

A detailed black and white line drawing of a bouquet of flowers. The bouquet is tied together with a wide ribbon that forms a large, decorative bow at the bottom. Several long, slender leaves extend from the base of the flowers. The flowers themselves are of different types, including some with five petals and others that are more tubular. The drawing is done in a classic, engraved style with fine lines and cross-hatching for shading.

PUJA ROSTER

| PUJA AND DATE | COOKING | SETTING UP | DISMANTLE & WASHING UP |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| SAHASRARA 10 th. May | HOMEBUSH / CROYDON | BURWOOD / WOOLLONGONG | NORTH SHORE / EAST LINDFIELD |
| GURU PUJA 28 th. July | RAMSAY RD. / STRATHFIELD | BLUE M' TAINS / PARRAMATTA | KILLARA / CENTRAL COAST |
| KRISHNA 1 st. Sept. | TURRAMURRA / NEWCASTLE | BLAND ST. / EAST SUBURBS | BURWOOD / WOOLLONGONG |
| GANESHA 15 th. Sept. | NORTH SHORE / EAST LINDFIELD | HOMEBUSH / CROYDON | BLUE M' TAINS / PARRAMATTA |
| NAVRATRI 13 th. Oct. | KILLARA / CENTRAL COAST | RAMSAY RD. / STRATHFIELD | BLAND ST. / EAST SUBURBS |
| DIVALI 10 th. Nov. | BURWOOD / WOOLLONGONG | TURRAMURRA / NEWCASTLE | HOMEBUSH / CROYDON |
| CHRISTMAS 25 th. Dec. | BLUE M' TAINS / PARRAMATTA | NORTH SHORE / EAST LINDFIELD | RAMSAY RD. / STRATHFIELD |

Please refer to the "Puja Duties List" for all details of duties and requirements, responsibilities, information etc. If you have any questions regarding the above details, please contact Michael Fogarty or Peter Schwartz.



EASTER

I spoke to Shri Mataji on the evening of Easter Day. She was delighted to receive our call and said how happy she was that our Easter pujas had been so strong and so uplifting. As we were speaking, the flowers from Australia arrived and she said "How wonderful and what a coincidence!" And then she laughed. She told me they were roses and asters. I told Shri Mother about the steady movement of Sahaja Yogis up and down the east coast of Australia. She said "it is the way to go!"

We now have Sahaj centres of influence on the east coast, stretching from Cairns down through Nanango, Brisbane, Surface Paradise, Ballina, Coffs Harbour, Pelaw Main, Newcastle, Gosford, Sydney, Woollongong and Bateman's Bay! At this rate we will soon link up with the Victorians and on across South Australia to Western Australia. What a goal... to circle Australia with Sahaja Yogis!

Stephen Taylor

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run the Department the layman Bernardino Nogara. Apart from having many millions of dollars to play with, Nogara had another very important asset. One hundred years earlier the Roman Catholic Church had completely reversed its position on money lending. The Church can rightfully claim to have changed the meaning of the word usury.

In the classic sense usury means all gains from money lending. For over eighteen hundred years the Roman Catholic Church had dogmatically stated that the charging of any interest on a loan was absolutely forbidden as being contrary to Divine Law. The prohibition was restated in various Church Councils: Arles (A.D. 314), Nicea (325), Carthage (345), Aix (789), Lateran (1139) - at this Council usurers were condemned to excommunication - various State Laws made the practice legal. It was still heresy, that is, until 1830. Thus, by courtesy of the Roman Catholic Church, usury now means lending money at exorbitant rates of interest.

Nogara was reluctant to accept the job and did so only when Pope Pius XI agreed to certain conditions. Nogara did not wish to be irremediable by any traditional views the Church might still hold about making money. The ground rules Nogara insisted upon included the following:

- 1 Any investments he chose to make should be totally and completely free of any religious or doctrinal considerations.
- 2 He would be free to invest Vatican funds anywhere in the world.

