



His Holiness the Pope with His Grace the Archbishop and Dr. Paul Farrugia, director of the Blood Bank, photographed during the private audience at the Vatican.

## Archbishop returns from Blood Bank mission

BY A STAFF REPORTER

One branch of the Blood Bank in Malta will definitely be set up on a permanent basis shortly as a result of the visit to Italy by His Grace the Archbishop and Dr. Paul Farrugia, Director of the Blood Bank.

Mgr. Gonzi and Dr. Farrugia returned yesterday after visiting various hospitals in Italy and the Blood Banks in Udine and Trieste, and as a result of preliminary talks with an unnamed benefactor, financial assistance to help in establishing the branch is expected in the near future. The benefactor in question will be visiting Malta soon for further discussions.

### Pope's blessing

Mgr. Gonzi and Dr. Farrugia left Malta a fortnight ago and were received in audience by His Holiness the Pope on the following Monday. His Grace said that the Holy Father showed keen interest in the Blood Bank and advised them to expand it. His Holiness also gave his blessing to all blood donors. The Pope presented Mgr. Gonzi with a bronze medalion of St. Michael which had been cast expressly for the Archbishop "in recogni-

tion of the work he has done and is doing in Malta."

Dr. Farrugia said a Maltese nurse will be going to Italy shortly to study the work and methods used in a blood bank, and Prof. E. Ciocatto, Director of the intensive care units of Turin University, has put his department at the disposal of Dr. Farrugia. He also insisted that the director of the Blood Bank go there periodically in order to keep himself up-to-date with all developments.

Dr. Farrugia said yesterday that more financial assistance is required to establish the various branches of the Blood Bank on a permanent basis and appealed for more blood donors. "We are in great need of financial assistance and blood donors," he said, "and I urge all those who can help to do so immediately."

### Kidney department

Dr. Farrugia said that Malta's Blood Bank is now set up on an international basis and if enough financial aid is forthcoming an artificial kidney department will also be established.

While in Trieste Mgr. Gonzi was invited to attend the inauguration of an international Congress on Medicine and he addressed the gathering. His Grace said that in Rome they also had consultations with the Knights of St. John.