

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
November 4, 1933

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...Chaos...Ignorance...

"Dear Father: I am taking graduate work at the University of ..... I miss Notre Dame with its fine valid spirit and its aura of certainty in an age of chaos. About the University of ....., there is an air of floundering and of superficiality; this is especially true of the Department of Philosophy, but it is discernible in the in the fundamental constitution of its students; when I speak of Gilson or Maritain (as I have done) there is an inconceivable feeling of ignorance rather than intolerance

....Chaos.....floundering.....superficiality.....ignorance.

Far off in Geneva, Switzerland, Bishop Myers, Auxiliary of Westminster, hits at these very symptoms as being world-wide. Speaking on Sunday, October 1, to statesmen and delegates of many nations at the Pontifical High Mass celebrated to invoke the blessing of God on the 14th Assembly of the League of Nations, the Bishop has this to say:

"Humanity is sick; sick from the political, economic and social point of view. Your presence in Geneva can be explained in terms of that sickness. Humanity is sick from the spiritual point of view, it has lost its bearings, is exhausted and at the end of its strength. At the bedside of this patient, the Catholic Church does its duty. The greatest evil from which we suffer is religious ignorance, both among Catholics and among unbelievers.

"The spiritual regeneration of society was the work to which the Church gave itself without rest, for she knew that our age, so full of anxiety, had need of comfort and of the grace of resurrection. Men were in error, the error must be corrected. They suffered injustice, they must be saved. They were afraid, confidence must be restored, otherwise they would fall into error; they would become exasperated and would end in self-destruction.

"As a result of rejecting dogma, of undermining the principles of reason, of attacking the foundations of morality, the world is tending to sink into a sickening, sterile and depressing scepticism, and puts up with a fatalistic empiricism which seems to await the turn of events to solve its problems. Having abandoned every salutary doctrine, no one takes any more trouble either to know or to study it, and the supreme appeal is given in the name of humanity, while an appeal to sentiment has replaced that of Christian charity based on the unshakable and spiritual steadfastness of the teaching of Christ.

"It is absolutely necessary that we develop a Christian mentality if we wish to save ourselves and the world from the disaster of natural faith and if we wish to live and act supernaturally.

"In our days, when all ideas seem at variance, when logic seems to have lost its rights when principles have been jettisoned to give place to expediency, when the Church confronts the neutral or the non-Christian, even the anti-Christian State, difficulties multiply. All authority comes from God, hence the children of God owe obedience to all legitimate authority both ecclesiastical and secular. Rulers and ruled are subject equally to God, whom together they serve and who is the object of their life.

"We have today reasons to hope which surpass anything that our fathers have dared to imagine. Do not overlook the action of Divine Providence in regard to His Church as witnessed by that remarkable sequence of great Popes whom God has given us to be His Vicars upon earth, Leo XIII, Pius X, Benedict XV, and Pius XI. Their encyclicals have resounded throughout the whole world, and let us confess that if Catholics had shown themselves equal to the height of the teaching which has been lavished upon them, the world would not find itself in its present position."

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