21, 1958, this set was issued for the period that the Roman Catholic Church was without a Pope, following the death on October 9, 1958 of Pius XII.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



CORONATION OF POPE JOHN XXIII

1959



Pope John XXIII



Coat-of-Arms Pope John XXIII

The four stamps marking the coronation of Pope John XXIII were issued on April 2, 1959. The 25 and 60 lire denominations show the new Pope standing attired in pontifical vestments, and wearing the triple crown, symbol of supreme authority over the Roman Catholic Church. The other two stamps in the series show the coat-of-arms of the new Pontiff in front of the symbolic crossed keys of St. Peter, surmounted by the jeweled tiaratum.

LATERAN PACT

1959



Pope Pius XI



Pope Pius XI

Printed by the photogravure process, this set commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Lateran Pact with Italy which established Vatican City as an enclave and defined relations between the Roman Catholic Church and Italy.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

MARTYRS OF THE PERSECUTION OF EMPEROR VALERIAN

1959

In August 258, Valerian, having failed to persuade Christians to pay the required "act of allegiance" issued an Imperial edict ordering that all bishops, priests and deacons of the church should immediately be put to death.



Saint Lawrence



Pope St. Sixtus II



Saint Agapitus



St. Felicitissimus



Saint Cyprian



St. Fructuosus

All of those honored by this set bore a common distinction . . . they suffered at the hands of the Roman Emperor Valerian. It will be remembered that the Roman State objected to the Christians not on the ground that they propagated a new religion, but that they refused to do homage to the "divinity" of the Roman Emperor, and thus, in Roman eyes, struck at the unity of the State.

AMPLIFICATION OF VATICAN RADIO

1959

The design for this stamp, though of a common nature, does convey the purpose of Vatican Radio. . . to broadcast the teachings of God as symbolized by the cross-shaped aerial. A statue of Archangel Gabriel, patron of communications, appears on the grounds of the new radio station which is located at Sant Maria di Galeria, just outside the city of Rome.



Aerial and Statue



Aerial and Statue



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



St. John Lateran Basilica

AIRMAIL
SERIES
OF 1959

1959



St. Mary Major Basilica



Apostolic Palace



Piazza del Popolo



Trinita del Monti



St. John Lateran Basilica



St. Mary Major Basilica



Apostolic Palace



Piazza del Popolo



Trinita del Monti

This set of ten air mail stamps was released on October 27, 1959. The designs depict obelisks which rise in front of famous basilicas of Greater Rome. Of particular interest is the fact that the 15L, and 100L, depict the obelisk of St. Peter's with the Apostolic Palace in the background as it appears late at night. The ray of light from the window of the Palace is the location of the Papal Apartment where Pope Pius XII worked until the early hours of the morning. A solemn memorial stamp to a great Pope.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CHRISTMAS

1959



The Nativity



The Nativity



The Nativity

To commemorate the feast of Christmas, the Vatican released a set of stamps depicting the famous painting "THE NATIVITY" by Raphael which is housed in the Vatican picture galleries. This painting is particularly noted for its warm coloring and warm feeling it generates to the viewer.

ST. CASIMIR

1958



Head of St. Casimir



Head of St. Casimir

Saint Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania and Poland, is often referred to as the King of Poland and Hungary though he never occupied the throne of either country. In 1471 he was sent by his father, King Casimir IV of Poland, to seize the crown of Hungary when he was but 15 years of age. He withdrew his troops without fighting and as a punishment his father had him imprisoned for three months. Upon release, he spent the rest of his short life in study and religious undertakings. He passed away in 1484 and was buried in Vilna in the Church of St. Stanislaus.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



Transept of St. John Lateran

ROMAN SYNOD

1960

The Roman Synod was convened by Pope John XXIII to institute reforms within the Dioceses of Rome. Its decisions which went into effect November 1, 1960, primarily concerned administrative reforms and discipline of the clergy.



Transept of St. John Lateran



Flight into Egypt

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

1960



St. Peter Giving Alms



Madonna of Mercy



Flight into Egypt



St. Peter Giving Alms



Madonna of Mercy

The first nation to honor the request of the UN to publicize the WRY through stamps, Vatican City portrayed the world's most famous refugees and depicted the need of both spiritual and temporal assistance. The proceeds of this issue were used for refugee relief work.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



Saint Antoninus

SAINT ANTONINUS

1960

This set commemorates the 5th centenary of the death of St. Antoninus, Archbishop of Florence (1389-1459). He was a prelate of the poor and oppressed and gained fame as a moral theologian and writer of local and international law.



