

# VICARIUS FILLII DEI

by

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## **Vicar of the Son of God (Vicarius Filii Dei) and the Number of the Beast - 666**

Is the Pope the antichrist?

Many have asked this question, and many have linked the Pope with the beast/antichrist of the Book of Revelation. In support of this hypothesis, it is suggested that the 'number' of the beast or antichrist, as revealed by John as 666, equates to the Pope's title of, 'Vicarius Filii Dei' (Vicar of the Son of God).

This claim was strongly presented by the Seventh-day Adventist, Uriah Smith, in his book, *The United States in the Light of Prophecy*:

The pope wears upon his pontifical crown in jeweled letters, this title: "Vicarius Filii Dei," "Viceregent of the Son of God;" the numerical value of which title is just six hundred and sixty-six The most plausible supposition we have ever seen on this point is that here we find the number in question. It is the number of the beast, the papacy; it is the number of his name, for he adopts it as his distinctive title; it is the number of a man, for he who bears it is the "man of sin."

(*The United States in the Light of Prophecy*, Uriah Smith, Battle Creek, Michigan: Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association (1884), 4th edition, p.224)

## **Papal Tiara**

It is suggested that the papal tiara has inscribed upon it the designation, 'Vicarius Filii Dei' (Vicar of the Son of God). A protestant woman visiting Rome, in or around 1832, said that she 'witnessed' Pope Gregory XVI wearing a crown with the words on it

Moreover, the papal tiara was routinely worn, and seen, before and after a Pontifical Mass at the Vatican, as noted in the following Catholic Encyclopaedia entry extract:

### **Pontifical Mass**

The solemn pontifical Mass celebrated by the pope in St. Peter's has some peculiar ceremonies... The pope, wearing the falda, amice, alb, cincture, pectoral cross, stola, cope (mantum), and tiara is carried into the basilica on the *sedia gestatoria* under the canopy and with the two *flabella* borne



on either side... The pope returns to the altar to finish the Mass. After the blessing the assistant priest publishes the plenary indulgence. At the end of the last Gospel the pope goes to the *sedia gestatoria*, puts on the tiara, and returns in procession as he had entered. (*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1911, Vol 12, Online, <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12232a.htm>)

## The Beast

The beast/antichrist is described by John in the Book of Revelation:

- Rev 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:
- Rev 13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.
- Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. (*The Bible - King James Version*)

Thus, according to Rev 13:16-18, there are three distinct characteristics that identify the beast:

- 1) The mark (e.g. barcode delimiters (binary) - 0110 ... 0110 ... 0110 = 666)
- 2) The name (e.g. Vicarius Filii Dei)
- 3) The number of the name (e.g. 666)

## Vicarius Filii Dei

Literal Meaning:

- 'Vicarius' - means 'substituting for', or 'in place of'
- 'Filii' - means 'son'
- 'Dei' - means 'God'

## Latin Numerological Analysis

The following tables equate Latin numerals with their decimal values, and apply this to 'Vicarius Filii Dei':

Numeral	Name	Value
I	unus	1
V/U	quinque	5
X	decem	10
L	quingenta	50
C	centum	100
D	quingenti	500
M	mille	1000

Vicarius Filii Dei – Numerological Equivalent		
Vicarius	Filii	Dei
V = 5		
I = 1		
C = 100	F = n/a	
A = n/a	I = 1	D = 500
R = n/a	L = 50	E = n/a
I = 1	I = 1	I = 1
U = 5	I = 1	<b>Total: 501</b>
S = n/a	<b>Total: 53</b>	
<b>Total: 112</b>		
<b>Totals: 112 + 53 + 501 = 666</b>		

### Conclusion

From the above, many believe that the Pope (Vicarius Filii Dei) is indeed the beast/antichrist (666).

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### The Other Side

According to official Catholic sources, there is no prima facie evidence of writing (e.g. Vicarius Filii Dei) on papal Tiaras; and further, there is no prima facie evidence that 'Vicarius Filii Dei' has ever been used as an 'official appellation' of the pope.

### No evidence of writing on tiaras existing in 1832

As mentioned previously, a protestant woman visiting Rome, in or around 1832, said that she 'witnessed' Pope Gregory XVI wearing a crown with the words on it. And it is further claimed that Pope Gregory XVI had worn a papal tiara with these words clearly visible on it at a Pontifical High Mass, during Easter, 1845.

However, in 1832, when it was claimed that Gregory XVI was seen wearing a tiara with 'Vicarius Filii Dei' written thereon, only four tiaras were in existence:

- 1) One from the eighteenth century
- 2) A papier-mâché tiara, which was manufactured in 1800 during the papal exile that resulted from the occupation of Rome by French troops
- 3) The one given by Emperor Napoleon I to Pope Pius VII in 1804 (**Picture – Right**)
- 4) The 1820 tiara of Pope Pius VIII

No Pope has ever worn the 1804 tiara - it was deliberately designed, upon Napoleon's orders, to be too small to fit on a head, and much too heavy to wear. In any case, Popes refused to wear it on



principle, because it was made from parts of older tiaras, which had been broken up and stolen from the Vatican in 1798.

Consequently, Gregory XVI could only have been wearing one of three tiaras – 1) the 18th century tiara, 2) the tiara from 1800, and 3) the tiara from 1820.

All three tiaras exist, are on public display, and none contain writing. Further, the records of their manufacture and maintenance also contain no evidence supporting the claim of writing upon the Papal Tiara.

In consequence of no evidence of 'Vicarius Filii Dei' being found on any papal crown, it has been suggested that it exists on a papal mitre. However, the words have not been found on any of the vast number of mitres found in the Vatican. Also, references have been made to a 'triple tiered mitre'. However, mitres are not, and never have been, triple tiered - only the papal crown is triple tiered.

### Conclusion

From the above, many believe that the Pope is not the beast/antichrist.

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### Final Word – From the Horse's Mouth

The following questions and answers appeared in, *Our Sunday Visitor*, the largest Catholic weekly in America:

#### **Our Sunday Visitor, November 15th, 1914**

*Is it true that the words of the Apocalypse in the 13th chapter, 18th verse refer to the Pope?*

The words referred to here: "Here is wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast. For it is the number of a man; and the number of him is six hundred sixty-six." The title of the Pope of Rome is Vicarivs Filii Dei: This is inscribed on his mitre; and if you take the letters of his title which represent Latin numerals (printed large) and add them together they come to 666:

**VICARIVS FILII DEI**  
**5 1 100 1 5 1 50 1 1 500 1**

Add these together and the result will be 666.

This "argument" was submitted to Rev. Ernest R. Hull, and answered in the following manner: "Almost every eminent man in Christendom, who has enjoyed the privilege of possessing enemies, has had his name turned and twisted till they could get the number 666 out of it. In past history there have been numberless beasts or Anti-Christ's, all of whose names counted up to 666. I fancy that *my own name*, especially in Latin form, might give the number of the beast:

**ERNSTVS REGINALDVS HVLL**  
**5 1 50 500 5 5 50 50 - 666**

*Qnod erat demonstrandum*, namely, that Rev. Ernest R. Hull is Anti-Christ, or the Beast of the Apocalypse!"

Perhaps a little ingenuity with *your* name will show that you are the beast of the Apocalypse too.

(*Our Sunday Visitor*, P. 3, Sunday, November 15th, 1914)

#### **Our Sunday Visitor, April 18th, 1915**



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