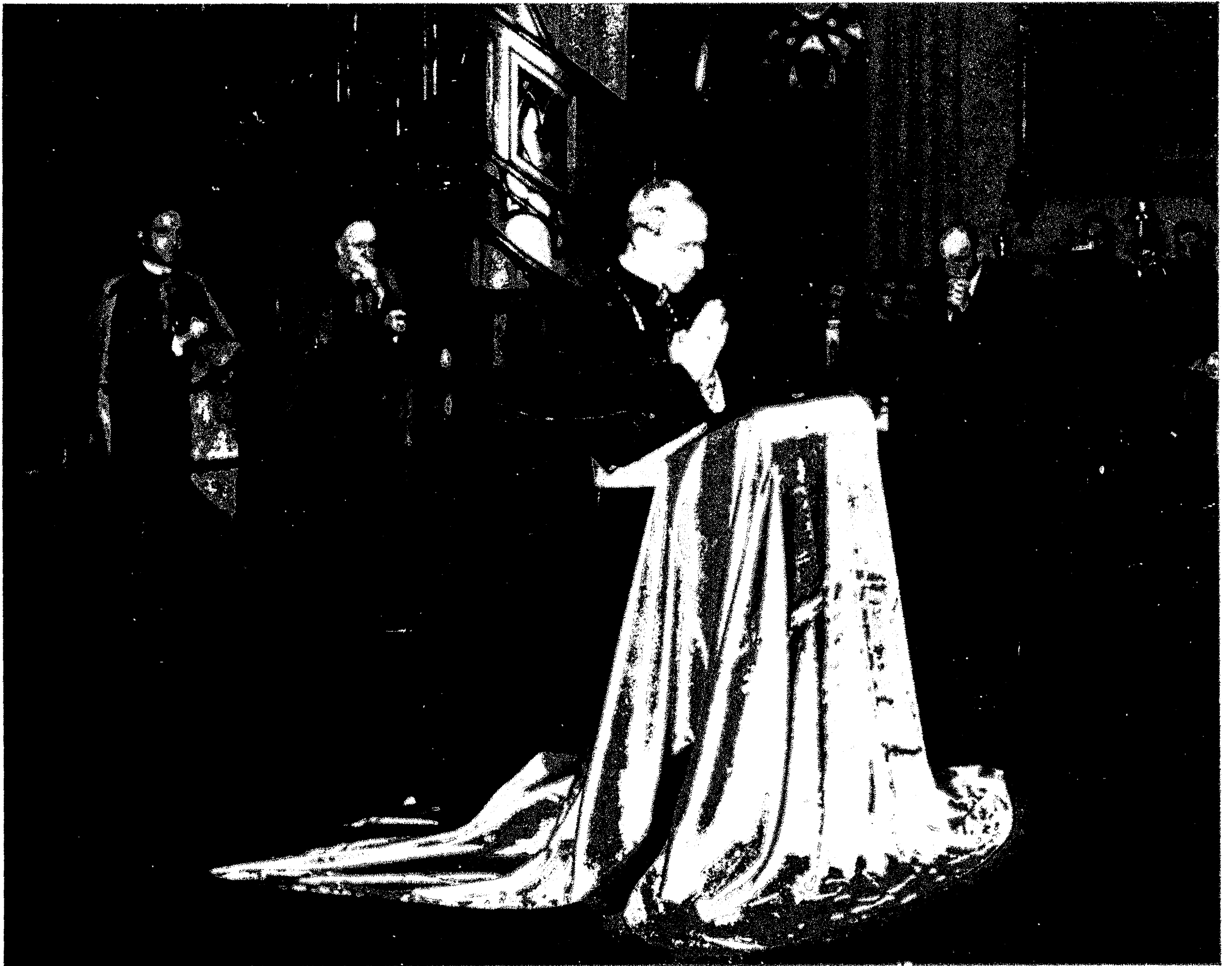


University of Notre Dame
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Launch a Mighty Reawakening of Thought and Action!



Pope Pius XII as Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, Sacred Heart Church

In a very simple statement Our Lord said: "He that heareth you, heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me, and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me." *Luke 10:16.*

Pope Pius XII, the Vicar of Christ on earth, calls for a "mighty reawakening" to save the world from disaster. Spoken in Rome on the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes his plea addressed to the people of Rome was likewise addressed to Christians the world over — to all of us at Notre Dame. So urgent, so timely, so eloquent is this call to action now that each one of us must ponder its far-reaching significance — then search his own conscience.

What The Holy Father Said

The Pope spoke by radio to the people of Rome, but he called upon them to take the lead, saying the pattern they set in his own diocese "shall be immediately imitated in other dioceses, near and far, so that Our eyes shall see not only cities, but nations, continents, the entire human race return to Christ."

