

SAINT PIUS X

Guiseppe Sarto was born on June 2nd, 1835, to simple, pious, hard-working country folk, who had not a great deal of the goods of this world—but their wealth consisted of their profound faith, which they handed down to their children.

Guiseppe began to attend the elementary school of the village at a very early age, where he manifested his unusual intelligence and the desire to become a priest. In spite of all worldly persuasions and hardships the divine whisper which he heard deep down in his heart would not be silenced.

In 1850 he entered the seminary of Padua on a scholarship where he proved himself eminent in study, in diligence and piety. During the eight years he spent in the seminary he left nothing to be desired. He was a constant example of sincerity, piety and conduct. On September 18th, 1858, he was ordained a priest, filled with joy and radiant with the deepest faith.

His first appointment was as curate in the parish of Tombolo, where he never wearied in the work of the Lord, consoling the afflicted, calling people to their duties, settling disputes, making peace among families and inciting all to do good and avoid evil, while making the Eucharist the centre of his life.

In 1867 he received the unpopular appointment of parish priest of Salzano, where he met with much misunderstanding and bitter criticism from the Salzanese themselves. However the Salzanese came to regard their pastor not merely the best they had ever had or the best they could ever hope for, but as something altogether outside the ordinary; in a word as a Saint. Don Sarto's heart was filled with grief on September 17th, 1875 when he was appointed to the Canons of Treviso and he had to leave his beloved parish avoiding the people who had once avoided him.

Monsignor Sarto then took up his work in the capacity of diocesan chancellor and spiritual director of the seminary. He was frowned upon, tolerated and finally loved by the seminarians of Truiso. He was promoted to Episcopal Chancellor, Vicar Capitular and voices telling of dignity and honor buzzed about him, conspiring to rob him of his peace, but for him they were but empty words; his heart beat solely for duty, for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. However he was made Bishop of Mantua in 1885 and he accepted with grief in his heart and tears in his

eyes, uniting his sorrows to that of the Man of Sorrows.

His appointment as Bishop of Mantua marked the resurrection of the whole diocese of Mantua in his one ambition—to see all the children under his care united in one large, happy family, in the shelter of which their souls would be safe. For this he considered no sacrifice too great and had to undergo great fatigue, encounter dangers, suffer insults and strive against the foe who seeks its ruin. His priests, elevated above all human beings, he taught, must keep himself above human interests, their first care being the salvation of souls and the greatest means must be charity and counsel.

It was Bishop Sarto's wish that his whole life be spent among the Mantuans but Pope Leo XIII had long been watching his untiring and whole-hearted activity, resplendent with heroic virtues and had destined him for greater honors.

In the State Consistory on June 12th, 1893, he created him Cardinal and three days later promoted him to the Patriarchate of Venice on account of the greatness of his merits as Bishop of Mantua. This dignity which had been so foreign to his thoughts and so opposed to his ambitions, he prayed and attempted every possible means to withdraw from the honor which he dreaded as a plague.

In 1903 Pope Leo XIII, who had illuminated the world by the light of his sanctity, passed to his eternal reward. In the final ballot of the Conclave, Cardinal Sarto received a greater majority than was necessary for valid election. Thus the humble peasant from the obscure country village mounted the steps of the highest throne on earth as Pius X, at a time when the rights of Christ were passionately denied, when the denial was, as he said, "the greatest illness of the age" and when man put himself up in the place of God and worshipped the golden calf of his own intellect.

The lovable character of Pius X and his kindness of heart are attested by all who ever came in contact with him. He had a cheerful, loving heart, a strong and manly will, and it was this disposition, supported by his confidence in God, which helped him to bear so bravely the weight and worry of his arduous task.

While this rustic boy of Reice received honor after honor until he became the saintly Bishop of Rome, his character never seemed to change. His evangelical simplicity, meekness, humility, generosity, firmness and love of children increased and endeared him to all.

The genuine holiness of the Pope was alone responsible for the decree on August 8th, 1910, which permitted and

encouraged children to make their First Communion at as early an age as possible.

As Bishop of Bishops it was his duty to look not only to the spiritual needs of the Roman people but to see that the faithful throughout the world were thoroughly instructed in the fundamentals of their faith. It was for this reason he pointed out how necessary it was for the faithful to attend regularly the weekly instructions and for the clergy to teach with zeal, constancy, and perseverance, because Christian doctrine is the foundation of the sacerdotal ministry.

The last days of Pius X were saddened by the anxiety of the First World War. The once, strong, smiling and happy Pope, was now a weak old man, weighed down by anxiety and bitter worry—a man broken by the evil of the world. The war had broken his heart. "Pius X; poor and rich; meek and humble of heart; strong defender of the rights of the church; labouring to restore all things in Christ, died piously on August 20th, 1914.

On June 3rd, 1951, Pius X was raised to the honor of the altar and on May 29, 1954 he was canonized a saint of the church.

We give thanks to Pius X who strove so mightily to restore all things in Christ—Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life. We give thanks also that he who preached and lived a life of heroic sanctity has been raised to our altars, an inspiration to the faithful for centuries to come.

—M. P. M. '55.

THE INSEPARABLE COUPLE

"Everytime you come near me you just burn me up," says Basil. Practically every occasion when Basil meets Henrietta this is what we hear.

Basil is always embarrassing Henrietta in public, especially in the kitchen where they are most often found. Basil is sometimes seen to lean against the wall and is even sometimes pushed behind the door while Henrietta is rudely shoved in a box. However, even though the red spot shines on Henrietta's face when Basil comes out with such remarks as above, they are an inseparable couple. One is absolutely useless to anyone unless accompanied by the other.

Henrietta is not so prone to talk as Basil but unlike so many of her sex, she may be turned off if the occasion requires it.