

Mass Tues. Main Church  
6:25 for father of Bob Wind-  
heim; request of Boston Club.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
March 28, 1938

Ill, Paul Breting (Cav.)

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Hitler And Church Stability.

In one of your very recent harangues, chancellor Hitler, you told the world, "'Help yourself and God will help you,' and God has helped us."

What prompted you to make this statement? What right have you to call upon God? God has helped you! Blasphemy!

From all reports you do not honor God. You worship the State, the race and yourself. You are trying to destroy the religious beliefs of multitudes of your people.....You are systematically abolishing Catholic schools.....You forbid your public servants and officials to send their children to confessional schools.....You gag the protests of parents, or interpret their cries of injustice as "hostile to the State.".....You install anti-Christian teachers in your Nazi schools....You discredit the clergy and religious in your fake immorality trials....You have wiped out Catholic associations, identifying them with Communist groups.....Officially Church holy days are no longer widely observed....You have removed the bust of Pope Pius XI from the administration building of the mines of Bobrek.....You have forbidden the sale of the Catholic Encyclopedia.....You arrested the pastor of Friedrichstal, Saar Territory, because he held a religious procession on All Souls' Day.....You ordered flags, even those on Churches, half-staffed when Ludendorff, the arch-foe of Christianity, died. In Austria, despite your milk-and-honey promises to Cardinal Innitzer, unconfirmed reports state that three Catholic Bishops and Catholic leaders all over Austria have been arrested; that Catholic newspapers have been Nazified; that the street named for the late Chancellor Dollfuss has been renamed to honor his murderer; that an outspoken anti-Catholic has been put in charge of the forthcoming plebiscite.

And in the face of all these reports you have the brazenness to maintain that the God we worship, adore and serve, is on your side. That's ridiculous. When you attack the Catholic Church, Adolf, or get very close to her, try to read the handwriting etched on the walls of this ancient institution: "I am One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic: I am invincibly stable; the gates of hell shall not prevail against me".....And, Adolf, no paper-hanger can cover over these marks of the true Church no matter how many scrolls of propaganda he manufactures.

You are wise. But Mussolini is wiser: "The whole history of western civilization from the Roman empire until today, from Diocletian until Bismark teaches us that every time there is a conflict between religion and State, it is always the State which is vanquished." That's Mussolini speaking.

The Church you hate! Yes, the Catholic Church. But "what an awful vitality is here!...What self-evident divinity! She claims, she seeks, she desires no temporal power, no secular station; she meddles not with Caesar or the things of Caesar; she obeys him in his place, but she is independent of him. Her strength is in her God; her rule is over the souls of men; her glory is in their willing submission and loving loyalty. She hopes and fears nothing from the world; it made her not, nor can it destroy her. She can benefit it largely, but she does not force herself upon it. She may be persecuted by it, but she thrives under the persecution. She may be ignored, she may be silenced and thrown into a corner, but she is thought of the more. Calumniate her, and her influence grows; ridicule her--she does but smile upon you more awfully and persuasively."

The Church prays for you, Chancellor Hitler, in the words of her Founder: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." It is a prayer of all the Christians you have crucified on the Swastika of Nazism.

PRAYERS: (deceased) anniversary of Clarence Fallon; uncle of Ray Havelick (Mor); Ill, mother of Chuck O'Reilly (Walsh); mother of Jerry and John Clifford (Walsh); father Geo. Fischer C.S.C.; Richard Meiers '37 (seriously ill). Eight special intentions.