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XXth ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY.-

The inauguration of the great Basilica of the Holy Cross in the Valley of the Fallen, marks the 20th anniversary of the National Victory. As stated in the decree which ordered its construction, the Basilica has all the grandeur of ancient monuments which defy the passing of time and oblivion and is a place for meditation, study and rest where the generations of the future can render tribute of admiration to all those who fought and gave up their lives for Spain.

Amidst the groups of representatives who have come from all over Spain, H.E. the Chief Executive makes his way to the crypt's entrance, where together with Mrs. Franco he is received by the Benedictine Community to whom the worship in the Valley has been entrusted. At their head is the mitred Abbot Fr. Justo Pérez de Urbel.

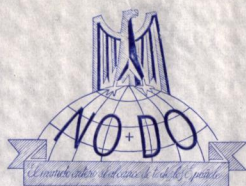
While a solemn funeral ceremony is celebrated inside the Basilica, a Mass is said outside attended by a huge crowd among whom the Brotherhood of Provisional Ensigns holds a place of honor.

The Diplomatic Corps, the Council of the Realm, the Government and representatives of the Army, together with relatives of the Fallen, attend the solemn funeral Mass officiated by Dr. Pla y Deniel, Cardinal Primate of Spain and Archbishop of Toledo. The Generalissimo and Mrs. Franco are in the middle of the Transept on the Gospel side. The ceremony lasted an hour and was followed by a responsory sung before the catafalque.

The moment of the Consecration was particularly solemn...

Afterwards Franco addressed the multitude gathered in the Valley and begged divine protection for all those who gave up their life for their country and made victory possible; he exalted the examples of heroism and sanctity during the Crusade without a sign of human weakness, apostasy or renegation and which can well be compared to those recorded during the persecution of the Christians in Rome.

The providential symbol of the Crusade - stated Franco - would in itself alone justify this great church erected in thanksgiving to the Lord and to befittingly shelter the



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remains of those who bequeathed on us such feats of holiness and heroism.

Such is the grandiose church for our hallowed dead where in the coming centuries prayers shall be raised to God for them; a perennial site of pilgrimage which seemed reserved by Nature as a worthy resting place for those who died for God and Country.