

Peace Sunday, Tomorrow.

The Holy Father has appointed tomorrow as a day of world-wide prayer for peace. He asks all Catholics to join him Sunday, in a common intention as he offers the Divine Sacrifice for all killed in this war, for all victims suffering as exiles, refugees or prisoners and finally for a true and just peace that will re-unite as brothers all the peoples of the human family.

All the Masses Sunday will be offered in union with this intention. Every student is earnestly urged to pray for the Pope's intention at Mass and Communion.

Why War?

The question frequently pops into your mind, "Why does God allow wars? Doesn't war and its evils seem to contradict God's goodness and love for man?"

Mgr. Fulton J. Sheen in his book, "Whence Comes War", published by Sheed and Ward, answers your question as follows:

"If God is all-powerful why does He not stop the war? As H.G. Wells has phrased it: 'If I thought there was an omnipotent God who looked down on battles and deaths and all the waste and horrors of this war--able to prevent these things--doing this to amuse himself, I would spit in his empty face.'

"Could God stop this war? Could he prevent a Hitler or a Stalin from choosing a Politics of Power rather than Justice? Could He force Peace upon all the nations tomorrow? Most certainly, but only on one condition--by destroying human freedom. What Wells is asking is that God create man free to choose and yet incapable of choosing wrong. This is equivalent to asking that God make man free and slave at the same time, which is sheer irrationality.

"Furthermore, this question assumes that wars are of God's making and not ours. On the contrary, a war is often the result of sin....Wars are not like cyclones; they are born of jealousy, hate and ambition, either on one or both sides. A war may come to a society for exactly the same reason a drunken man begets his own headache--by violation of a law of nature, and therefore nature's God. The only time some men, like Wells, ever think of God is when they want to find someone to blame for their own sins. Without ever saying so, they assume that man is responsible for everything good and beautiful in the world, but God is responsible for its wickedness and its wars. God to them is like their Dentist: they think of Him only when they have a toothache--with this difference: they blame God for that toothache. They ignore the fact that God is like a playwright who wrote a beautiful drama, gave it to men to act with all the directions for acting, and they made a botch of it. Shall we blame God because He does not destroy our freedom? Do we not see that it is only in a world of freedom that we can be patriots and martyrs; that a man can be a hero only on a battlefield where it is possible for him to be a coward; that a man can be a saint only in a Church where it is possible for him to be a devil? Shall we boast of our power to make bombs, and then 'spit in God's face' because they explode?.... Shall we drink the poison and then blame God because it takes effect? Shall H.G. Wells' right to blaspheme be taken away by destroying that freedom which in other men make them saints and heroes?

"If we would be honest with ourselves and had a spark of humility in our souls, instead of blaming God for wars, we would beat our own breasts and swear as the fruit of our egotism, our godlessness and our sin."

PRAYERS: (deceased) aunt of George Thompson (Bro.); Miss. Patricia Fogarty. Ill, Paul Irvin '30; Ira Holem. Four special intentions.