

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
November 8, 1949

Let's Not Kid Ourselves

J. Edgar Hoover, speaking before the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association, warns us against a twofold danger. "Crime," he says, "is today sapping the spiritual and moral strength of America....The ordinary criminal army, unfortunately, is not the only danger facing America....The world-wide revolutionary force of Communism has taken root in these United States....."

"The American Communists, make no mistake about it, desire, fanatically and passionately, the creation of a Soviet America....They work ceaselessly to undermine and annihilate the very Government which allows them the freedom to operate....Theirs is not a political party--it is a stealthy way of life which places the state above God and men above principles;.....which works under the cover of darkness, doing that which advances their cause and that which serves their godless philosophy to the end that....they will live in a Communist United States.

"Communism can be fought best with truth and example, but our great need is to make our democracy more effective," declared Mr. Hoover.

"Make Our Democracy More Effective"

As college graduates trained for articulate Catholic leadership in a society in turmoil, you will make democracy more effective, first of all, by making your Catholic faith more effective now. If Communism's avowed purpose is to destroy the basic fundamentals of Christian civilization, then the present Holy Father's explicit statement that you are living in the midst of the greatest crisis in the history of the Church cannot be gainsaid.

The Communists are out, all-out, to destroy you and your faith. But let it be preached from the house-tops that it is dangerous for Communists to hit at the faith of Catholics. For Catholics hit back. And when they hit back it is not a confirmational "pax tecum" either.

G. K. Chesterton once said, "Christianity, even when watered down, is still hot enough to boil the modern world to rags." If that be so, then write these words in letters of fire: CHRISTIANITY, NOT WATERED DOWN, IS HOT ENOUGH TO SET THE WORLD ON FIRE. "I am come to cast fire on the earth and what will I, but that it be kindled." Thus spoke Christ, the divine arsonist, who first proclaimed the scorched-earth policy for conquest of the world.

Set Yourself On Fire

Rekindle your spiritual life. Make Christ's doctrine more effective and Christ in the Eucharist more and more the center and source of your apostolic life. When the fire of divine love in your own heart reaches white-hot intensity, observe, judge and act as Catholic Actionists participating in the apostolate of the Hierarchy; or, as Father Keller puts it, make Christianity more effective in the market-place-- in education, government, business, labor, press, literature, radio and movies.

The Record Was Buried

The recorded voice of Oscar D. Whitenack, who died recently, spoke in blasphemy when it said: "This is my funeral. The clergy is a racket. I want no religious songs... I am an atheist and have been for years." The record was buried with Whitenack's body--and soul. This is the month for the Poor Souls. Thank God for our belief in immortality and an eternal recompense. Need more be said for living now for God?