

PIUS XI A POPE WORTH DISCOVERING

Pius XI is in many respects a pope forgotten by history. Called to hold the throne of Saint Peter in difficult years tormented by the presence of fierce dictatorships, Pius XI aimed to keep alive the presence of Christian announcement in a political context that tended to eliminate religious content or still characterized by anti-Christian statist foundations. The ministry of Achille Ratti also included pastoral activity (remember the coadjutorship at Barni and the guide of the Ambrosian Diocese); practically he was never called to lead a parish, but was first devoted to teaching and then to historical-archival researching at the Ambrosian Library. In the period following the World War I, he was able to highlight his diplomatic abilities in difficult legations. He held for a few months the Archdiocese of Milan and was then called to succeed Pope Benedict XV. In particular Pius XI is remembered for having signed the Concordat between the Holy See and the Italian Government on February 11, 1929, an act that has profoundly characterized Italian civil society, essentially until today. It should be noted that with this agreement Pius XI created the State of the Vatican City. Despite not loving technology, he chose to equip the new State with those modern tools that would enable to convey the word of the Popes in every corner of the earth. Particular mention should be made of the inauguration of the Vatican Radio in 1931, whose project was personally curated by Guglielmo Marconi. Pius XI should also be remembered for the impetus given to the apostolic work of Catholic Action and for the decision to appoint the first native Chinese bishops, giving vivacity to the Eastern Churches.

To him we owe also the canonization of new saints, including Giovanni Bosco, Thomas More, Bernadette Soubirous and Thérèse of Lisieux. All these actions help us to recognize Pius XI as the first Pontiff of the contemporary era: to him it was clear that the Church in the following years would be required to proclaim its message in a deeply de-Christianized world. To him goes the definite merit of having equipped the Vatican with all the implements that still allow the Papacy to carry out its spiritual mandate.



ESSENTIAL CHRONOLOGY

Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti, who became Pope under the name of Pius XI, was born in Desio (MB) on May 31, 1857, as the fourth child of Francesco - manager of the local silk-spinning mill owned by the Pusiano Conti Brothers, whose property he will take over at the end of 1863 - and Teresa Galli.

In the years of childhood he was educated by the school chaplain Father Giuseppe Volontieri, who on behalf of the Charity Congregation of Desio had opened his home for courses of a single year. From 1863 to 1866, in the neighbouring village of Seregno, he attended the first two primary classes with the teacher Maria Cantù, called Marzellina, as well as Achille Locatelli that Pius XI will elevate to cardinal in the first Consistory in 1922. Guest of his uncle Father Damiano Ratti, provost of Asso (Co), he attended third grade with the teacher Eugenio Prina in the school-year 1866-1867. His father Francesco, after having sold the mill in the spring of 1867 to the Bozzotti Brothers of Milan, moved to Milan, in Cantoncello Alley in the Contrada of Bottonuto, part of Sestiere Porta Romana, to manage a hotel with his wife Teresa and three employees. On November 5, 1867

The bust of Achille Ratti located in the courtyard of the house in which he was born

Achille entered the Gymnasium school at St. Peter Martyr's Seminary in Seveso.

In the fall of 1870, his father returned to his previous work, having been called to Carugate (Mi) to direct the spinning mill of the Riva Brothers and here he remained until 1876. The young Achille, after attending the first four years at St. Peter's Seminary in Seveso, spent the first two years of high school in the Seminary of Monza and the third in the Collegio San Carlo in Milan, where he prepared for the school-leaving diploma, achieved in the school-year 1874-1875 as a private student at the Parini high school. As a student, he attended Major Seminary of Milan from school-year 1875-1876 during his first three years of Theology, he moved for the last one (1878-1879) to St. Peter Martyr's Seminary in Seveso where he taught the fourth grade class of the Collegio San Martino, transferred from Mozate [Va] to that place.

In the meantime, his father Francesco was transferred and in 1876 he assumed the management of the Gottardo Guest silk factory in Pinerolo (Turin), where he resided with his family until 1879. On October 1879 the young Achille was transferred to Rome at the Lombard Seminary. Two months later, on the 20th December 1879, being twenty-two and a half years old, he was ordained a priest in San Giovanni in Laterano. His father Francesco was present at the ceremony, and in the same days took over the mill of the Gadda Brothers in Caronno Pertusella (Va), where he remained until his death on July 4, 1881.