The Pope agreed, and opened the doors to currency speculation, and to playing the market in the Stock Exchange, including the buying of shares in companies whose products were inconsistent with Roman Catholic teaching. Items such as bombs, tanks, guns, and contraceptives might be condemned in the pulpit but the shares Nogara bought for the Vatican in companies which manufactured these items helped to fill the coffers in St. Peter's.

In 1933 Vatican Incorporated again demonstrated its ability to negotiate successfully with Fascist governments. The Concordat of 1929 with Mussolini was followed with a Concordat between the Holy See and Hitler's Reich. Solicitor Francesco Pacelli had been one of the key figures in the Mussolini agreement; his brother Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pius XII, had a leading role as the Vatican's Secretary of State in concluding a treaty with Nazi Germany.

Hitler saw many potential benefits in the treaty, not least the fact that Pacelli, a man already displaying marked pro-Nazi attitudes, might prove a useful ally in the approaching World War. History was to prove that Hitler's assessment was accurate. Despite a great deal of world pressure, Pope Pius XII declined to excommunicate either Hitler or Mussolini. Perhaps his refusal was based on an awareness of just how irrelevant he was. His was a Papacy which affected neutrality, which talked to the German episcopate about 'just wars' and did precisely the same to the French bishops. This resulted in the French

bishops supporting France and the German bishops supporting Germany. His was a Papacy which declined to condemn the Nazi invasion of Poland because, he said, 'We cannot forget that there are forty million Catholics in the Reich. What would they be exposed to after such an act by the Holy See?'

Although Nogara retired in 1954, he continued to give the Vatican his unique brand of financial advice until his death in 1958. Scant mention was made of the man's passing by the Press, as the majority of his activities on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church had been cloaked in secrecy. This one man who demonstrated that, wherever Christ's Kingdom might be, that of the Catholic Church was most assuredly of this world, was given a memorable epitaph by Cardinal Spellman of New York. 'Next to Jesus Christ the greatest thing that has happened to the Catholic Church is Bernardino Nogara.'

Starting with 80 million dollars, less the 30 million dollars that Pius XI and his successor Pius XII held back to spend on regional seminaries and parish houses in South Italy, the building of Santa Maria and the massive building projects in Rome, including the setting up of the Vatican library and art gallery, Nogara had created Vatican Incorporated. Between 1929 and 1939 he had also had access to the annual world-wide collection of Peter's Pence. With the 'pennies' of the faithful plus the lire from Mussolini and the Deutschmarks from Hitler, he handed on to his successors a complex array of financial interests worth at a very conservative estimate 500 million dollars controlled by the Special Administration, 650 million dollars controlled by the Ordinary Section of the APSA, and assets in the Vatican Bank in excess of 940 million dollars, with an annual profit from the Bank averaging 40 million dollars going directly to the Pope. In capitalistic terms, Nogara's service in the cause of the Roman Catholic Church was an incredible success. Viewed in the light of the message contained in the Gospels it was an unmitigated disaster. The Vicar of Christ was now Chairman of the Board.

What would Jesus Christ have felt if he had returned to earth in September 1978 and been allowed into the Vatican City State?

What would the man who declared, 'My Kingdom is not of this earth', have felt if he had wandered through the departments of APSA with its teams of clerical and lay stock analysts, each an expert in his own field, following the day-by-day and often minute-by-minute fluctuations of the shares, securities and investments that APSA owns throughout the world? What would the carpenter's son have made of the IBM equipment that functions both in APSA and the Vatican Bank? What would the man who compared the difficulty of a rich man entering the Kingdom of Heaven with a camel passing through the eye of a needle have said about the latest stock market quotations of London, Wall Street, Zürich, Milan, Montreal and Tokyo that chatter endlessly into the Vatican?

