

In Today's Catholic World Sheds New Light On Vatican's Irregularly Elected Pope In 1958 Conclave

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(PRWEB) September 12, 2005 -- In Today's Catholic World, the Catholic news service, has reported compelling testimony from a Vietnamese priest, Fr. Khoat, that Joseph Cardinal Siri was the rightfully elected Pope on October 26, 1958.

This controversy began when at the 1958 Conclave, during the early evening of October 26, 17 days after the death of Pope Pius XII, white smoke rose from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel for a full five minutes, indicating a Pope had been elected, had accepted, and had chosen a name. Khoat says that Siri had chosen the name Gregory XVII. At that time, Vatican radio had announced for a full 30 minutes, "Habemus Papam," i.e., "We have a Pope." As preparations to greet the newly elected Pope were underway, the smoke turned back to black. Vatican officials were said to be at a loss to explain what had happened to cause the sudden reversal.

This incident was reported the next day in a newspaper article by then veteran Italian journalist Silvio Negro. His report appeared on October 27, 1958 in the large Italian daily paper *Corriere della Sera* based in Milan, Italy. Negro reported that a Msgr. Santoro passed a note from inside the Conclave that the smoke was white and positive and that a Pope had already been elected that October 26 evening.

Now, for the first time in 47 years, the controversy surrounding the 1958 Papal Conclave has surfaced in several large daily newspapers in Europe at the initiative of a Vatican spokesman.

The *London Tablet* has reported on September 3, 2005 that Cardinal Francesco Pompedda, the former prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, told the Italian daily *La Stampa* that the Society of St Pius X, whose bishops have been excommunicated, could only be reconciled to the Holy Sea if it recognized Vatican authority. . . . He added that the traditionalists should explicitly recognize "the validity of papal elections from the death of Pius XII up until today". Cardinal Pompedda observed that some traditionalists have questioned the validity of papal elections during that period (beginning with the 1958 conclave, which convened on October 25th, 15 days after the death of Pope Pius XII.)

In 1987, the controversy was temporarily revived in some small religious papers in Europe due to an article written by French journalist Louis Hubert Remy. After interviewing Cardinal Siri in Genoa with several others, Remy entitled his article: "The Pope: Could he be Cardinal Siri?"

In 2003, former FBI consultant Paul L. Williams published *The Vatican Exposed* and claimed that he had looked at FBI documents which indicated that US intelligence was

aware that Siri had been elected first at the 1958 Conclave, and had taken the name Gregory XVII.

In 1990, the late author and Vatican insider Malachi Martin had written about Siri's election at the 1963 Conclave in his book *Keys of this Blood*. Martin claims that Siri was elected, but refused to accept.

In 1988, on the heels of the French article on Siri by Remy, an American researcher, Mr. Gary Giuffre, published a series of articles about Siri and the 1958 Conclave in a small religious newsletter.

The article on the In Today's Catholic World (TCW) Website is written by Mr. Jim Condit Jr., a recognized authority on the dangers of computerized election fraud in US elections. In a face to face meeting, Condit learned late in 1989 of Fr. Khoat's testimony regarding his (Khoat's) meeting with Siri in 1988.

Many traditionalist Catholics, including some lay supporters of the Society of St. Pius X, question the legitimacy of all the sweeping changes made since 1958, and some of those feel Siri was the rightful Pope. This small segment views John XXIII (1958), Paul VI (1963-1978), John Paul II (1978-2003), and now Benedict XVI as antipopes who were never validly elected.

In the September 2004 issue of *Inside the Vatican*, Fr. Charles-Roux, who said Mass on the set of Mel Gibson's movie *The Passion of the Christ*, and now an elderly priest, is quoted as saying that John XXIII was irregularly elected in 1958.

To read more on this compelling topic visit www.thepopeinred.com

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