As a teacher of Theology at the Seminary, for his study merits Achille was appointed at first Doctor and then Prefect of the Ambrosiana Library, a cultural institution that has always been the pride of the Diocese of Milan. For twenty-six years he spent his life on books, studying, collecting and writing essays about historical, liturgical and hagiographic subjects. His interests were not limited, however, only to sacred topics, but ranged from history to literature and art. By virtue of his scientific competence, in 1914 he was appointed Prefect of the Vatican Library. At the end of the World War I, when the bishops of finally free Poland asked the Pope a representative of the Holy See able to defend the rights of Christians, Benedict XV sent Achille Ratti, who was able to consolidate the Catholic presence in Eastern Europe. On his return to Italy, he was called for a short time to hold the chair that once belonged St. Ambrose in the Diocese of Milan. On February 6, 1922, Cardinal Ratti was elected Pope, taking the name of Pius XI. From the beginning, Pope Pius XI's action was founded on the affirmation of the Church's right, freedom and independence.

THE STAGES OF HIS LIFE

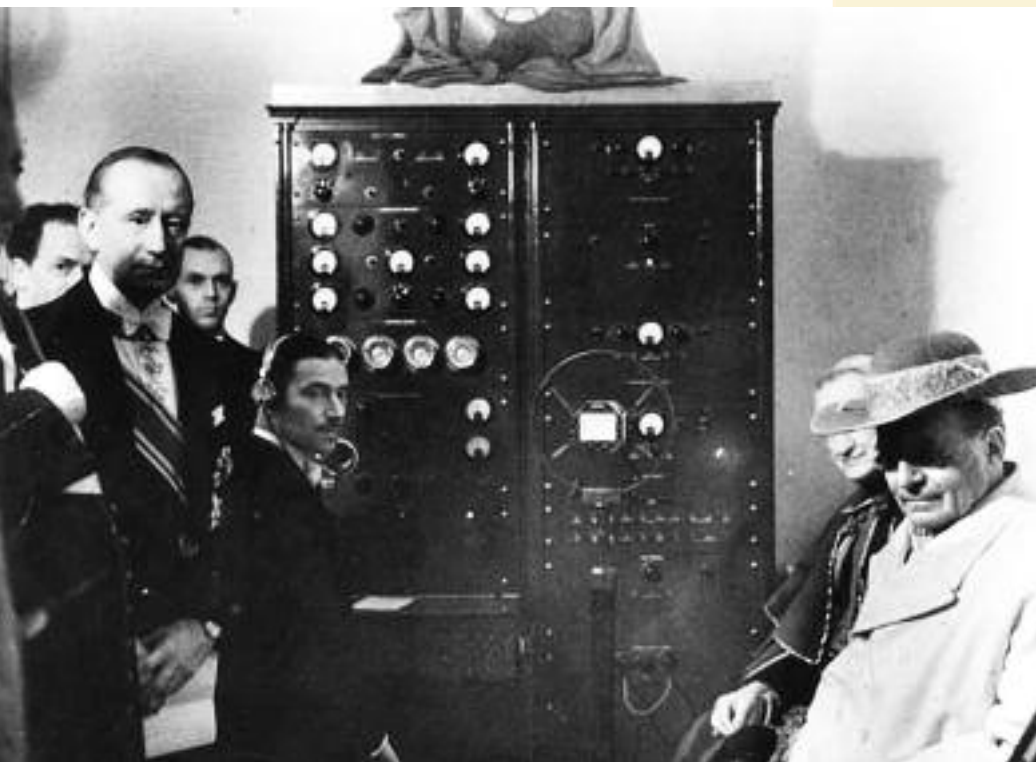
- **May 31, 1857:** Ambrogio Damiano Achille Ratti was born in Desio (MB) to Francesco and Teresa Galli, at number 4 of Via Lampugnani; **June 1:** He is baptized by the parish priest Father Giuseppe Lattuada in the Church of the Saints Siro and Materno. His grandfather Ambrogio Ratti is the godfather.
- **1863-1864:** He gets the first school rudiments in Desio with Father Giuseppe Volontieri.
- **1864-1866:** He attends the first and second grade in Seregno (MB) in the private school of the teacher Maria Cantù, called Marzellina.
- **1866-1867:** He attends the third grade at Asso (Co) with the teacher Eugenio Prina.
- **1867:** Francesco Ratti leaves Desio for Milan and momentarily abandons the silk manufacturing profession to devote himself, together with his wife, to the hotel business in Cantoncello Alley in the Contrada of Bottonuto, at number 3 (the alley, that no longer exists, was located between the current via Larga and Via Alberico Albricci).
- **October 1867:** Achille is accepted at the Archbishop's Seminary in Milan; **December 4:** Receives Holy Confirmation; **Dec. 7:** Wears the cassock.
- **May 24, 1868:** Receives First Communion.
- **1868-1871:** He attends the first four years of Gymnasium school in St. Peter Martyr's Seminary in Seveso.
- **1870:** Francesco Ratti returns to silk the manufacturing profession, managing in Carugate (Mi) the spinning mill of Angelo and Ernesto Riva, located at the civic numbers 18 and 20 in Via Garibaldi.
- **1871-1872:** Achille attends the fifth Gymnasium grade and the first two years of high school in St. Peter Martyr's Seminary. He will end his high school studies at the Seminary of Monza.
- **December 17, 1875:** In the Archbishop's chapel, he receives the first tonsure by Monsignor Luigi Nazari of Calabiana.
- **1875-1876:** He attends the third course of high school at Collegio San Carlo in Milan achieving the classical education diploma as a private student at the Liceo Parini.
- **1876-1879:** He continues his studies in the Major Seminary of Milan.
- **1876:** His father Francesco Ratti moves to Pinerolo (To) to manage the Setificio Gottardo Guest, taking residence in a little cottage, current number 47, in Via della Cittadella on the road to Costagrande.
- **February 23, 1877:** In the Archbishop's chapel, Achille is ordained to minor orders by Monsignor Luigi Nazari of Calabiana.
- **June 15, 1878:** In the chapel of the Seminary, he is ordained as a deacon by Monsignor Paolo Angelo Ballerini, Latin Patriarch of Alexandria of Egypt.
- **1879:** Francesco Ratti moves again assuming the management of the spinning mill of Gadda Brothers in Caronno Pertusella



