

# Spectacles Presented To Pope Pius By AO



*Pope Pius XII is shown above with representatives of the Company who presented him with a pair of AO gold-mounted bifocal spectacles in a solid gold case. Both glasses and case were gifts of AO. Shown in the picture, left to right, are Gaetano Vitale, associate of AO's agent in Italy; Charles E. Hart, of AO's Southbridge office; Pope Pius; Robert W. Cook, of AO's Instrument Division, Buffalo; and George A. Kohler, AO's agent in Italy.*

At a private audience recently granted by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, representatives of the Company presented him with a pair of gold-mounted spectacles in a specially made solid gold case. The presentation was made on behalf and with the compliments of American Optical Company by Charles E. Hart, Westwood Parkway, Southbridge, assistant sales manager of the company's Export Department.

The audience was held at the Pope's summer palace, Castel Gandolfo. The Pope expressed his pleasure with the gift, Hart reported, and His Holiness in turn presented each member of the group with a rosary.

#### Glasses Prepared Here

The glasses were prepared in accordance with a prescription written by Dr. Galeazzi-Lisi, personal oculist to His Holiness, and sent to this country by George A. Kohler, agent for American Optical Company in Italy.

The gold case was made to a special design by the Wells Manufacturing Co., Attleboro, and was lined with silk velvet in the Papal colors, yellow and white. The full Papal crest, the "Tiara of Peace" showing the dome of St. Peter's and the world's globe surmounted by the cross and having two crossed keys beneath, was engraved on the cover by Bulgari's, Rome, one of Europe's best known engravers.

#### AO People Involved

Among the many AO people who aided in the preparation of the gift to the Pope were: Harry G. Estabrook, Charles E. Hart, J. Lionel Hebert, Richard L. Wright, Leon A. Caron, Miss Betty Tinker, Mrs. Ruth Litke, William J. Cahill, Joseph W. Congdon, Henry S. Woodbridge.

Also, Stoughton M. Litchfield, Philip Olson, Richard Proulx, Alphonse St. Pierre, Norman LeBlanc, Joseph Dargie, Fi-

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# —Pope's Glasses

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delio Cormier, Boyce Clancy, Robert Johnson, Chester Pezzetti, Eugene Boucher, Mrs. Rachel Cournoyer, Miss Edith Hagstrom.

Also, Herbert C. Monroe, Roland F. Lyman, Neil Turner, Mrs. Elvia Lussier, John E. Merrill, Ernest Ravenelle, Fred Volpini, Miss Isabella Osimo, Joseph Blanchard, Dominic Santo, Miss Margaret Volpini, Charles Daigle, Verna Giulio, John Szczygiel.

Also, Miss Claire Berthiaume, Charles Dumas, Eldege Plasse, James Anderson, Mrs. Germaine St. Pierre, John Ivascyn, Arthur Duffy, Miss Margaret Tremblay, Miss Felicia Bednarz, Charles Osberg, Victor Deterando, Alfred St. Pierre, the late William Briggs and Mrs. Eleanor Morse.

Many other AO people were concerned in the manufacture of the materials needed to fill the prescription and, although it is impossible to identify them by name because of the nature of their work, they, too, were instrumental in the final production of the spectacles.

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