St. Antoninus Preaching



Saint Antoninus



St. Antoninus Preaching

TRANSFER OF SAINT PIUS X

1960

This set commemorates the temporary transfer of St. Pius X to Venice to fulfill his promise to return when he went to Rome in 1903, for the Conclave which resulted in his election as pontiff.



Cardinal Sarto



John XXIII Kneeling



Funeral Procession





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1960



Feed the Hungry



Give Drink to Thirsty



Clothe the Naked



Shelter the Homeless



Visit the Sick



Ransom the Captive



Bury the Dead



Pope John XXIII Flanked by Faith & Charity



Arms of John XXIII Flanked by Hope & Justice



Arms of John XXIII Flanked by Hope & Justice

Released during the WRY, this set publicizes the various needs of the refugees. The famous ceramics of Giovanni della Robbia were used to portray the seven works of mercy and allegories of the remaining three values. These works are in the Civil Hospital at Pistoia, Italy.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

NATIVITY

1960



The Nativity



The Nativity



The Nativity

The second annual Christmas issue to be released by Vatican City depicts the Nativity by Gerard van Honthorst.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL & ST. LOUISA DE MARILLAC

1960



St. Vincent De Paul



St. Louisa De Marillac



St. Vincent with Child

St. Louisa De Marillac was St. Vincent De Paul's right hand in founding the Sisters of Charity subsequently called the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul. The unbounded Love of St. Vincent for the poor and unfortunate lead to the founding of the Vincentians. He is revered as the patron saint of all charitable societies.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT MEINRAD JUBILEE 1961



Saint Meinrad



Monastery at Einsiedeln



Our Lady of Einsiedeln

This commemorates the eleventh century of St. Meinrad, founder and patron of the shrine at Einsiedeln, Switzerland. St. Meinrad is depicted holding the Lady Chapel in which the statue of Our Lady of Einsiedeln is enshrined. The Benedictine Monastery was erected in 940 to enclose the cell of Brother Meinrad. Eight years later the Monastery Church was erected which enclosed the Lady Chapel.



Pope Leo meets Attila



Pope Leo meets Attila



Pope Leo meets Attila

SAINT LEO 1961

Leo, I, bestowed the exceptional powers as pastor and ruler, is a Doctor of the Church and one of the three popes who have been conferred with the title of "the Great." Though his accomplishments were numerous, history best remembers him as the savior of Rome. The emperor's armies were powerless in stopping Attila the Hun's pillaging of Italy. Pope Leo with a small number of the clergy journeyed to meet him, Leo convinced Attila to spare the Holy City. He is depicted in this role with Sts. Peter & Paul superimposed above on the stamps commemorating the fifteenth century of his death.

1961 L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO CENTENARY 1961



1861-1961 Mastheads



Editorial Offices



Printing Presses

L'Osservatore Romano (The Roman Observer) was established during the reign of Pius IX. The paper was established as a private enterprise as the Roman press had not served the public well. Its first issue was distributed July 4, 1861. When Rome fell in 1870 the Holy See assumed full charge of the paper. It has served as the Vatican daily newspaper and semi-official publication of the Holy See. Its circulation is the largest in Italy.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT PAUL'S ARRIVAL IN ROME

1961



Journey Map



St. Paul's Arrival



St. Paul's Basilica



While visiting the temple in Jerusalem, St. Paul was arrested, roughly handled and bound in chains. He vigorously defended himself before the tribune and was conveyed to Caesarea where he was imprisoned. While the trial dragged on for lack of evidence, he demanded, as a Roman Citizen, that his cause should be judged by the emperor himself. In the custody of a centurion he was sent to Miro. After a lengthy imprisonment he was tried and acquitted.

15TH CENTENARY OF ST. PATRICK

1961



Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick's Purgatory



Saint Patrick



Saint Patrick Purgatory

St. Patrick's first visit to Ireland was as a captive of Irish Marauders who sold him into slavery. During his captivity he mastered the Celtic tongue and as his master was a high priest, he learned the details of Druidism. After his escape Patrick placed himself under the guidance of St. Germain, to prepare for his return to Ireland. Pope Celestine I commissioned him to bring Christianity to the Irish. He returned to Ireland in 433 to spend the remainder of his life in converting the Irish.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CHRISTMAS

1961



Nativity



Nativity



Nativity

The design for the annual Nativity issue portrays the Birth of Christ by Luco Chen. The facial characteristics are oriental. This set marks the debut of a Chinese designer for Vatican stamps. It is also the first time Chinese effigies have been portrayed on stamps of Vatican City.