Parents of
Achille Ratti

- (Va), where he will remain until his death, on July 4, 1881.
- **June 7, 1879:** In the Cathedral of Milan Achille is ordained as a deacon by Monsignor Luigi Nazari of Calabiana. **October:** He is sent to Rome at the Collegio Lombardo; December 20: He is ordained as a priest by Cardinal Vicar Raffaele Monaco La Valletta in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran in Rome.
 - **December 21, 1879:** Ratti celebrates his first Mass in the Church of San Carlo al Corso in Rome.
 - **March 13, 1882:** He graduates in Sacred Theology at the La Sapienza University in Rome; June 9: He obtains a degree in Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome; **June 23:** He graduates in Philosophy at the St. Thomas Aquinas Academy in Rome; July-September: as a spiritual Vicar he takes over the Parish of Barni, a village in Valassina (Co) for three months, after the death of the pastor Father Giuseppe Belgeri.
 - **1882-1888:** He teaches Dogmatic Theology to the prefects in the Seminary of Seveso and Sacred Eloquence and Hebrew at the Seminary of Milan.
 - **1882-1912:** He is the Chaplain to the Ladies of Our Lady of the Cenacle.
 - **November 8, 1888:** He is appointed Doctor of the Ambrosiana Library in Milan, taking the place of the deceased Father Fortunato Villa.
 - **July 31, 1889:** Ratti climbs the Dufour Peak, the highest peak of the massif of Monte Rosa (m. 4634).
 - **March 8, 1907:** He is appointed Prefect of the Ambrosiana Library, taking the place of Monsignor Antonio Maria Ceriani and remains in office until **September 26, 1914** (his successor will be Monsignor Luigi Gramatica).
 - **February 20, 1912:** He is appointed Pro-Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Library.