What would the man who said 'Blessed are the poor', have said about the annual profit from the sale of Vatican stamps? Profit in excess of 1 million dollars. What would have been his opinion of the annual collection of Peter's

IN GOD'S NAME

During Her recent tour of Australia, Shri Mataji mentioned the book 'In God's Name' a number of times, suggesting that we should read it.

Recently Shri Mataji requested that as many Yogis as possible be present at Sahasrara Day Puja in Cabella (10-5-72), as this Puja will have a profound effect on the Catholic Church.

Below are some excerpts from David Yallop's book *Can Englishman*, who Shri Mataji said had recently come to Sahaja Yoga. It seems like a good way for us to put our attention on the problems of the Catholic Church, especially as Sahasrara Day Puja is only a few weeks away.

In God's Name is an investigation into the death (Murder?) of the Pope who only held his position for 33 days before he died. Albino Luciani or Pope John Paul I was a realized soul, and was on the 29th September 1978, going to implement some changes in personnel in the Vatican that would have had far reaching consequences not just within the Catholic Church, but the whole world. Either on the morning of the 29th, or at some stage during the previous evening, Yallop suggests, Luciani was killed, and his changes have never been implemented.

Yallop begins his book by discussing the problem of wealth to a church of the poor.

CHURCH WEALTH

Like Rome itself, Vatican wealth was not built in a day. The problem of a wealthy Church - and all who aspire to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ must regard that wealth as a problem - has its roots as early as the fourth century. When the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and gave colossal wealth to the then Pope, Silvester I, he created the first rich Pope. Dante ends the *Inferno* with the lines:

Alas! Constantine, how much misfortune you caused,
Not by becoming Christian, but by the dowry
Which the first rich Father accepted from you.

The Catholic faith's claim to uniqueness is valid. It is the only religious organization in the world which has as its headquarters an independent State, Vatican City, which is a law unto itself. At 108.7 acres it is smaller than many of the world's golf courses, is the size of St James's Park in London and approximately one eighth the size of Central Park in New York City. A leisurely stroll right round Vatican City takes something over an hour. To count the wealth of the Vatican would take rather longer.

The modern wealth of the Vatican is based on the generosity of Benito Mussolini. The Lateran Treaty which his government concluded with the Vatican in 1929 gave the Roman Catholic Church a variety of guarantees and measures of protection.

The Holy See obtained recognition of itself as a Sovereign State. It was exempted from paying taxes both for its properties and its citizens, exempted from paying duty on imported goods; it had diplomatic immunity and accompanying privileges for its own diplomats and those accredited to it by foreign powers. Mussolini guaranteed the introduction of Catholic religious teaching in all State High Schools and the entire institution of marriage was placed under Canon Law, which ruled out divorce. The benefits for the Vatican were many, not least the fiscal ones.

Article one. Italy undertakes to pay the Holy See, on the ratification of the Treaty, the sum of 750 million lire and to hand over at the same time Consolidated 5 percent State Bonds to the bearer for the nominal value of one billion lire.

At the 1929 rate of exchange this package represented 81 million dollars. A 1984 equivalent figure is approximately 500 million dollars. Vatican Incorporated was in business. It has never looked back.

To handle the windfall, Pope Pius XI created on June 7th, 1929 The Special Administration. He appointed to

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Pence that went directly to the Pope? This annual collection, considered by many to be an accurate barometer of the popularity of the Pope, had under the charismatic John XXIII produced between 15 and 20 million dollars per annum. Under Paul VI this had dropped after *Humanae Vitae* to an average of 4 million dollars per annum.

What would the Founder of the Faith have felt about these few examples of how far his teaching had been perverted? The question is of course rhetorical. If Jesus Christ had returned to earth in September 1978, or if he came now and attempted to enter the Vatican, the result would be the same. He would not get as far as the doors of the Vatican Bank. He would be arrested at the Saint Anne Gate and handed over to the Italian authorities. He would

never have the opportunity to learn at first hand about Vatican Incorporated, the multi-national conglomerate that is fed from so many directions. He would not hear, for example, how it derives vast sums from the USA and West Germany; how in 1978, through the State tax of 'Kirchensteuer', the Roman Catholic Church of West Germany received 1.9 billion dollars, of which it then subsequently passed on to the Vatican a significant proportion.

