

THE HOLY YEAR

On the 25th of December, 1949, Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, made a special plea to the whole universe to pray during the year 1950 for the conversion of the world, for the sanctification of souls, and for peace. It was on this Christmas Day that the Holy Year of 1950 began; it is meant to be a year of special prayer so that the main purpose of the Holy Year, that of sanctification of souls through prayer and penance, may be realized.

An accurate account of the significance and purpose of a Holy Year is given in the Book of Leviticus, a beautiful, inspired, literary monument of antiquity. Civil and ecclesiastical laws are given for a well ordered social life and precepts for the official worship of God. These rules are the foundation on which the Israelites built their lives. the first source of a Holy Year is found in these rules and precepts. When God related to Moses that He should keep the Sabbath holy, He also said: "The seventh year shall be the Sabbath of the earth and the rest of the Lord. Thou shalt count also seven weeks of years, seven times seven which makes forty-nine years. And thou shalt sanctify the fiftieth year announcing remission to all the inhabitants of the earth, for it is the Jubilee. Each man shall return to the possession of his goods and shall be one of his family because it is the Jubilee and fiftieth year." (Book of Leviticus; Chapter 25). The Jews called it "The Year of the Jubilee," the word 'Jubilee' deriving from Yobel, the ram which leads the flock, and the trumpet made of the horn of the ram, its beautiful and happy note announcing a rich and joyous year. In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called it the Holy Year because it is the year in which the Christian spirit is renewed by overcoming the spirit of darkness.

Probably the object and importance of the Holy Year is not sufficiently realized by all Catholics. Maybe it is just another year for them to live, probably meriting reward and graces, and making the same usual effort to save their souls and probably the souls of others. The purpose of the Holy Year is this and much more. As our Holy Father clearly stated, it is a call to everyone for sanctification through prayer and penance. "Let petition be made to God that all, by prayer and penance, may expiate their sins, strive to reform their lives and to acquire Christian virtue, so that this great Jubilee may happily prepare the general and universal return to Christ." This, the intention of the Holy Year, requires good will on the part of everyone to contribute his or her share to make this Jubilee a success. It is an invitation to Catholics everywhere to

THE HOLY YEAR

On the 25th of December, 1949, Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, made a special plea to the whole universe to pray during the year 1950 for the conversion of the world, for the santification of souls, and for peace. It was on this Christmas Day that the Holy Year of 1950 began; it is meant to be a year of special prayer so that the main purpose of the Holy Year, that of santification of souls through prayer and penance, may be realized.

An accurate account of the significance and purpose of a Holy Year is given in the Book of Leviticus, a beautiful, inspired, literary monument of antiquity. Civil and ecclesiastical laws are given for a well ordered social life and precepts for the official worship of God. These rules are the foundation on which the Israelites built their lives. the first source of a Holy Year is found in these rules and precepts. When God related to Moses that He should keep the Sabbath holy, He also said: "The seventh year shall be the Sabbath of the earth and the rest of the Lord. Thou shalt count also seven weeks of years, seven times seven which makes forty-nine years. And thou shall sanctify the fiftieth year announcing remission to all the inhabitants of the earth, for it is the Jubilee. Each man shall return to the posession of his goods and shall be one of his family because it is the Jubilee and fiftieth year." (Book of Leviticus, Chapter 25). The Jews called it "The Year of the Jubilee," the word 'Jubilee' deriving from Yobel, the ram which leads the flock, and the trumpet made of the horn of the ram, its beautiful and happy note announcing a rich and joyous year. In 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called it the Holy Year because it is the year in which the Christian spirit is renewed by overcoming the spirit of darkness.

Probably the object and importance of the Holy Year is not sufficiently realized by all Catholics. Maybe it is just another year for them to live, probably meriting reward and graces, and making the same usual effort to save their souls and probably the souls of others. The purpose of the Holy Year is this and much more. As our Holy Father clearly stated, it is a call to everyone for santi-fication through prayer and penance. "Let petition be made to God that all, by prayer and penance, may expiate their sins, strive to reform their lives and to acquire Christian virtue, so that this great Jubilee may happily prepare the general and universal return to Christ." This, the intention of the Holy Year, requires good will on the part of everyone to contribute his or her share to make this Jubilee a success. It is an invitation to Catholics everywhere to

pilgrims are obliged to fulfill certain spiritual and material conditions; these conditions have been given by the Pope in the following manner: first, unequivocal and total repentance; second, confession and Holy Communion; third, devout visits to, and recital of certain special prayers in the four major basilicas of the Eternal City. The pilgrims, in fulfilling these conditions, must have the intention of meriting the reward; they must fulfill these conditions with all sincerity and truthfulness. The millions of others who are unable to make the pilgrimage to the Holy City have only limited opportunities of gaining the Indulgence. The Indulgence can be gained by the recitation of the Rosary, making the Stations of the Cross, and by frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament; the Indulgence granted in this case is applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. The Jubilee Indulgence may be gained by those who find it practically impossible to make the pilgrimage to Rome. In general, the Holy Year Indulgence is suspended for the living people who do not visit Rome during 1950.

Not departing from tradition during this Jubilee year, a Papal Medal has been designed by a special sculptor and medalist to the Holy See and will be made available to thousands around the globe. A tradition such as this is very rich and refined; the medal recalls the great role of the Papacy in the numismatical arts when certain Popes began experimenting with a press for Papal leaden seals. The face of this medal carries a dominant profile of Pope Pius XII; on the reverse, the scene, in particular artistic perfection, of the opening of the Holy Door, is imbedded. The medal is claimed to be a very suitable souvenir as well as a unique memento of the great event of the Jubilee Year.

The Holy Year has traversed one-quarter of its path; we hope and pray that this great spiritual movement gains momentum as it grows older. With the records of our efforts for the past three months already filed, a regeneration is imminent if we continue to do our share and, if possible, more than our share, in the remaining months that lie ahead.

—RUPERT MacLELLAN '50.

SONGS OF WINTER

Whence gush the songs of snow-wrapped winter,
When summer-singer's nests are barren and bare,
When sleeps the once chant-churning river,
When lifeless, the frost-kissed meadow and vale air?