Roncalli Family Emblem



Scene of Baptism



Scene of Ordination

POPE JOHN BIRTHDAY

1961

The religious milestones in the life of Pope John XXIII are illustrated in this series by depicting the churches in which he was Baptized, Ordained a priest, and consecrated an archbishop. The Chair of Peter in the Apse of St. Peter's Basilica, the scene of his coronation, is depicted by the date of his election as pontiff, October 28, 1958.



Scene of Episcopal Consecration



Scene of Coronation



Pope John XXIII





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



Archangel Gabriel

AIR MAILS

1962

Featuring for their designs Archangel Raphael from Filippo Valle's painting of the Annunciation, this set of air mails was released on March 13th. The design is the work of Casimira Davrowska.



Archangel Gabriel

MALARIA ERADICATION

1962



Medal



Old Map



Medal



Old Map

The Vatican participated in the WHO Malaria Stamp Campaign with this set. The 15 and 70-line design features a medal cast by John Sixtus V to commemorate the work done toward draining the malarial Pontine marshes in 1588. The map on the 40 and 300-line stamps is an old one of the marshes, illustrating Pope Pius VI's efforts in draining the same general area during the late 18th century.



Paulina M. Jaricot



Paulina M. Jaricot



Paulina M. Jaricot

PAULINA M. JARICOT

1962

The year 1962 marked the centenary of the death, in 1862, of Pauline Jaricot. She was the French foundress of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The stamps bear a portrait of Pauline Jaricot which currently hangs in the Great Hall of the Superior Council of the Pontifical Organization for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PRIESTHOOD

1962

This set was released following the first International Congress on Priestly Vocations at the Vatican. Its purpose was to stimulate interest in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.



Statue: "The Good Shepherd"



Field of Wheat



Statue: "The Good Shepherd"



Field of Wheat



Statue: "The Good Shepherd"

SAINT CATHERINE

1962

Issued to commemorate the fifth centenary of the canonization of Saint Catherine of Siena. The common design used in the series portrays her in prayer during an execution. The design is taken from a fresco by Sodoma in the Church of St. Dominic in Siena.



St. Catherine in Prayer



St. Catherine in Prayer



St. Catherine in Prayer



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ECUMENICAL CONGRESS

1962



Madonna and Lamp



Praying Madonna



Madonna and Children



Papal Insignia



Congress in St. Peter's



Pope John



Head of St. Peter



The Host

Released October 30th, this set was issued to mark the opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. Conceived by Pope John XXIII, who began work on the project immediately upon his accession to the Papal throne, it is the second of its name, the first having been held in 1869.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ARCHEOLOGY

1962



Heads of St. Peter & St. Paul



Unconquered Cross



Heads of St. Peter & St. Paul

The 6th Congress of Christian Archaeology was held at Ravenna, Italy, from September 23 to 28 and was marked by this Vatican set issued September 25th. The Congress is the sixth in a series which was initiated at Spoleto in 1894. Fifteen nations were represented.



Unconquered Cross

CHRISTMAS 1962



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene

This three-stamp set for Christmas, 1962, was released on December 4th. For the central design, Vatican postal officials selected Indian painter Marcus Topno's Nativity scene.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER

1963



Miracle of Loaves & Fishes



Miraculous Catch of Fishes



Miracle of Loaves & Fishes



Miraculous Catch of Fishes

Issued to publicize the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Postal administrations throughout the world released similar stamps; some of the funds from their sale went to the FAO.



Pope John XXIII

PEACE PRIZE

1963

Shortly before his death Pope John XXIII was awarded the 1963 Balzan Peace Prize; this pair marks the event. The money was dedicated by the Holy Father to "a perpetual fund in favor of peace," an amount of about \$260,000.



