

We desire, therefore, that this Octave be spread everywhere in the world as far as possible. We desire also that the pious union erected by you, Our Beloved Son, the League of Prayer for Unity under the patronage of Our Lady of the Atonement, to which We granted indulgences a short time ago, may grow day by day in members, driven by the love of Christ Who will desire nothing more than that all their dissident brethren may happily return to the bosom of the Catholic Church. We desire to embrace every one of them and we pour forth fervent prayers to God that they may return not to the house of a stranger but to the house of their common Father.

Meanwhile to you, Beloved Son, and to all who labor in these glorious works, We most affectionately in the Lord impart Our apostolic blessing as a mark of heavenly grace and as a pledge of Our love.

From the Vatican, November 1, 1957

Pius p/p. XII

THE CHAIR OF UNITY OCTAVE

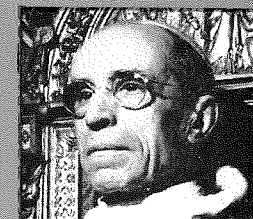
1908 - 1958

Fifty years have passed since Father Paul of Graymoor, noted American convert, began the *Chair of Unity Octave* as a prayer crusade for religious unity. In the providence of God this work has spread from its cradle at Graymoor to become a fervent Catholic devotion in all parts of the world.

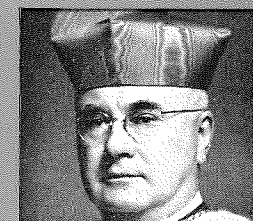
Even as an Episcopalian, Father Paul stressed the necessity of one true Church, the Catholic Church, for the salvation of men. Father Paul and his small religious community entered the Catholic Church on October 30, 1909. At that time the *Chair of Unity Octave* received the sanction and blessing of St. Pius X. Since then this devotion has been blessed by every one of his successors in the Chair of Peter.

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Octave, our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, sent the above letter to His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman for the Society of the Atonement, asking that the Octave be observed "everywhere in the world as widely as possible."

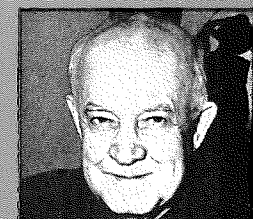
Today, the sons of Father Paul, the Graymoor Friars, continue to carry on this apostolate of Christian Unity as one of the primary works of the community, for the fulfillment of Christ's own prayer: "That they All May be One."



His Holiness
Pope Pius XII



His Eminence
Francis Cardinal Spellman
Archbishop of New York



Father Paul James Francis
Founder of the
Chair of Unity Octave