Inauguration of
Vatican Radio
Station

- **August 20, 1914:** He is appointed Prefect of the Vatican Library; **14 September:** He is appointed Canon of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican; **October 20:** He is awarded the dignity of Supernumerary Apostolic Proto-notary.
- **April 25, 1918:** He is appointed Apostolic Visitor for Poland and Lithuania. Resigns the office of Vatican Prefect (future Cardinal Giovanni Mercati will replace him on October 23rd); **May 19:** He leaves for Poland; **May 30:** He enters solemnly into Warsaw; **September 29:** He loses his beloved mother.
- **June 6, 1919:** He is appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Poland; July 3rd: He is elected Archbishop of Lepanto; **July 19:** He presents his credentials to the President of the Polish Republic, Marshal Pilsudski; **October 28:** He receives Episcopal ordination in Warsaw's Cathedral by Archbishop Cardinal Aleksander Kakowski.
- **1920:** He travels Poland and Lithuania as Apostolic Visitor. Summer: He is appointed High Ecclesiastical Commissioner for the plebiscite in Upper Slesia.
- **April 19, 1921:** He is sent to the Archbishopric of Adana in Turkey; **June 13:** Pope Benedict XV, in the Secret Consistory, appoints him Archbishop of Milan and creates him Cardinal-Priest of the Saints Silvestro and Martino ai Monti; **September 8:** On the solemn occasion of the Nativity of Mary,

- Ratti starts out from his hometown Desio, and solemnly enters Milan to be enthroned as Archbishop; October: He receives an honorary doctorate in Theology from the University of Warsaw.
- **January 1, 1922:** Ratti is awarded the White Eagle (Orla Białego), the highest Polish order of chivalry; **January 24:** After the death of Pope Benedict XV, at 08.40 p.m. "acclaimed he leaves" for the Conclave; **February 2:** He enters the Conclave to elect a new pope; **February 6:** At 11.00 a.m., on the fourteenth ballot, Cardinal Achille Ratti is elected Supreme Pope and takes the name "Pius XI"; **February 12:** He is subsequently crowned in St. Peter's Basilica; **December 23:** He publishes his first encyclical "*Ubi arcano Dei*" on the restoration of the Kingdom of Christ.
 - **January 26, 1923:** He publishes the encyclical "*Rerum omnium perturbationem*" for the third centenary of the death of St. Francis of Sales; **June 29:** He publishes the encyclical "*Studiorum Ducem*" for the sixth centenary of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas; **November 12:** He publishes the encyclical "*Ecclesiam Dei*" for the third centenary of the death of Saint Josephat bishop and martyr.
 - **January 18, 1924:** He publishes the encyclical to the French bishops "*Maximam Gravissimamque*" about diocesan associations; **March 19:** He publishes the apostolic epistle "*Unigenitus Dei filius*" on studies of religious disciplines; **May 29:** He publishes the apostolic constitution "*Infinite Dei*" with which indexes the 1925 Holy Year.
 - **December 11, 1925:** He publishes the encyclical "Quas Primas" for the institution of the solemnity of Christ the King.
 - **February 28, 1926:** He publishes the encyclical "*Rerum Ecclesiae*" on the promotion of the Missions; **April 30:** He publishes the encyclical "*Rite expiatis*" for the seventh centenary of the death of St Francis of Assisi; **November 18:** He publishes the encyclical "*Iniquis afflictisque*" on the condition of Catholics in Mexico.
 - **January 6, 1928:** He publishes the encyclical "*Mortalium Animos*" on the unity of Churches; **May 8:** He publishes the encyclical "*Miserentissimus Redemptor*" for the redemption of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; **September 8:** He publishes the encyclical "*Rerum orientalium*" for the promotion of Oriental studies.
 - **February 11, 1929:** Signing of the Concordat between the Holy See and Italy; **December 20:** He publishes the encyclical "*Mens nostra*" for the promotion of the practice of the spiritual exercises; **December 23:** He publishes the encyclical "*Quinquagesima ante*" indexing an extraordinary Holy Year for his priestly jubilee; **December 31:** He publishes the encyclical "*Divine illius Magistri*" on the Christian education of youth.
 - **April 20, 1930:** He publishes the encyclical "*Ad salute*" for the 1500 years since the death of St. Augustine; **December 31:** He publishes the encyclical "*Casti connubii*" on Christian marriage.
 - **February 12, 1931:** He inaugurates the Vatican Radio; **May 15:** He publishes the encyclical "*Quadragesimo anno*" on the social



