
Disloyalty to the Faith--II.

(Conclusion of the digest of an article by
James A. Magner appearing in the Jan. 19 Ave Maria.)

These attitudes represent more than disloyalty. They often amount to the repudiation of Faith and of divine authority. Very often they represent personal insincerity and intellectual snobbishness.

One thing for sure, they show the need of a wider and deeper contact with Catholic literature and with Catholic publications which counteract the unorthodox reports of the secular press and give a sympathetic viewpoint of the position of the Church.

Here is an instance. Most Americans think that the Catholic Church is the principal cause of unrest and injustice in Mexico. Extremely conservative American newspapers are manifesting strong Communistic and Socialistic sympathies in countries where the Catholic Church is the only bulwark against proletarian upheavals. How many Catholics are prepared to point this out with a clear statement of the facts?

Catholics must be educated to think for themselves on Catholic principles and not to rush to a materialistic or anti-Catholic viewpoint simply because newspapers and Protestant traditions hold Catholic institutions up to ridicule.

The more one considers the framework of society today, the more it becomes evident that the world cannot be made safe for Catholicism, much less be converted to the Faith on any large scale, by the clergy alone.

This ministry is going to require all the resources of the Church, and above all the wholehearted activity of an intelligent and courageous laity. The cause of Christianity cannot retreat into the cloister or be confined to the voice of the pulpit or the pen of the editor looking for readers.

It must come out into the streets, the office, the parlor, the world where men and women live and discourse and act. For the laity to adopt a passive attitude, content to let the clergy bear the entire burden and feel the scorn, the criticism, and the opposition of their flock, can lead only to disaster.

The success of Catholicism as a social and spiritual factor in the world, as the mystical body of Christ, depends upon a universal sharing of the Cross and a loyalty unto the end.

In Father Barron's Behalf.

Since we sent to Father Barron your Christmas check of \$200, \$12 more have come in, in small amounts, to build up a new fund. Here is a letter that accompanied one of the donations. Its writer is anxious to "start something":

"Dear Father:

"The thought of this Father Barron person has been haunting me. Must be the cold weather because I don't think I'm psychic. Anyhow he certainly appeals to my charitable instincts (very limited though they be) and I don't see why he doesn't appeal more to Notre Dame fellows; he's one of us. So if you can start the ball rolling for another 'lift' to the brave priest here's a buck. I said my charity was limited.

"Barronly (not barrenly I hope) yours,
Ex-'31."

PRAYERS: Ill, Father Frederick J. Straub, Chaplain of Central N.Y. Notre Dame Club; Joe Sullivan; Bob Malarney (St. Ed's.); John Pottingill (Corby); Ed Kirby (Sorin).
Four special intentions.