

Mass Wednesday of St.
Hilarion, p. 1025. 2nd
col. of Ss. Mm; 3rd of
the Saints, page 660.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
October 20, 1936

Ill, sister of Clem McGowan
of Sorin Hall. One special
intention.

A Letter About Spain.

(Already Sent to the London Spectator.)

Will you allow me to register a belated and friendly protest against your editorial comments on Mr. Malone's letter in your issue of October 2nd? I am startled by your assumption that Communist atrocities are not directed against Christianity as such but only against "the dominant Churches in the two countries, mainly on account of their political and social attitude."

I have just seen in South Bend a film depicting the tithe war in England. If as a protest against the exactions of the Anglican Church, Anglican clergy were crucified and Anglican nuns burnt alive, you would not attribute these exuberances to left wing idealism. And surely you must be aware of the fact that Communism is committed to a ruthless war on Christianity in all its forms. Roman Catholicism was not dominant in Russia nor responsible for Czarism, yet the Catholic Monsignor Budkiewicz was executed because he refused to stop teaching the Christian religion. "As for your religion," said the prosecutor, "I spit on it, as I spit on all religions." Baptists in Russia did not escape the persecution which has all but blotted out the Orthodox Church. Most Anglicans claim to belong to the Catholic Church, and some, thank God, bear in their hearts the stigmata of the wounds which are being inflicted on the Church in Spain. But there are others who instinctively sympathize with every attack upon that Church, which, on their own theory, they should regard as a branch of the Church to which they belong. To belong to the Catholic family is to remember that the Church has its human side, and to realize that, though rich Catholics in Spain, like richer Protestants in England, have acquiesced too easily in an unfair distribution of wealth, we should not smugly criticize our Mother when she is the victim of a murderous assault. Catholics who have trodden the Via Dolorosa of Spanish Calvary have helped to atone by their sufferings, not only for their sins, but for ours. To belong to the Catholic family is to share, not only in the merits of the Catholic saints, but in the penances of the Catholic sinners, to say "mea culpa" for Catholic sins, and not, as is the habit of those who bear the Catholic name, "tua culpa."

Spain Christianized and civilized the American continent. But for Spain the Mediterranean would today, perhaps, be a Moslem lake. But for Spain, Europe might tomorrow be a province of Atheistic Russia. Deo gratias for the Dons!

You claim that atrocities have been committed on both sides. But surely there is a world of difference between the shooting of combatants as a reprisal for bestial horrors, and the attacks on defenseless priests and nuns. Mr. Mason, American correspondent of the New York Times, describes the finding of a crucified priest and of a nun whose face had been slashed by a knife, and of many other corpses of nuns who had been murdered.....

Your readers may have missed an incident which was not generally reported in the British press. Colonel Mascardo, Commandant of the Alcazar, spoke on the telephone to his son who was the prisoner of the Reds, and whose life was offered by the Reds in exchange for the surrender of the Alcazar. The Colonel ordered him to die like a hero. Which he did. A few centuries earlier a Moorish General attempted to secure the surrender of his opponent by a similar threat. And when the threat failed, the Moor spared the son of his chivalrous opponent. I commend this historic precedent to the Bishop of Winchester and to all those victims of racial prejudice who profess to be shocked by the alliance of Spaniards and Moors against Asiatic Atheism.

The power to provoke hatred is, as Christ prophesied, a note of the Church. Nobody could hate the Bishop of Winchester or the Church to which he belongs. That the Catholic Church still inspires hatred is proved not only by the bestial outrages of the Spanish Communists but by the lukewarm attitude of the British Press to the great epic of the Alcazar.

--Arnold Lunn.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mrs. John Motland, Newburgh, N.Y.; Father Ready, C.S.C.; Mrs. Douxi, a friend of Notre Dame; grandmother of Joe Messick (Dillon). Ill, friend of Henry Schmidt (Dillon).