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Vatican Terms Mrs. Onassis Sinner

By **ROBERT C. DOTY**
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ROME, Nov. 6—The authoritative Vatican weekly, *L'Osservatore della Domenica*, without mentioning the name of Mrs. Aristotle S. Onassis, made it clear today that a Roman Catholic in her present marital state is barred from the sacraments and is in "a state of spiritual degradation... a public sinner."

The church paper gave the most detailed and specific analysis of canonical issues raised by the marriage of the widow of President Kennedy to the divorced Greek multimillionaire on Oct. 20. The analysis was published in answer to a hypothetical question as to whether "a noted wordly event" involved formal excommunication of "the Catholic party."

The answer to this was negative. But the analysis went on to observe that the effect was almost the same for one

who infringed church law by marrying a divorced partner—exclusion from the Eucharist and penance and church burial unless there was manifested sincere repentance prior to death.

"The contraction of matrimony with a person already bound by the preceding matrimonial tie implies for the Catholic partner the assumption of an attitude of practical renunciation of his own faith and of finding himself automatically in a state of spiritual degradation by which the ecclesiastical community feels itself mortified," the article said.

"The contractors [of such a matrimony] put themselves automatically in a state of irregularity for which the existing ecclesiastical legislation does not hesitate to qualify them as public sinners and to warn of the penalties which, if they do not reach the gravity of excommunication, carry with

them just the same the deprivation of certain acts held by the church to be a sign of vital and absolute adherence to its doctrine and its laws."

The purpose of these penalties, the article continued, was to warn against infraction of divine law and to stimulate violators to find the way of repentance and redemption. For those who achieve it, *L'Osservatore della Domenica* said, the church was ready to "explode with joy at their return, like the prodigal son."

They Will Cruise in Aegean

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ATHENS, Nov. 6 — Mr. and Mrs. Onassis, who are spending their honeymoon on the island of Skorpios, plan to sail tomorrow on an Aegean Sea cruise aboard their luxury yacht, the *Christina*. They will visit the Sporades Islands in the northwest Aegean.