

"The Roman Catholic Church. . . Seedbed Of Communism?"

In a published statement the Rev. Mr. Martick said: "The Roman Catholic Church instead of being a bulwark against Communism, has often been the seedbed of Communism."

It is absurd, this pseudo identity of the Catholic Church with the intrinsic evil of Communism. Pius XI warned all Christians in 1936: "Communism is intrinsically wrong, and no one who would save Christian civilization may collaborate with it in any undertaking whatsoever. . ."

Catholics are being advised to shun the controversy over the Vatican issue. Bishop Albert Zuroweste of Belleville charged the members of the lay apostolate "not to fight with your non-Catholic neighbor over this issue but by patient persuasiveness, Christian living, undaunted courage in the face of narrow-mindedness demonstrate your devotion to your country and your determination to continue your fight against atheistic Communism."

Pulling down the curtain, however, does not mean Catholics are afraid of a fight. Admittedly the existence of scandal in the Church or the prevalence of Communism in Catholic Italy is difficult to understand unless one makes a clear-cut distinction between infallibility and impeccability.

Infallibility means incapability of teaching error in faith and morals; impeccability means freedom from sin. Our Lord did not make Peter impeccable; He did not promise immunity from sin to any successor of his or to any single member of his flock.

In Sacred Scripture we do not find the Redeemer promising that those called to Divine Union would be immune from sin. He stated that He had come not to call the just but the sinner to penitence. He warned us ahead of time that the kingdom of God on earth would be made up of foolish virgins as well as wise, cockle as well as wheat, thieves on the left as well as thieves on the right, goats as well as sheep, potential devils as well as potential saints, bad fish as well as good.

The final separation of all that is evil from all that is good would be made at the last judgment when those on His left would absorb into their flesh and blood and soul the terrifying shock of His curse: "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting fire which was prepared for the devil and his angels."

It is no shattering objection against the Rock to single out bad Catholics or Catholics who have become Communists, in Italy or any place else. That Catholics leave the Church and become Communists does not prove that Catholicism is the seedbed of Communism, any more than a few hotheads prove that America is hotheaded. . . or one Paul Blanshard proves that all Pauls are Blanshards.

The Greater Enemies Of The Church.

They are not the tormentors who torture priests, liquidate Catholic schools, persecute the faithful; not the Paul Blanshards with their Big Half Truths; but rather her own kith and kin who betray her, marry outside her jurisdiction, defraud laborers of wages, involve themselves in graft and political corruption, frequent places of scandalous entertainment, circulate obscene literature, undermine the dignity of womanhood. . . These are the ones who injure her most by their outward kiss of affection, which, like the kiss of Judas, is the sacrilegious kiss of treason.

Prayers: (doceased) Sister of Rev. Cornelius Hagerty, C.S.C.; Francis J. Vurpillant, '92; 4 unnamed persons; sister-in-law of Sr. M. Lucilla, C.S.C.; Brother Paul O'Brien, S.M.; Rev. Edward Walsh (Springfield, Ill.); aunt of Rev. Tom Lane, C.S.C.; father of John Johada (B-P); fiancée of Jim McCarthy, '50; John J. Carroll, Ill, Neil Macfarlan; mother of Ed Powel; sister of Rev. J. Norton, C.S.C.; Will Henricks; Bro. DePaul, C.S.C. (Prayers for release of Rev. Richard Downey, M.M., interned in China.)