

High Mass, Sacred Heart  
Church Wed., 6:20 father  
of Edward Disser (Sor.).  
Ill, K. Fromuth (OC) pneu.

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
January 10, 1939  
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Mass for father of Bill  
Barton, Dillon, Wed., 7:20  
request A.I.Ch.E. of N.D.  
Ill, nephew Fr. Leo Ryan, CSC

Christianity Can't Be Accused Of Failure.

A European politician recently stated that Christianity had failed. It didn't seem to him that his statement needed proof.

Christianity hasn't failed. It hasn't been tried on any extensive scale. If Christianity is but imperfectly applied to the task of reducing order out of present chaos, it can't be blamed for the relative confusion which results. If Christianity in its integrity were accepted by all men and its principles were applied by them, in solving modern problems, peace and comparative happiness would be the result. But to dream of bringing about this happy state without fully applying the Christian principles to the tangled mess, is to dream an impossible dream.

Christianity can't be accused of failure: it's man that can, with strict justice, be accused of failure, because, on the whole, he has failed to respond to the appeal of Christianity. Without doubt, at no time since the beginning of the Christian era, has any body politic whole-heartedly accepted and applied the full Christian program in the reorganization of its life. The Christian philosophy of life, in its political and social aspects, was never given unhampered play in moulding the public life of the nations.

What has been said of the social groups is not universally true of individuals. Scattered throughout Christendom individual men and women have given whole-hearted trial to Christianity, and have not found it wanting. For them it has been a triumphant success. These persons are the saints who understood Christianity to be what it actually is, a divine organism created for the sole purpose of transforming human nature, making it God-like. The saints became exactly what Christianity guaranteed to make them, supermen, perfect children of God. Their spirit and their works survive them and serve as an enduring leaven in the mass of humanity. They were eminently great, and Christianity was the source of their greatness.

In others Christianity succeeds only in a measure that corresponds exactly with the degree in which it is accepted. To be integrally a Christian-- therefore, a Catholic-- one must accept the Christian standard of values. If this isn't done fully disorder invades the life of the individual and of society. But this is the failure not of Christianity, BUT OF MEN TO BE CHRISTIANS.

The enemies of Christianity-- and many of them are enemies only of what they think Christianity to be-- attack it, either as being the cause of present-day evils, or as not playing its due part in trying to remedy them. What irony! Christianity blamed for evils arising from the abandonment of its principles.

For from the corruption of the Christian social order in the schism of the 16th century emerged those germs of economic theory and practice which have been in subsequent times so fruitful in the production of economic and social evil. Men of that century were not aware that, in replacing the living authority of Christ by private judgment, they were in fact abandoning Christianity. Nor were they aware of the logical implication of their revolt. Their errors in doctrine, in economic, social, and political principles, contained, in germ, the economic, social and political evils which afflict the world today.

In present-day strife, where all Christian values are called in question, the best vindication of the Christian ideal is its bold, uncompromising expression. The Christian (or Catholic) theory of life is so coherent, so logical, so accommodated to the average man as well as to the most highly gifted; and finally so soul-satisfying that, when fully present, it must readily recommend itself to all men of sincerity and good will. Contrasted with it, all other systems must appear barren, ignoble, sterile.

(Digest of the introduction to Why The Cross? by Rev. Ed. Leen C.S.SP.)

You are a Christian, thank God! How well do you know your faith, your Catholic doctrine? How eager do you live it fully? Or do you suppress it? Pray. Study. Keep yourself intellectually alive, zealously aware of your great possibilities.