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Pope Pius XII and Dr. Manuel L. Roxas

M. A. B.

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Editorial

POPE PIUS XII

"NEVER before in history," said the *Manila Daily Bulletin* in an editorial, "have so many people mourned the death of a single man." "I join the rest of the Catholic world," said President Garcia, "in grief and sorrow at the passing of Our Holy Father Pope Pius XII. His brilliant career...has earned for him the fitting name of 'The Pope of Peace.'" "In a world faced with terrifying problems of survival and moral decay," said Vice-President Macapagal, "Pope Pius XII was a pillar of strength, a symbol of peace and the personification of human goodness." "He was the only potent voice," said Mayor Lacson, "that spoke for peace and pleaded for sanity in a world gone mad." The life of Pope Pius XII, said the *Manila Chronicle* in a front-page editorial, "was one long, intense dedication, not only to the task of continuing the mission of his illustrious predecessor to achieve peace, but also to the task of restoring to man his dignity and freedom." "Now," said the editorial in *The Manila Times*, "he belongs to the ages... he was the symbol of the righteous, perfect and exalted life." The *Times* added: "For Filipinos the death of the Pope means indeed the deepest loss."

The voices thus raised in the Philippines were only a few of the countless voices raised everywhere at the Pope's death. And this is a significant fact. It illustrates a modern phenomenon: the Pope of Rome, once called the Antichrist by non-Catholics,

is now held in veneration by Catholics and non-Catholics throughout the world—barring, of course, the communists.

This veneration is twofold. First, it is a veneration for the Papacy itself and for the occupant of the Papal throne, irrespective of his personal qualifications. That Catholics should so venerate the Papacy is no cause for wonder, for to Catholics the Pope is the successor of Peter and the Vicar of Christ. What is amazing is that this veneration is shared by non-Catholics. This may be seen, for instance, in the fact that among the forty-six countries that maintain diplomatic relations with the Holy See are Shintoist Japan, Buddhist China, Hinduist and Buddhist India, and several Moslem countries, including Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia and the Jordan. Incidentally, it was Pius XII who in 1947 established diplomatic relations with the Moslem world.

Secondly, it was a veneration for the person himself, Eugenio Pacelli, the twelfth Pius. He was an extraordinary man, a rare combination of the administrator and the contemplative, the scholar and the saint, the diplomat and the intransigent upholder of moral principles, the austere ascetic and the genial cheerful human being who loved to be among his fellow men. He was what Newman said of the Papacy itself: the recluse who yet was the teacher of the world. He spoke on the most recent issues: and when he spoke, the world listened.

Two incidents served to dramatize this world-wide respect for the Pope and the Papacy. One was the splendid gesture of President Eisenhower who sent three outstanding Americans (one of them the secretary of state) to represent the United States at the funeral obsequies in Rome, while he himself attended the solemn requiem Mass in Washington. The other was the expectancy evinced everywhere as the Cardinals deliberated for four days over the election of a successor.

Ruler of a tiny, undefended and indefensible state, the Pope (whose helplessness was the subject of a contemptuous remark from Stalin) commands the respect and the awe of the world as no other individual does. The Papacy is a moral force that no nation today can ignore.

DR. MANUEL L. ROXAS

ON 6 September 1958 the foremost Filipino scientist of his generation went to his reward at the age of seventy-two. Dr. Manuel Roxas y Luz, from a prominent family in Lipa, studied (like his brothers before him and his sons and grandsons after him) at the Ateneo de Manila (A.B. 1906), then at the University of the Philippines and finally at the University of Wisconsin where he obtained a doctorate in agricultural chemistry. He spent the next three decades in the government service, first as professor at the University of the Philippines, then as director of the bureau of science and as undersecretary of agriculture and natural resources. It was however not as professor nor as bureaucrat, but as a scientist dedicated to scientific research that he made his most significant contribution to Philippine progress. His findings, published in numerous articles (over seventy have been listed), were put in practice in small farms and large plantations. His influence extended as far as Borneo where he demonstrated certain techniques at the invitation of the chartered company of North Borneo. His projects covered a wide field, but his most important work was in sugar production and in food conservation. He has been called the father of Philippine sugar technology.

Recognition came late for Dr. Roxas. The spoils system of the various political parties deprived the government of one of its best scientists and one of its most devoted servants, and Dr. Roxas retired into the obscurity of a small packing factory which he had founded and which he continued to manage after its ownership had passed to other hands.

But when he was almost seventy years old, recognition came suddenly and in abundance. Awards and citations began to be showered upon him by the University of the Philippines, the Araneta University, the Philippine government and by scientific entities. These awards were mostly for his work in sugar technology.

But the award that Dr. Roxas valued most was one given him not "for the work that he did, but for the man that he was"—to borrow a phrase from his son Mr. Sixto Roxas. Dr. Paulino J. Garcia, former secretary of health and now chairman of the National Institute of Scientific Research, alluded in his necrological speech to this award. It was the Jubilee Medal given to Dr. Roxas

by the Ateneo de Manila in 1956 on the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation, conferred upon him as a true son of Loyola. Two others of his class received the Jubilee Medal with him: Dr. José Ma. Delgado, now Philippine ambassador to the Vatican, and Don Fabián Millar, who died soon after Dr. Roxas.

There was a period in his long career when Dr. Roxas, engrossed in Science, almost lost his Faith. But he soon found it again and it became the dearest thing in his life. During the last years of his life he went to Communion daily. He said the Rosary daily. He was intensely devoted to Our Blessed Lady, and it is perhaps not without significance that he died on the first Saturday of the month, a day dedicated to Her. He gave the impression of being a very happy man, a characteristic of the true scientist who has achieved a synthesis of Science and Faith.

Many will remember Dr. Roxas as a scientist and a patriot, as a gentleman and a friend. He was all that. But this writer, who knew him well and who had the privilege of assisting at his bedside during two nights of his agony, will remember him best as a man very close to God.

M. A. B.