COINCIDENCE OF EUROPEAN FLAG

December 8th is a very special day for Europe: in 1955, on that day, the European Ministers' delegates officially adopted the European flag designed by Arsene Heitz, who today is an octogenarian artist in Strasbourg. Perhaps, not by coincidence, December 8th is the Feast of The Immaculate Conception of Mary our co-redeemer.

The decision was taken following the 1950 European Council's (one of the predecessors of today's European Union) convocation of a competition to design the flag of the newborn European Community. Among many other artists, Heitz presented several designs, and one was chosen: 12 stars on a blue

introit of the new Mass of Mary's Assumption!"

The European Union's flag's 12 stars were inspired by the halo of 12 stars that appear around the Madonna in Catholic pictures of her. A former secretary general of the Council of Europe, Leon Marchal, affirmed that the stars are those of "the woman of the Apocalypse." Enthusiastically he explained, "It's wonderful that we have gotten back to the Introit of the new Mass of the Assumption. It's the corona stellarum duodecim (the crown of the twelve stars) of the woman of the Apocalypse." This is a reference to the woman in Revelation 12 who appears with a crown

the European Union."

Artist reveals Virgin Mary was inspiration for design

Recently Heitz revealed to a French magazine the reason for his inspiration. At that time he was reading the history of the Blessed Virgin's apparitions in Paris' Rue du Bac, known today as the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal. According to the artist, he thought of the 12 stars in a circle on a blue background, exactly the way it is



background.

Its Catholic origins

The original idea for the blue European flag has a Roman Catholic origin. Paul G.M. Levi, professor at the Roman Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) was a Jew but became a Roman Catholic. In 1949 he became director of the Cultural department of the Board of Europe. Six years later he came up (according to the leading German Newspaper Die Welt) with the concept of the European flag. Levi, fascinated by the holy virgin with the stars around her head, proposed to the Secretary General of Board of Europe, Earl Benvenuti, to choose the symbol of Mary. When the members of parliament agreed, Levi said: “How on earth is it possible? We just rediscovered the

of 12 stars. The Catholic Church has always claimed that she represents the Virgin Mary, “the mother of God.”

The EU, which now has 15 member countries, has confirmed that the number of stars will always stay at 12, which indicates that the stars do not represent countries. I quote from a leaflet, “Building Europe Together,” which was given to visitors to EU headquarters in Brussels: “The European flag (is) a shared flag, blue with 12 gold stars symbolizing completeness. The number will remain 12 no matter how many countries there are in





represented in traditional iconography of this image of the Immaculate Conception. In the beginning, Heitz saw it as a flight of fancy, among the many that run through an artist's imagination; but the idea caught his attention, to the point that it became the subject of his meditation.

According to Javier Paredes, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Alcala in Spain, in statements sent to ZENIT [Vatican-based news agency], "Heitz listens to God in his interior; in other words, he prays with his heart and his head. He says he is profoundly religious and devoted to the Virgin, to whom he never misses praying a daily Rosary, together with his wife. Because of this, he believes the inspiration came not only from his artistic talents, but from the silent voices that Heaven always speaks to men of good will, among whom Heitz can undoubtedly be numbered. He is an

were not 12 members in that Council, nor in the European Community."

"However, in Heitz's soul the words of the Apocalypse were very present: 'A great sign appeared in the Heavens: a Woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' And, perhaps without realizing it, the delegates of the European Ministers officially adopted the design proposed by Heitz on the feast of Our Lady: December 8, 1955," explained Prof. Paredes. "That's a lot of coincidences, so henceforth it should not be difficult for us to discover in the folds of the Europeans' flag the smile and affection of Our Mother, the Queen of Europe, ready to lend a hand in that



On September 2, 1958 Archbishop Montini of Milan (the later Pope Pius XII) released on the mountain Serenissima a 20-meter high statue of Mary and called it "Our Beloved Lady, Ruler of Europe". Pope Pius XII called Mary " Mother of all Nations" and called on March 3, 1953 for a reunion of nations. Bishop Dr. Graber said on September 9, 1978: " I've asked for a Marian European International…We pray and ask in silence that the western world one day will be as it was: an IMPERIUM MARIANUM.

great challenge that St. Peter's successor has proposed to us: to re-Christianize the Old Continent with the example of our lives and the testimony of our words."

Pan-European movement

The Pan-European movement of Otto Habsburg wants a conservative and Roman Catholic Europe. In his book, *The Social Order of Tomorrow, he writes:*

"Now we do possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations equally. This is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne, the ruler of a united occident... the Crown represents not merely the sovereignty of the monarch, but also the ties between authority and the people. True, it is the monarch who is crowned, but in this sacred act he

artist who, virtually at the end of his life and at the zenith of his career, can proclaim with the guarantee of authenticity that he recalls that moment, that he is interested in very few but very important things, that he regards himself as a man who loves the whole world, but especially the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother."

