

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

TODAY is First Friday.
Masses: 5:00 P.M.; also
6:45 P.M. in Dillon.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 4, 1944

How To Pass Exams:
Study, Mass and Holy
Communion.

The Pope and Fascism.

Everybody has seen the assertion of the Russian newspaper IZVESTIA that the Pope is Fascist, and that Vatican foreign policy has disillusioned Catholics throughout the world and "earned the hatred and contempt of the Italian masses for supporting Fascism".

Tags and Labels.

University students should be too smart to be taken in by the device of modern, political-power propaganda (aiming not to inform, but to inflame) of smearing those they hate by tagging them with labels. The theory seems to be: If you hate a man, call him something; and the name you call him will reflect in the imaginations of unthinking people all manner of evil, in vague shapes and forms. In this way, the Pope has been called "Fascist" by the Communist, and "Communist" by the Fascist; he has been called "Anti-Nazi" in Germany, and "Anti-Fascist" and "Reactionary" in Italy. It will be to the undying credit of the Pope that he has been hated by all Godless Governments, and has been called names by them all.

What is Fascism?

It is not so easy to define "Fascism" as a system of political thought. It is like other authoritarian forms (e.g. Communism) in its doctrine of the absolute supremacy of the state and its utter rejection of democratic processes. "Its analogy with varied types of administrative organization is strikingly indicated by the application of the term -- especially among Communists and Social Democrats -- as a derogatory epithet, a political catchword, devoid of scientific precision. (Article, "Fascism", in The Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences -- italics ours.)

But the Pope IS Anti-Totalitarian.

One of the commonplaces of Catholic social teaching is that the Church will give its exclusive approval to any particular form of government, so long as the rights of God are recognized and the salvation of souls is not endangered. But the Church is fixedly opposed to the godless totalitarian state, which sets itself up as a substitute for the Creator and Lord of all, and tries to dominate the total lives of its people, even to the extent of taking command of their minds and souls. And so, if Fascism is merely a form of totalitarianism, then the Pope is fixedly opposed to it, and so he will remain.

"Timeworthy"

The weekly newsmagazine "Time", is not, to put it mildly, affected with a pro-Catholic bias in its presentation of the news. Yet on August 16, 1942 TIME wrote:

"NO MATTER WHAT CRITICS SAY, IT IS SCARCELY DENIABLE THAT THE CHURCH APOSTOLIC, THROUGH THE ENCYCLICALS AND OTHER PAPAL PRONOUNCEMENTS, HAS BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM MORE KNOWINGLY, DEVOUTLY, AND AUTHORITATIVELY, AND FOR A LONGER TIME, THAN ANY OTHER ORGANIZED POWER."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Ensign Geo. Gannett, Jr (trained at ND V-7), killed in action in pacific area; aunt of Father K.M. Healy, C.S.C.; son of Tom Henthorn (fireman at Steam Plant). (Ill) Tom Green, '34, brother of Sgt. Jerry Green. (Missing in Action) Ensign Carmen Pirro (ND V-7).