

John XXIII -- 1881-1963

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (declared "Blessed" Sept. 3, 2000; feast day October 11 ---date of opening of council)

- Appointed secretary to Bishop Radini-Tedeschi and taught in seminary (Church History)
 - WWI – drafted – as a sergeant in medical corps
 - Administrative jobs in Italy until 1925 ---
 - 10 years in Bulgaria
 - 1935 – Nuncio: Istanbul (Constantinople) Turkey & Greece and then France (1944)
 - 1953 – Patriarch of Venice & Cardinal
 - Pope Pius XII died October 9, 1958
 - Pope: 1958-1963 [4 years, 218 days]
 - Thought he would be a short-term, stop-gap pope – He was 77 years old!
 - Angelo took the name "John" – his father's name, parish church where he was baptized, anti-pope John XXIII
 - Died of stomach cancer – June 3, 1963
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As nuncio, Roncalli made various efforts during the Holocaust to save refugees, mostly Jewish people, from the Nazis. Among his efforts were:

- Jewish refugees who arrived in Istanbul and were assisted in going on to Palestine or other destinations
- Slovakian children managed to leave the country due to his interventions.
- Jewish refugees whose names were included on a list submitted by Rabbi Markus of Istanbul to Nuncio Roncalli.
- Jews held at Jasenovac concentration camp, near Stara Gradiška, were liberated as a result of his intervention.
- Bulgarian Jews who left Bulgaria, a result of his request to King Boris of Bulgaria.
- Romanian Jews from Transnistria left Romania as a result of his intervention.
- Italian Jews helped by the Vatican as a result of his interventions.
- **Orphaned children** of Transnistria on board a refugee ship that weighed anchor from Constanza to Istanbul, and later arriving in Palestine as a result of his interventions.
- Jews held at the Sered concentration camp who were spared from being deported to German death camps as a result of his intervention.
- Hungarian Jews who saved themselves through their conversions to Christianity through the baptismal certificates sent by Nuncio Roncalli to the Hungarian Nuncio, Monsignor Angelo Rota.