Professor Paredes admits that "neither the stars nor the blue of the flag are particularly religious symbols, thus respecting the conscience of all Europeans, regardless of their beliefs."

Indeed, he recalls that "when Paul M.G. Levy, first director of the Press and Information Service of the European Council had to explain to the Members of the Economic Community the meaning of the design, he interpreted the number of 12 stars as a 'figure of plentitude,' given that in the 50s there



appears as the representative of the whole people. It should therefore be considered whether the European head of state, as the protector of European law and justice, should not also become the guardian of a symbol which, more than any other, represents the sovereignty of the European community."

Dr. Habsburg wants to see Europe have an elected head of state — a man elected for life. This influence of both Charlemagne and the Habsburgs hangs4



The European flag/Marian symbol appears on every license plate in the EU



HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE 2004

Can the Antichrist and the False Prophet be far behind?

The European flag/ Marian symbol appears on every banknote in Europe. The EU's two euro coin issued by the Vatican shows a portrait of Pope John Paul II and 12 stars.

heavily over the new federal Europe. The crown of Charlemagne, the first person to attempt to revive the Roman Empire in 800 AD, is an inspiration to those who promote the breaking down of nation states, and a Charlemagne prize has been established for those who work hardest for European unity. One who did was former President Clinton, who in June 2000, was the first American president to receive the Charlemagne prize for his work in promoting European unity. He received the prize at the cathedral in Aachen, Germany, where the first Holy Roman Emperor lies buried. Clinton called for an enlargement of the EU to even take in Russia..

Two major prophecies indicate

that the Holy Roman Empire will be the dominant force on earth at the time of the Second Coming of Jesus. We are witnessing a rebirth of the Holy Roman Empire right now.

It's important that we understand the difference between the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire. The Roman Empire ruled the world from about 200 BC to approximately 300 AD. It was in power during the time of Jesus. That's the reason there were Roman soldiers in Israel at the time of the crucifixion.

The Holy Roman Empire wasn't even born until 800 AD. At that time, Pope Leo III placed the crown on the head of Charlemagne pronouncing him Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. This union of church and state has ruled Europe off and on since then. The prophecies say the Holy Roman Empire will experience one more brief time of power immediately before the Battle of Armageddon.

The first prophecy concerning the Holy Roman Empire is found in Daniel 2:31-45. In the image depicting all the world empires that will rule from the time of Babylon to the Second Coming, the Roman Empire is portrayed by the legs of iron. The Holy Roman Empire is symbolized by the feet of iron mingled with clay. The clay represents the religious element of the Holy Roman Empire.

Another prophecy about the Holy Roman Empire is given in the New Testament in Revelation 17. There a woman is riding a seven-headed, ten-horned beast. The chapter explains that the woman is a city that exercises power over peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. It also tells us that the city will sit on seven hills. Rome is the City of Seven Hills and is the headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church, which presides over its members in virtually every nation on earth. The beast sym-

bolizes the political power with which Catholicism will be in alliance.

Both of these prophecies conclude with a union of ten kings fighting against Jesus at His Second Coming. In Daniel 2, the ten toes of the image represent the ten kings. Verse 44 states, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed..."

In Revelation 17:12-14, we are told, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."



Daniel 2



Revelation 7

Both of these prophecies foretell an alliance between the political forces of the day and Roman Catholicism. In the Daniel 2 prophecy, the iron symbolizes the political forces, and the clay symbolizes Catholicism. In Revelation 17, the beast symbolizes the political forces, and the woman symbolizes Catholicism.

Being revived now

For over 50 years now, an effort to create a United States of Europe has been in progress. From 1957 to the present, great strides have been made toward the unification of Europe. All economic barriers have been abolished. A person can raise crops in one state and sell them in another just like we can do in the United States. All border checks between states have been eliminated. You can move your residence from one state to another freely without governmental permission.

This unification endeavor will reach full fruition in 2004. Several major milestones will be reached by Europe this year. pean Union, bringing the total to 25 with a combined population of 455 million. (The U.S. has a population of 280 million.) A European president will be elected this year for the first time. The adoption of a European constitution is planned. A European military is being formed. Europe now has its own currency—the euro. The euro is already beginning to challenge the U.S. dollar for prominence in world currency markets.

The Antichrist and the False Prophet

Two men have always ruled the Holy Roman Empire—a political leader and a spiritual leader. This will be true once again in the last revival of this empire. Prophecy refers to these two endtime rulers as the Antichrist and the False Prophet.

As we watch the dramatic developments of European unification this year, we can't help but wonder—can the Antichrist and the False