

Pope Pius XII 80th Anniversary Set

Pope Pius XII, born Eugenio Maria Giuseppe Giovanni Pacelli (March 2, 1876 – October 9, 1958), reigned as the 260th pope, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, and sovereign of Vatican City, from March 2, 1939 until his death. Before election to the papacy, Pacelli served as secretary of the Department of Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs, papal nuncio and cardinal secretary of state, in which roles he worked to conclude treaties with European nations, most notably the Reichskonkordat with Germany. After World War II, he was a vocal supporter of lenient policies toward vanquished nations and a staunch opponent of communism. His leadership of the Catholic Church during World War II and The Holocaust remains the subject of continued historical controversy.

Pius is one of few popes in recent history to invoke papal infallibility (as opposed to the more general infallibility of the Church) by issuing an apostolic constitution. He also promulgated forty encyclicals, including *Humani Generis*, which is still relevant to the Church's position on evolution. He also decisively eliminated the Italian majority in the College of Cardinals with the Grand Consistory in 1946. Most sedevacantists regard Pope Pius XII as the last true Pope to occupy the Holy See. His ongoing canonization process progressed to the venerable stage on September 2, 2000 under Pope John Paul II.

The set here consists of 10 Universal-Brazil 20-strike covers. No date, but 80th anniversary would make it 1956, but these covers don't look like they're from the 1950s. Covers are: Emblema Papal, Gendarme, Basilica de Sao Paulo, Guardia Suissa, Guardia Nobre, Martelo, Basilica de Sao Pedro, Basilica de Santa Maria Maior, Basilica de Sao Joao de Latrao, Tiara.

