



Joyful Apostolate

February 1966

SISTER IDA'S TRIP TO ROME AND VIENNA

I wish I could share with you the once-in-a-lifetime experience of being at the last open session of the Vatican II Council, attending a Mass which the Holy Father concelebrated with Cardinals, seeing him from so close in St. Peter's and hearing him as he announced the Holy Year, the beatification process of Pope John and Pius XII and the great decisions which the Council brought to the world.





The best I was able to do was to pray for you with all my heart and soul; I took colored slides which turned out very well, but are far from reflecting the splendor of the occasion! (especially when printed in black and white).

How did it all happen? So many times during the life of our young Community, we had to be ready to accept the unexpected from the hands of Our Lord, with trust and flexibility. This time, the unexpected event was a very pleasant one: a silver jubilee present from friends, a trip to Rome! There was to be a companion, happy to travel with me, a wonderful mother of five who was supposed to meet me in Rome.

Instead, only a telegram waited for me; she contracted pneumonia and could not come. Fr. W. Douglas, a Canadian priest doing advanced studies in Rome, became an "official guide" and helped me to see the wonders of Rome in the very short time I had, — for which we are all grateful to him.

This was not the end of my trip. Another unforgettable experience followed: meeting my 81 year old mother in Vienna, at the home of my married sister. This was a dream that might easily not have come true. My mother lives in Czechoslovakia, and it is quite difficult to obtain a passport behind the Iron

Curtain within a limited time. Also, I knew I could not wait indefinitely for her in Vienna, — I had to return to Los Angeles to my home, my sisters, my work.

As an answer to many prayers, my dear mother arrived on time to spend Christmas together; the first in 25 years!

What it was like to see her stepping off the train at the border and embracing her after so many years can only be expressed with the words of the Magnificat. Thanks to God Who had arranged it; this transcended all human effort, and the happiness that followed was far beyond words. My mother told me that in all these years she has been secretly praying for this last favor in her life. She never wrote to me about it, she said, and added, "God can read your heart, and He heard my prayers. I will be grateful for this all the days of my life."

It was a beautiful trip; many places and things in Europe brought back many memories. But I am happy to be back home.

FLIGHT TEST CENTER IN ORBIT

It isn't science fiction. CCD teachers and helpers at Edwards Air Force Base are definitely in orbit with an excellent program for 750 children on the base. As a follow-up of our summer school and teacher training there, we went out again in January to offer advanced training on elementary and high school levels. A week was very short, but the zeal of participants and practical lesson plans made the learning worthwhile. Many were newcomers to the base and to the Course, and some had received orders of transfer overseas. Equipped with teaching techniques and material, they pledged to continue their apostolate in any corner of the world. We are proud to be part of their mission.

LEADERSHIP COURSE

APRIL 16 — 17

for highschool students

MAY 7 — 8

for college students

Register early. Write to
Sister Helen, S.D.S.H.
628 South Irving Blvd.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90005

Sister Ida took this picture of the Holy Father without a flash during the Council from the section where she was seated. Four dark shadowy figures in foreground are Papal guards.



YOU COME AS A STRANGER AND LEAVE AS A FRIEND.

It almost sounds like a riddle. What it really is: the way a participant described the Leadership Course she attended. 38 girls came to the last Leadership Course at Christmas to our new Novitiate House for three days.

During a Leadership Course friends are made. And during a Leadership Course apostles are made! This shone through at a reunion Sunday a month after the Leadership Course, when we exchanged experiences of apostolic action and personality development. To keep and strengthen the ties of friendship the girls sent out an informal mimeographed newsletter, "THE CORITA," to all who attended.

8 PEOPLE TO PREPARE FOR 20 SACRAMENTS

The work of the Holy Spirit is felt not only at the moment of Confirmation, — but long before it, too. At Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in East Los Angeles, 58 out of 265 confirmants were adults, and our apostolic task was centered around them.

One family asked Father to provide instructions for a retarded daughter. While visiting with them, they asked our Sisters to prepare other family members to receive 20 Sacraments altogether!

Sister Aurelia prepared a 43 year old deaf and dumb man for the Sacraments. With the help of illustrations on the board he proceeded well. But when he was ready for confession, no priest with the knowledge of sign language was available. The assistant pastor bravely volunteered. When it was over, there were tears in the eyes of both confessor and penitent. We knew they understood each other.

One couple received 5 Sacraments in 2 days: the wife was baptized on Saturday, both went to confession and received first Holy Communion on Sunday morning, had their marriage blessed, and were confirmed on Sunday afternoon.