Pius XI in his
Vatican study

issue in the 40th anniversary of “*Rerum Novarum*”; **June 12**: He publishes the Apostolic Constitution “*Deus scientiarum Dominus*” on the reform of ecclesiastical studies; **June 29**: He publishes the encyclical “*Non abbiamo bisogno*” (We do not need) to defend the Catholic Action; **October 2**: He publishes the encyclical “*Nova impendet*” on economic hardship and the danger of militarism; **December 25**: He publishes the encyclical “*Lux Veritatis*” for the 1500 years celebration of Ephesus Council.

- **May 3, 1932**: He publishes the encyclical “*Caritate Christi compulsi*” on the appeal to the charity of the Sacred Heart; **September 29**: He publishes the encyclical “*Acerba animi*” about the condition of Catholics in Mexico.
- **January 6, 1933**: He publishes the bull “*Quod nuper*” with which indexes the Holy Year of the Redemption; **June 3**: He publishes the encyclical “*Dilectissima Nobis*” on the condition of the Catholic Church in Spain; **July 20**: The Concordat between the Holy See and Germany is signed.
- **December 20, 1935**: He publishes the encyclical “*Ad catholici sacerdotii*” on the Catholic priesthood.
- **June 29, 1936**: He publishes the encyclical “*Vigilanti cura*” about the cinema.
- **March 14, 1937**: He publishes the encyclical “*Mit brennender sorge*” (With burning concern) on nazism; **March 19**: Publishes the encyclical “*Divini Redemptoris*” on communism; **March 28**: He publishes the encyclical “*Firmissimam constantiam*” on the condition of Catholics in Mexico; **September 29**: He publishes the encyclical “*Ingravescentibus malis*” on the Rosary.
- **February 10, 1939**: At 05.31 in the morning he commends his soul to God, at the age of 81 years, 8 months and 9 days, after 17 years and 4 days of Supreme Pontificate.

THE NATIVE HOUSE IN DESIO

The birthplace of Pope Pius XI in Desio is located at number 4 of Via Pio XI, formerly via Lampugnani, adjacent to Piazza della Conciliazione, the main square of the town. It is in a big building where Achille Ratti saw the light on May 31, 1857. It was owned by the father of the future Pius XI until 1867 and was taken over from his employer Pietro Conti since 1850. Economic misadventures forced Francesco Ratti to abandon Desio and to sell to Giovanni Antona Traversi other estates, while the silk-spinning mill, which was sold to the brothers Cesare and Giovanni Bozzotti, was taken over by Pietro Gavazzi, whose sons Pio and Egidio, in the aftermath of Ratti's election to the Throne of Peter, will donate it to the Pontiff who decided to designate it to charity.

The formalization of the sale of the House by Pio & Egidio Gavazzi Limited Company to a pious charity organization called "Orphanage Pius XI" took place on December 30, 1922. The orphanage was inaugurated by Cardinal Archbishop Eugenio Tosi on April 19, 1925, on the Jubilee year indexed by the Pope of Desio.



Home where S.S.
Pius XI was born

THE MUSEUM

When Achille Ratti was born, part of his House was used as a silk-spinning mill and maintained this productive destination for several decades. After the election of Ratti to Pontificate, the Gavazzi family, owner of the estate, bequeathed the building to be turned into a male Orphanage. At the end of this nursing purpose, the native House, owned by the homonymous Foundation, has assumed a new cultural vocation as the seat of the "Pius XI Museum" and the "International Center for Studies and Documentation Pius XI", supported by the Association "Friends of Pius XI's Birthplace".

A museum is located on the first floor of the building, adjacent to the former Ratti's family apartment.