Pope John XXIII

INTERREGNUM ISSUE

1963



Keys of St. Peter



Keys of St. Peter



Keys of St. Peter

This traditional "Sede Vacante" ("Vacant Seat") set was issued June 15, 1963, twelve days after the death of Pope John XXIII. The design is similar to that used in 1958 when Pope Pius XII died. Pope John reigned 4 1/2 years.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

POPE PAUL VI CORONATION

1963



Pope Paul VI



Coat of Arms



Pope Paul VI



Coat of Arms

These four stamps, issued October 16, 1963, honor the coronation of Pope Paul VI, successor to Pope John XXIII, who ascended the papal throne June 30, 1963. Both of the designs are the work of Casimira Dbrowska.

SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS

1963

This set honors the missionary work of the two brothers . . . St. Cyril and St. Methodius. The 70 lire denomination shows a map of Moravia, Hungary, and Poland, where the two brothers did their missionary work. A hairline white cross is centered on Moravia, where, at Velehrad, the apostolate began. The map was taken from a 16th century fresco.



St. Cyril



Map of Moravia, Hungary, and Poland



St. Methodius



Nativity Design



Nativity Design



Nativity Design

CHRISTMAS

1963

The 1963 Vatican Christmas set features a sub-Sahara African Nativity in a circular vignette. The inscription reads, "BIRTH OF OUR LORD CHRIST." First day of issue was November 22nd.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

PILGRIMAGE

1964

Early in January, 1964, Pope Paul VI made a historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land to visit the birthplace of Christianity and to pay homage at some of the world's holiest shrines.



Pope Paul VI

These four stamps were issued January 4, 1964; they show the Holy Father and views of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Nazareth, all of which the Pontiff visited on his journey.



Bethlehem



Jerusalem



Nazareth

MONUMENTS

1964



Relief Sculpture



Porticus Traiana



Relief Sculpture



Porticus Traiana

This set, issued March 10, 1964, publicizes the efforts to save the Nubian Monuments, ancient temples on the Nile in Egypt. Threatened with flooding from the waters of the Aswan Dam, the Monuments are being moved from their present sites, a costly project financed by the United Nations and many countries.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

1964



Pope Paul VI



"La Pietà"



Pope Paul VI



Virgin Mary

Early in 1964, for the first time in 400 years, Michelangelo's "Pietà" left St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome, its destination the Vatican Pavilion at New York's World's Fair. This priceless sculpture, produced by one of the great men of the Italian Renaissance, was promised to the Fair by Pope John XXIII before he died. This set honors the Fair.



Michelangelo

MICHELANGELO

1964

On June 16, 1964 a set of four stamps was issued to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the famous painter . . . Michelangelo Buonarroti. One of his many famous masterpieces was "La Pietà" which was transported from the Vatican to the New York World's Fair in 1964. Born in 1475, Michelangelo died in 1564.



Isaiah



Delphic Sibyl



Jeremiah



Joel



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

RED CROSS CENTENARY

1964



Good Samaritan Tending Wayfarer



Good Samaritan Tending Wayfarer



Good Samaritan Tending Wayfarer

This series of three stamps commemorating the Red Cross Centenary was placed on sale September 22nd. The design shows the good Samaritan tending the wayfarer. The inscription at the top of the stamp reads, "Samaritanus Misericordia Motus Est" (The Samaritan was moved to mercy) and the small inscription just below ("Luc. X. 33") identifies the Biblical text.

CHRISTMAS 1964



Nativity Scene — Japanese Style



Nativity Scene — Japanese Style

The 1964 Christmas set . . . in three denominations . . . shows a Nativity scene, Japanese style. The stamp design is after a painting by T. Kimiko Koseki.



Nativity Scene — Japanese Style



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

CARDINAL NICOLA CUSANO

1964



Cardinal Cusano's Birthplace

The fifth centenary of the death of the German Cardinal Nicola Cusano was marked by this set. Designed by Casimira Dobrowska, the 40-lire denomination depicts the Cardinal's birthplace and the 200-lire his sepulchre.



Cardinal Cusano's Sepulchre

VISIT TO INDIA

1964



Pope Paul Praying



View of Bombay



Gateway to India from Sea



Pope Paul & Map of India

This set commemorates the visit of Pope Paul VI to India and to the 38th International Eucharistic Congress in Bombay. Each stamp is inscribed, "Paulus VI Missionarius Apostolicus" (Pope Paul VI Apostolic Missionary).



