

# **HITLER FELICITATES POPE ON ANNIVERSARY**

## ***Pontiff, Pleased by Message, Has Cordial Reply Sent— In Excellent Spirits***

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 12 (AP).—Pope Pius and Chancellor Adolf Hitler exchanged cordial telegrams today, causing Vatican circles to hope for an improvement in the relations between Berlin and the Holy See, strained by conflict between the Nazi régime and the Catholic church in Germany.

Sources close to the Pope said he was highly satisfied with a solicitous message received from Hitler on the fifteenth anniversary of Pius's coronation. The Pontiff directed Cardinal Pacelli, Papal Secretary of State, to acknowledge the telegram.

The Pope today gave his blessing to studies in social security to be carried on by Catholic University at Washington, D. C., when he received the rector of the university, Mgr. Joseph Corrigan.

The Pontiff, almost free of the pain that has marked his long illness, granted his visitor a fifteen-minute audience. The rector outlined the university's plans for two new schools, one to be devoted to the study of social security and the other to exposition of the Catholic position in learning and culture.

The Pope was greatly interested and heartily approved the new development. Through Mgr. Corrigan he sent his apostolic blessing to the university, its faculty and the students.

Mgr. Corrigan said he found the Pope looking as well as when he saw him some years ago.

Tonight the Pope expressed his gratitude to the thirty-two Cardinals who participated in services in the Sistine Chapel observing the fifteenth anniversary of his coronation.

Earlier today the Pontiff had given his recognition of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia by bestowing his apostolic benediction upon Victor Emmanuel as "King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia."

Although still confined to his wheeled divan, the Pope was in excellent spirits and read with joy many of the congratulatory telegrams that came today from all parts of the world.