

# His Manner Is Gentle, His Ideals Firm

Giovanni Cardinal Montini, a veteran of some 30 years' service in the Vatican Secretariat of State, has been chosen Vicar of Christ.

The new pope is of medium height, spare build, and has blue eyes and a light complexion. His manner is gentle and his voice soft, but he does not hesitate to use that voice effectively and often in defense of Christian ideas and ideals.

The pope, who served for some 10 years as either ecclesiastical assistant or moderator to the university section of Italian Catholic Action, repeatedly stressed the need for Catholic youth to meet boldly, with the armor of Faith, the challenges of the modern world.

**IN A SPEECH** in 1957, on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Italian Youth Movement, he said: "It is up to youth to invade new regions of life, bringing to them Christian light and love. Defense is not enough for the Christian heart — there must be conquest."

Five years before the Second Vatican Council was convoked by John XXIII, Archbishop Montini cited the importance of an ecumenical attitude toward non-Catholics.

"Is it well-professed orthodoxy to use truth as a hammer against others?" he asked in a Unity Octave sermon in February, 1957. "... We must not only nourish an immense feeling of charity towards our brothers who have wandered astray, we must also learn something from them."

**IN JANUARY, 1962**, Cardinal Montini made a statement that could be regarded as a foretelling of the ecumenical council, which opened in October of that year.

"Our spiritual attitude toward them [non-Catholics] must change," the Cardinal said in a pastoral letter. "We must no longer consider them irreducible and foreign enemies, but brothers who have been painfully detached from the life tree of the one and only true Church of Christ. One must hope sincerely that some new and great event may come to change this sad state of schism among Christians."

Pastoral function and organization have received much attention from the new Holy Father. In July, 1957, while an archbishop, he spoke at the dedication in Milan of the Saranno House of Studies, where newly ordained priests study for a year the methods of pastoral practice.

"A CHANGE in the methods and form of [pastoral] organization is necessary if the Gospel message is to reach that great audience represented by the common people," he said then.

Pope Paul, who in 1953 was permitted by Pope Pius XII to refuse elevation to the cardinalate, has long been an arch foe of communism. Six months after he was named Archbishop of Milan, he took the offensive against communism in the Lombardy region of Italy by making a speech in the suburb of Sesto San Giovanni, so powerful a Red stronghold at the time that it was called "The Little Stalingrad." The Archbishop drove home the point to the almost 100



**A KINDERGARTEN VISITOR** — The new Pope Paul VI, is pictured, when as Archbishop of Milan, Italy, he visited a kindergarten run by a factory there for children of its workers. He is shown with a group of the children, in 1955.

per cent communist workers that they had been duped by the lies of communist leaders.

In a Lenten pastoral in 1956, Archbishop Montini warned that "every compromise of atheistic communism hides a secret plan to disarm and subjugate whomever deals with it."

**IN AUGUST, 1959**, the Bishops of the Lombardy region, led by Cardinal Montini, warned in a long pastoral letter that "the propagation of Marxist ideas in our country is still serious and dangerous."

Giovanni Battista Montini no doubt acquired much of his interest in politics and diplomacy from his father, who served for three terms as a member of the Italian Parliament and was editor of a newspaper in Brescia.

The future Pope was born on September 26, 1897, in Concesio, located on the outskirts of Brescia. He received a canon law degree from the Pontifical Seminary in Milan and was awarded a degree in Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome.

**AFTER HIS** ordination on May 29, 1920, he served for a brief period as a parish priest and then enrolled in the Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome, where the Vatican's diplomats are trained.

He was only 25 when he was named by Pope Pius XI to serve as an attache at the Papal Nun-

ciature in Warsaw in 1922. He was in this post for a year, then was appointed ecclesiastical assistant to the university section of Italian Catholic Action and later its moderator.

In 1932, at the age of 35, he was made a clerk in the Vatican Secretariat of State by Pope Pius XI, and four years later he was promoted to the position of under-secretary to the Papal Secretary of State. This office had been held by Pope Pius XII before his election to the papacy.

**IN 1944** he was named a Vatican Substitute Secretary of State, together with the late Domenico Cardinal Tardini, and in 1952 he was named Pro-Secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs.

In 1953, when Pius XII created 24 new cardinals, he revealed that he had planned to name both Msgr. Montini and Msgr. Tardini as cardinals, but they had asked him not to do so.

Referring to this in 1958, when he accepted elevation to the cardinalate during the reign of Pope John XXIII, Cardinal Montini said: "Formerly, I was allowed to refuse this dignity. And for this favor I am grateful to Pope Pius XII. . . Now other circumstances compel me to accept, and for this other favor I am no less grateful to His Holiness Pope John XXIII."

**IN NOVEMBER, 1954**, Msgr. Montini was made an archbishop

and appointed to the See of Milan. He was enthroned in Milan's Cathedral on January 6, 1955. Eight months later he began a pastoral visitation of the 1,000 churches in the Milan archdiocese, a task that was to take him nearly two years to complete. Archbishop Montini was created a cardinal on December 15, 1958 — the first to be created a cardinal by Pope John.

Cardinal Montini has visited the U.S. twice, in 1951 and in 1960. At a reception in his honor in 1951 at the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, D.C., he lauded the work of America's Catholic schools and its Catholic press. Referring to the N.C.W.C., he said: "We have often heard of its activities and know how many valuable services it renders to the Church."

During his 1960 visit, the Cardinal said at a press conference in Boston that he was "very pleased to see Catholics here taking such interest in the condition of the Church in South America."

**HE SINGLED OUT** for praise the missionary activities in South America of the Society of St. James the Apostle, founded by Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston.

In 1962 Cardinal Montini visited missions and cities in Ghana, Upper Volta, Nigeria and Southern Rhodesia. On his return to Milan, he said: "The Church in Africa is not regarded as a colonizing power but as a friend who seeks to aid greatly the progress of the African people."

The Cardinal does not cushion his words when speaking against lukewarm Christianity or other things he considers objectionable, but he is gentle and considerate in

his role of chief pastor of the people.

**HE SPENT** the summer before he was created a cardinal in visiting parishioners living in the remote mountain towns of the Milan archdiocese. During these visitations to the people — most of them farmers, shepherds or woodcarvers — Archbishop Montini repeated the following words to them: "Because you are farther away and more humble, you are dearer to me."

In his speeches, he has criticized writers who say they need "to have experience of evil," scores of priests who have a narrow concept of their duties, cited the need for Catholics to defend their press, attacked the obscurity of some modern art, and warned against attempts to dilute ecclesiastical authority.

## Coronation

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the enthroned pontiff, saying: "Accept this ornate tiara of the three crowns and remember that you are father of princes and kings, pontiff of the world, and vicar on this earth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, whose honor and glory is forever and ever."

The Pope is crowned.

**IN THIS CASE**, Pope Paul is using a gem-studded tiara dating back seven pontificates, and used for coronations ever since 1878 because of its relatively light weight — two pounds. The Vatican owns other triple tiaras symbolizing the supreme papal authority. But the one now in use is the only one suitable for use without imposing

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