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

MARTYRS OF THE UGANDA

1965



Martyrs of Uganda



Martyrs of Uganda



Martyrs of Uganda



Martyrs of Uganda



Martyrs of Uganda



Martyrs of Uganda

Cosmira Dobrowska, the Polish-born artist, designed this set issued to honor the Martyrs of Uganda. All twenty-two of the new Negro saints are shown in this six stamp series. The martyrs were natives of Buganda where Christian missionaries tried to win converts from the Moslem faith in the 1880's. The king, whose name was Mwanga, turned against the Christian converts . . . speared three . . . had others rounded up for a death march.



St. Benedict by Perugino

SAINT BENEDICT

1965

Issued to commemorate the conferring of the title Patron Saint of Europe upon Saint Benedict by Pope Paul VI, and to commemorate the restoration of the Abbey of Monte Cassino where he died in 543.



View of Monte Cassino



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

DANTE ALIGHIERI

1965



Dante by Raphael



*Dante and the Three Beasts
at Entrance to the Inferno*



*Dante and the Virgil
at Entrance to Purgatory*



Dante & Beatrice in Paradise

Dante Alighieri is honored by this set marking the 700th anniversary of his birth. Raphael's portrait of Dante, from the Disputa fresco in the Vatican Library, provides the design for the 10-lire denomination. The other three denominations show Botticelli drawings of the Inferno, Purgatory and Paradise.

VISIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1965



Pope Paul VI



Globe & UN Building



Globe & UN Building



Pope Paul VI



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene

CHRISTMAS

1965

In the past, the Vatican has selected Nativity scenes as depicted by a Japanese artist and an African artist. The 1965 Christmas issue shows Peruvians celebrating Christmas at the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES



Pope Paul VI

DEFINITIVE ISSUE

1966



Organist



Cartographer



Painter



Sculptor



Bricklayer



Printer



Plowing Farmer



Blacksmith



Scholar



Coat of Arms



Pope Paul VI

In November, 1964, Pope Paul VI consecrated the altar in his renovated private chapel in the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican. The designs of most of these regular stamps (which replace the 1960 Works of Mercy set) are adapted from the bronze panels on a chair facing this new altar. The panels depict human labor which serves the Eucharist in the building and decorating of churches, supplying the bread and wine for the Eucharistic Service, and (in the case of music) participating in the liturgy of the Mass. The stamps were issued March 8, 1966.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

MILLENNIUM OF POLAND

1966



King Mieszko I and Queen Dabrowka



St. Adalbert (Wojciech) and Cathedrals of Wroclaw and Gniezno



St. Stanislas, Skalka Cathedral and Wawel Royal Palace, Cracow



Queen Jadwiga (Hedwig), Ostra Brama Gate with Madonna, Wilno and University Library



Black Madonna, Jaina Gora Monastery and St. John's Cathedral



Pope Paul VI Blessing Students and Farmers

Poland in 1966 celebrated a joint anniversary, the 1000th anniversary of the Christianization of the country and the millennium of nationhood. This set, released May 3, 1966, commemorates the former event and features rulers and religious leaders of Poland. The L.220 value bears the traditional greeting of the Polish people: "Praised Be Jesus Christ." At the bottom is the response: "For ever and ever, Amen."

CHRISTMAS 1966



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene



Nativity Scene

The annual Christmas Series was placed on sale November 24th. The design is the work of R. Scarzelli and is an impressionistic study of a peasant mother and child with the father looking on. The inscription reads, "Nativity of Our Lord Christ."



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

1966



Pope John Being Borne to Opening



Ancient Bible Displayed at Sessions



Assembly of Bishops for Mass



Pope Paul Greeting Meliton



Gold Ring Given to Bishops



Pope Paul Dismissing the Council

This six-value set — issued October 11, 1966 — marks the fourth anniversary of the opening of Vatican II, the historic Ecumenical Council. Similar in format to the set released to mark the Council's opening, these adhesives depict actual events or objects associated with the Council. The border legend says: "Vatican Second Ecumenical Council Finishing in 1965."





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

AIR MAILS

1967



St. Peter's Basilica & Jet



Radio Antenna & St. Gabriel



St. Peter's Square



St. Peter's Basilica & Jet



Radio Antenna & St. Gabriel



St. Peter's Square

These six airmails, featuring views of the Vatican, were issued on March 7, 1967. The design of the L.40 and L.200 values was originally used for the two stamps issued in 1959 to mark the second anniversary of the Vatican radio station, St. Maria di Galeria, twelve miles outside of Rome. The stamps have a crossed keys watermark.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

1967

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima, Portugal, Pope Paul VI made a historic pilgrimage to the holy shrine.