The heart of the Museum itinerary is the room where the future Pontiff saw the light. Transformed into a chapel, it was visited by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 1983. The exhibition space collects a considerable amount of relics belonging to Pius XI, coming mainly from the Vatican Palaces and others donated by his two personal secretaries, Carlo Confalonieri and Diego Vellini.

The most significant pieces of the Museum are: the furnishing of the studio donated to Archbishop Ratti by the "Cooperative of the Brianza Cabinet-makers"; cardinal and papal clothing; objects of everyday use belonging to the Pontiff; devotional and liturgical objects, including the hammer used during the opening ceremony of the Holy Year of 1933; objects donated by the Pontiff to the Church of Desio; objects related to Ratti's passion for mountaineering; commemorative medals; a philatelic production of the pontificate of Pius XI.

A prestigious item is the radio, engineered by Guglielmo Marconi and donated to the Pontiff in 1931, the year of foundation of the Vatican Radio.

Unusual "memorabilia" is one of the two bottles of "wine from Carthage," which Pius XI received in 1938 as a welcome gift, preserved by his secretaries and delivered in "trust" to the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Child Mary, nuns resident in the right wing of the Bernini colonnade in St. Peter's square. Pius XI ordered to put on the labels the following inscription: "Pius XI to his successor in 2000". At the beginning of the new millennium Pope Karol Wojtyla was very surprised at this gesture of Pius XI (who was considered a "Polish" bishop as he was consecrated in Warsaw on October 28, 1919). On February 10, 2001 (62nd anniversary of Pius XI's death) John Paul II himself wanted one of the two "reemerged" bottles to be preserved in the Museum.





Radio Vatican plants

THE FOUNDATION

The Foundation "Casa Natale Pio XI" (Pius XI's Birthplace) was created with the donation by the Società Anonima Egidio & Pio Gavazzi and signed by deed recorded with the notary Innocent Arnaboldi, dated December 22, 1922, then integrated with another donation of a neighbouring building owned by Giuseppe Gavazzi, son of Egidio, registered on March 20, 1945, by deed of the notary Antonio Colleoni of Desio. By the will of Pius XI, the house annexed to the mill was transformed into a Male Orphanage, inaugurated by the Archbishop of Milan Cardinal Eugenio Tosi on April 19, 1925 and erected as a legal institution with the Royal Decree of 24 August 1933, no. 1243. The Orphanage management was entrusted to the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception, better known as Concezionisti, whose members Achille Ratti had also summoned to Poland, when he was Apostolic Nuncio, to found the Orphanage of Pinsk. Their management continued until 1945, when priests of other Congregations took over. They were coordinated by the Provosts of Desio, at first Giovanni Bandera and then Luigi Castelli, as Vice-Presidents de jure of the Institution chaired by the Archbishop of Milan. The charitable activities lasted

until July 1971, when the building was no longer considered suitable as a boarding school. The first President of the Institution, under the aegis of the Diocese of Milan, was Giuseppe Colombo, appointed by Cardinal Giovanni Colombo on June 6, 1972. The mandate was renewed by the Cardinals Carlo Maria Martini and Dionigi Tettamanzi. The complex was renovated before the visit of Pope John Paul II to Desio on May 21, 1983 and until 2004 hosted the Liceo artistico e linguistico (Arts and Languages High School) "Papa Ratti", then transferred to the Collegio Pio XI in Desio and later to the Archiepiscopal Collegio Ballerini in Seregno. Under a new statute of the foundation called "Fondazione Casa Natale Pio XI", signed by notarial deed on October 30, 2007, Cardinal Angelo Scola appointed President Giovanni Cucchiani on October 13, 2011, and gave mandate to Agostino Gavazzi on February 8, 2016.



Courtyard of the House where Pius XI was born

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATION PIUS XI - (CISD PIO XI)

The "International Center for Studies and Documentation Pius XI - CISD PIO XI" was the brainchild of the Organizing Committee instituted for the visit to Desio of Pope John Paul II on May 21, 1983, and was set up by notarial deed on November 20, 1998. This initiative aims to enhance the native House of Pius XI, the material collected in the Museum and the existing Archive and above all to set up a study group that can raise awareness and increase the analysis of the work of Achille Ratti in all the roles he held until he became Pope. Every two years the CISD Pius XI organizes the conference Pius XI and his time using the contribution of speakers, members of the Scientific Committee, and other distinguished scholars that address topics concerning the figure and work of Pope Pius XI.

