

Will the Spanish Club
take care of canvassing...

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 2, 1938.

....the halls for this
Relief Fund?

The Storm.

A certain number of Catholics maintain that they are neutral on the Spanish Civil War. They hear and read so much for and against both sides that their minds are in a welter of confusion. Consequently, for them the most intelligent stand is one of neutrality.

But the Catholic mind can not remain neutral on this important question. Unfortunately, a vast amount of propaganda, bandied about through current periodicals, magazines, and newspapers, has obscured the real issue at stake.

"The Spanish War is the result of the struggle between irreconcilable ideologies: in its very origins are involved the gravest questions of moral, juridical, religious and historical order." (Pastoral of Spanish Hierarchy)

With few exceptions the daily press has propagandized Franco's ruthless and unscrupulous bombing of non-combatants. And if Franco is guilty, he deserves their condemnation. No Catholic, therefore, should attempt to whitewash unethical warfare, either of a Catholic or a non-Catholic country.

However, why this sudden outburst of public indignation against Franco? If our newspapers and magazines hope to maintain a policy of honesty and consistency, where were their protests when the Reds ran riot?

"The number of laymen who have been murdered only for their political ideas and especially for their religious ones, is calculated to surpass 300,000.

"Although the figures are premature, we calculate that about 20,000 churches and chapels have been destroyed or totally plundered.

"The murdered priests....will sum up, of the secular clergy alone, about 6,000. They were hunted like dogs; they were pursued across the mountains....they were killed without trial most times, on the spot, for no other reason than that of their function in society.

"In the turbulent period between February and July, 1936, all churches were destroyed or profaned." (Pastoral of Spanish Hierarchy)

The Spanish Hierarchy has maintained that it has not tied itself to anybody--persons, powers, or institution; that "Spain has no other alternative but this--either to perish in the definite assault of destructive Communism, already prepared and decreed... or to attempt a titanic effort of resistance"; that the hope of Spain rests on the triumph of the Nationalist Movement.

Although Franco is a Catholic (he could as well be a Protestant), he is the leader of a cause. And that cause, fundamentally, at least, is Christianity against Atheism. Therefore, all Christians, especially Catholics, should, it seems, favor Franco.

The Orphans On Both Sides.

No matter what you think, this much is true: children are certainly suffering in Spain, in all of Spain. The America Spanish Relief Fund, with full approbation of the State Department and the American Hierarchy, solicits your help for these Orphans of the Storm. The monies collected will be devoted exclusively to the relief of human distress (especially of children) throughout ALL of Spain. A dime from each student should be a minimum contribution. But give as much as you can afford. God loves and rewards a cheerful and generous giver. Which one of you can refuse to dig deep in order to alleviate the sufferings of helpless children?

PRAYERS: (deceased) Mr. Charles V. Meenwell '15; mother of Fr. Marks C.S.C.. Ill, mother of Harry Gottron (Caw); friend of Paul Tully (How.). Six special intentions.