Three Children Statue



Basilica at Fatima



Pope Paul at Shrine

Here he met the surviving member of the three children who had the visions of the Virgin in 1917. The stamps came out on October 13, 1967.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

SAINT PETER and SAINT PAUL

1967



St. Peter



St. Paul

The 1900th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Apostles Peter and Paul is marked by these stamps, issued June 15, 1967. The portraits of the Saints are early mosaics in the Catacombs of Sts. Peter and Marcellinus in Rome. The gilt glass window on the L.55 value is in the Sacred Museum of the Vatican Library.



Sts. Peter & Paul



Bernini's Canopy, St. Peter's



St. Paul's Basilica



Congress Emblem

WORLD CONGRESS

1967

These two stamps were issued to mark the convening of the Third World Apostolic Congress of the Laity, which met in Rome October 11-18, 1967. The design common to both values features the Congress emblem, which symbolizes the ecumenical and international motivation of the Congress.



Congress Emblem

CHRISTMAS

1967



Madonna Icon



Madonna Icon



Madonna Icon

The Byzantine icon of the Madonna shown on these stamps dates back to the ninth century. The scene decorates a lid of a chest kept in the museum of the Vatican Library. The designs in the chest were brought to Rome from sacred places in the Holy Land. The stamps were issued November 28, 1967.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

AIR MAIL

1968



Angel Gabriel

These two air post stamps, printed by engraving, were issued on March 12, 1968. The portrait of the Angel Gabriel was done by the Italian Fra Angelico. Gabriel has appeared on a number of earlier Vatican air mails, most recently the two Radio Tower stamps of 1967 and the two high value air regular issues of March 13, 1962.



Angel Gabriel

POSTAGE DUES

1968



Papal Arms



Papal Arms



Papal Arms



Papal Arms



Printed by photogravure and engraving, these postage due stamps were released on May 28, 1968. They replace a set issued in 1954, and are the third postage due series of the Vatican to depict the Papal coat of arms. The first Vatican postage dues of 1931 had been produced by overprinting 1929 regular issue stamps.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

VISIT TO COLOMBIA

1968



Pope Paul VI



Fresco by Raphael



South America

This set of stamps, issued August 22, 1968, marks the historic flying visit of Pope Paul VI to the 39th Eucharistic Congress in Bogota, Colombia (August 22-25, 1968), where millions hailed him, the first Pope to travel to South America. With this trip to still another continent, the Holy Father continued to fulfill his pledge to be a "Pilgrim Pope."

CHRISTMAS

1968



Infant of Prague

Polish artist Cosimir Dobrowska is responsible for the design of this 1968 set of Christmas stamps, the first such Vatican issue that does not feature a Nativity scene. The portrait of the infant Jesus featured on all three denominations is taken from an old statue in the Cathedral of Prague, Czechoslovakia.





Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

EASTER

1969



The Resurrection by Fra Angelico



The Resurrection by Fra Angelico



The Resurrection by Fra Angelico

This issue, released March 6, 1969, commemorates Easter 1969. The design features "The Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ" painted by Fra Angelico. Christians believe that Christ was the Son of God become man, and that He was put to death in His human nature on Good Friday by crucifixion and rose from the dead to life on Easter Sunday.

EUROPA

1969



EUROPA and CEPT



EUROPA and CEPT



EUROPA and CEPT

The Vatican issued its first EUROPA stamps on April 28, 1969 in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of CEPT . . . Conference on European Posts and Telecommunications.



Vatican City

POSTAL ISSUES

AFRICA FLIGHT

1969



Pope Paul VI and African Children



Pope Paul VI and African Bishops



*Map of Africa with Kampala,
Olive Branch and Compass Rose*

Issued to commemorate Pope Paul's historic visit to Africa July 31 to August 2. His visit to African bishops and African leaders was in quest for peace... especially in connection with the Nigeria-Biafra conflict.

SAINT PETER'S CIRCLE

1969



Pope Pius IX



Society Emblem



Pope Paul VI

Released in connection with the celebration of the Centenary of St. Peter's Circle. Founded by Pius IX in 1869, he is pictured on the 30L denomination.