If Albino Luciani was to succeed with his dream of a poor Church for the poor, it was going to be a Herculean task. The modern monster created by Bernardino Nogara had by 1978 become self-generating. When the cardinals elected Albino Luciani to the Papacy on that hot August day in 1978 they set an honest, holy, totally incorruptible Pope on a collision course with Vatican Incorporated. The irresistible market forces of the Vatican Bank, APSA and the other money-making elements were about to be met by the immovable integrity of Albino Luciani.

Albino Luciani was born in a village north of Venice on October 17th, 1912. In the following excerpts, Yallop gives us some idea of the beauty of his character, as well as the strength when dealing with pedantic, fanatical Vatican officials.

This small, quiet man succeeded, apparently without trying, in having an extraordinary and lasting effect on people. Again and again as I talked to those who knew him I could see a remarkable change happen within the person recalling Albino Luciani. Their faces would soften, quite literally relax. They would smile. They smiled a great deal as they recalled the man. They grew gentler before my eyes. He clearly touched something very deep within them. Catholics would call it the soul. Happily oblivious, Albino Luciani was already leaving a unique legacy as he cycled around Belluno.

The world awaits this today; it knows well that the sublime perfection it has attained by research and technology has already reached a peak, beyond which yawns the abyss, blinding the eyes with darkness. It is the temptation of substituting for God one's own decisions, decisions that would prescind from moral laws. The danger for modern man is that he would reduce the earth to a desert, the person to an automaton, brotherly love to planned collectivization, often introducing death where God wishes life.

With the text of *Lumen gentium* (the Light of Nations), Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution of the Church, in his hand, Albino Luciani gave notice that he intended to put the Church back where it belonged: back to the world and the words of Christ; back to the simplicity and honesty of its origins. If Christ returned to earth, Luciani wanted him to find a Church he would recognize - one free of political interests, free of the big business mentality which had corroded the original vision.

At noon the new Pope appeared on the central balcony of the Basilica. The square below was packed tight with some 200,000 people. Millions more around the world watched on television as Luciani's smile broadened in response to the thunderous applause. He had come out to say the Angelus but before giving the mid-day prayer he had decided to give his listeners a glimpse into the secret Conclave. When the applause and cheering had died down he promptly broke two Papal rules, the paranoiac secrecy that Paul had sternly insisted upon concerning the Conclave, and the use of the majestic 'we' that for nearly two thousand years had demonstrated Papal aspirations to territory. He smiled at the crowd and then began.

'Yesterday,' the word was followed by an almost imperceptible shrug of the shoulders, as if to say, 'a funny thing happened to me on my way to the Conclave.' The crowd roared with laughter. Luciani joined in the merriment, then began again.

'Yesterday morning I went to the Sistine Chapel to vote peacefully. Never could I have imagined what was about to take place. As soon as it began to be a danger for me, two of my colleagues who were sitting near me whispered words of encouragement.' Simply and without trace of pomposity he recalled the words of Willebrands and Riberio. He told the crowd why he had chosen his particular name.

Another letter, written on the same day, struck a more sombre note. Writing to an Italian priest whose work he admired, Luciani revealed his awareness of the burden that was now uniquely his. 'I don't know how I could have accepted. The day after I already regretted it, but by then it was too late.' One of his first acts upon entering the Papal Apartments had been to phone his homeland in the north. He spoke to an astonished Monsignor Ducoli, a long-time friend and working associate, now Bishop of Belluno. He told the Bishop he was 'lonely for my people'. Later he spoke to his brother Edoardo, 'Now look what's happened to me.' These acts were private; others of a more public nature caught the world's imagination.