President of CISD Pius XI since its foundation is Agostino Gavazzi and Vice-President de jure is the Provost of Desio.



The radio realized by Guglielmo Marconi and donated to PIO XI in 1931

ASSOCIATION "AMICI DELLA CASA NATALE PIO XI" (FRIENDS OF PIUS XI'S BIRTHPLACE)

On November 21, 2005, in response to a clear desire of the Foundation "Casa Natale Pio XI" and the "International Center for Studies and Documentation Pius XI - CISD Pius XI", the Association "Amici della Casa Natale Pio XI" came into being in the native house of Pope Pius XI in order to enhance his heritage (Friends of Pius XI's birthplace), by notarial deed of Luigi Roncoroni of Desio. In particular, the voluntary association aims to promote knowledge of Pope Pius XI's birthplace, to encourage visitors, to organize guided tours, coordinating with the birthplaces of other Lombard Popes (John XXIII in Sotto il Monte - Bg - and Paul VI in Concesio - Bs), and to plan initiatives aimed at raising funds for the conservation and enrichment of the Pius XI Museum.

The association invites you to visit this place to take a deeper look at the figure of Pius XI with the provision of a guide and the presence of a bookshop stocked with the most significant publications on the activities of the Pontiff of Desio.

The President of the association since its foundation is Claudio Lazzarotto.

The room in which
Pius XI was born



THE BIENNALE OF SACRED ART

On May 15, 1983, on the occasion of the refurbishment of the complex of Pius XI's Birthplace, two frescoes commissioned to Piero Gauli, painter of the Corrente Group, representing *The Two Popes* (340 x 640 cm) and *The Nativity* (300 x 300 cm), were inaugurated by the cardinal Carlo Confalonieri and the President of the Senate, Vittorino Colombo. In the same year the first Exhibition of Sacred Art was organized, and since 2003 it has become the *Biennale of Sacred Art in Brianza*. During its four editions (1983, 2003, 2005 and 2007) the artistic collection of the Pius XI Museum has been greatly enriched. Even today, donations of significant works of art by private citizens and artists are received.

The fresco
"I DUE PAPI"
by Piero Gauli



THE "QUADERNI DELLA BRIANZA" MAGAZINE

The magazine "*I Quaderni della Brianza*" (*The Notebooks of Brianza*) was founded by the "Organizing Committee for the Brianza district" established in Monza on July 26, 1978 and chaired by Senator Vittorino Colombo (1925-1996). The magazine was born to defend the aspiration to autonomy of Brianza as a cultural and political institution. Acquired on December 2, 2005 by the "International Center for Studies and Documentation Pius XI - CISD Pio XI", it transferred its headquarters to Desio and the native House of Achille Ratti. Since 2006, the periodical has been publishing special issues with contributions on the figure of the Pontiff and the Acts of the biennial conferences held since 2000. In 2017 the magazine, with the publication of issue no.183, celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Editor in chief is Franco Cajani.

You can request copies of volumes, back issues and books published under its aegis, by writing to: cisdpioxi@virgilio.it after payment of a voluntary offer to the Association "Amici della Casa Natale di Pio XI" - c/c postale n. 70165493, for the sustenance of the Pius XI Museum

AUDIOVISUAL SECTION

The "International Center for Studies and Documentation Pius XI - CISD Pius XI" has a rich audio-visual section, originally on 3/4-inch videocassettes, then digitalized on DVD. Attached to this section there is a paper archive ("*Vittorino Colombo Fund*") and a photo library.

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Postal account nr. 70165493

SECRETARIAT OPENING HOURS:

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 02.30 pm to 05.30 pm

PIUS XI'S BIRTHPLACE AND MUSEUM

Via Pio XI, 4 - Desio (MB)

OPENING HOURS: every Sunday from 03.00 p.m. to 06.00 p.m.

For groups, please contact the Secretariat to set the time and day of visit.

