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A Christian Meets Adversity.

Early in the World War the saintly Pope Pius Xth died. Shortly afterwards Cardinals from the warring nations met under great strain in Rome to elect the new Holy Father. Among them was Cardinal Mercier of Belgium.

After one morning session, that of August 27, 1914, Cardinal Vico took Mercier by the arm and they walked together in the Raphael Gallery. When they were alone, Cardinal Vico held up a newspaper: "The news is bad, Cardinal Mercier." Mercier braced himself for the shock. "Louvain University is burning. Your palace and your cathedral are under bombardment by the Germans."

Cardinal Mercier stared at the newspaper--his palace torn; the nave of his cathedral a heap of debris; the precious library with its rare collections entirely wiped away; the Palais de Justice and the National Theatre torn by shells; one-sixth of his beloved city of Louvain in ruins.

"Why all this sorrow, Lord? Why has Thou forsaken us?" Then he glanced at his crucifix and the complaint died on his lips. Throwing back his head in a gesture of new-found courage, that made Cardinal Vico marvel, the great Mercier said: "The disciple is not above his Master; nor the servant greater than his Lord!"

The Sense Of It.

There you have the **true** Christian attitude towards misfortune. Christ, the founder of Christianity, died on the cross at the hands of His enemies as an apparent failure. Mary, His mother, is the outstanding martyr to sorrow and grief. Every saint, without exception, in the whole history of the Church has suffered notably for Christ.

What is the meaning of all this suffering? Well, Christ laid it down as the inevitable lot of the true Christian: "If you will come after Me, take up your cross daily and follow Me."

The peculiar thing about it all is this: if we don't voluntarily mortify ourselves, mortification comes in spite of ourselves and we are not ready to stand it.

"Dispose and order all things according as thou wilt," says the Imitation of Christ, "and thou shalt find something to suffer, either willingly or unwillingly.... Sometimes thou shalt be deserted by God; at other times thou shalt be afflicted by your neighbor; and what is more thou shalt often be a trouble to thyself."

"If thou carry the cross willingly, it will carry thee and bring thee to thy desired end, namely, to that place where there will be an end of suffering."

"And the more the flesh is brought down by affliction the more is the spirit strengthened by interior grace."

Advent is a time of prayer and penance in preparation for Christ's coming on Christmas. If you climb out of bed these cold mornings to offer the entire Mass and to receive Holy Communion, you are willingly accepting your cross; you are making a beautiful preparation for Christmas.

If you are conscientious about your studies, if you sacrifice dates or shows or perform some other act of self-denial during Advent, you are doing penance for your sins, you are strengthening your will, you are opening up the channels for Christ's grace and peace. You are building yourself strong against the inevitable day of adversity.

PRAYERS: (deceased) cousin of Hon. Frank C. Walker, Washington, D.C.; friend of Louis McKean. Ill, friends of Charles Pilon (St. Ed's); father of Gus Crisci (Badin); father of Joe Hartzler (off-campus); Monsignor David Hickoy, Bradford, Pa. 5 sp. ants