It was clearly evident that the Pontiff has a definite plan in mind for the great rejuvenation of the world; but did not give details. Its execution he entrusts to his Cardinal Vicar for Rome, Cardinal Micara. In Vatican circles this plan is expected to take the nature of a spiritual crusade. The Holy Father's dramatic announcement is as follows — abridged:

This fatherly exhortation comes to you from Our Heart — from Our heart which is troubled over the prolongation, without any definite clarification, of the dangerous situation of the world around us, and by a far too widespread listlessness which prevents many from undertaking that return to Jesus Christ, the Church, and the Christian way of life, which We have often singled out as the decisive remedy for the universal crisis which is agitating the world.

Today, give heed to a rousing call from the lips of your Father and Shepherd, from Us who cannot remain mute and inert before a world which is unconsciously walking paths which sweep on to ruin both souls and bodies, the good and the wicked, civilization and peoples. We are obliged to attempt everything, to undertake everything, in order to spare the human race so frightful a disaster.

Face Reality

Now you are aware that the dangers at present threatening this generation are much more widespread and grave than pestilence and the convulsions of Nature, even though their continuing threat has begun to make the nations almost insensible and apathetic.

Might not this, perhaps, be the most unfortunate symptom of their interminable and undiminished crisis which strikes fear into the minds that face reality?

Therefore, having recourse once again to the goodness of God and mercy of Mary, each one of the faithful and every man of good will must re-examine, with a courage worthy of the great moments of human history, what he can and must do personally as his own contribution to the saving power of God, in order to help a world which is started, as it is today, on the road to ruin.

Warns of Explosion

The persistence of a general condition which, We do not hesitate to say, may explode at any moment, and whose origin is to be sought in the religious lukewarmness of so many, in the lower moral tone of public and private life, in systematic efforts to poison simple minds . . . All this cannot leave good men motionless where they are, listless spectators of an onrushing future.

Take Decisive Steps


Now is the time to take decisive steps and shake off this fatal lethargy. It is time for all good men, for all who are concerned over the destinies of the world, to recognize one another and tighten their ranks. It is time to repeat with the Apostles "It is now the hour for us to rise from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer!"

It is an entire world which must be rebuilt from its foundation. Millions of men are pleading for a change of course as they look towards the Church of Christ as to the only strong pilot who can take the lead in so vast an undertaking. Her guidance is asked with explicit words and, even more through tears which have been shed, through wounds still smarting, while men point to the endless cemeteries which organized and militant hate has spread over the continent.

Mighty Reawakening

Launch a mighty reawakening of thought and action. This reawakening is a duty for everyone without exception — clergy and people, those in authority, families, groups, individuals — along the entire front of the complete renewal





Christian life, along the line of the defense of moral values, in the realization of social justice, in the reconstruction of the Christian order.

Time For Discussion Past

This is not the moment to discuss and to search for new principles or to fix new aims and goals. Both the one and the other, already known and substantially verified, because taught by Christ Himself, clarified by the teachings of the Church down through the centuries, adapted to immediate circumstances by the Supreme Pontiffs, await one thing only — concrete execution.

Lethargy Contagious

Let it be very clear, beloved sons, that the root of modern evils and of their baneful consequences is not invincible ignorance of the eternal destiny of men and of the principle means of attaining it . . . Rather is it lethargy of the spirit, weakness of the will, and coldness of the heart.

Action!

Let those of good will be invited. Let them offer themselves spontaneously. Let their law be that of unconditional fealty to the person of Jesus Christ and to His teachings. Let their offering of themselves be humble and obedient. Let their labor enter as an active element into the great current, which God shall set in motion and direct through His ministers.

Some Sleep

There are ardent souls, who anxiously await this call. To their impatient desire point out the vast fields that must be tilled. Others are fast asleep; they must be awakened. Others are apprehensive; they must be encouraged. Others are confused; they must be guided. All are called to a suitable assignment, to an appropriate service, to a measure of work corresponding to the urgent necessity of defense, of victory, of positive construction.

Let the hand, then, be put to the plow. May God, Who desires it so much, move you. May the nobility of the undertaking attract you. May its urgency stimulate you. May the justifiable fear of the terrible future, which would result from culpable indolence, vanquish every hesitation and determine every will.

The Most Holy Virgin will bless and multiply the happy result for which We ardently pray. We have no doubt that she will, in these days, make felt her maternal protection for those (who honor her).

Moral Lethargy!

What is this moral lethargy about which the Holy Father speaks? . . . Is it aversion for spiritual advancement which entails self-denial and prayer? . . . Is it spite against those who try to lead us to the practice of virtue? . . . Is it a mortal-sin complex which determines our moral behaviour? . . . Is it carelessness in the observance of the Ten Commandments? . . . Is it our negligence in studying our faith and taking our religion seriously? . . . Is it our double code of morality whereby we are Catholic in faith, but pagan in culture? . . . Is it our failure to meditate on the truths of revelation and to adore God in spirit and in truth? . . . Is it our laziness in getting to daily Mass — the Mass which Pope Pius X called the "primary and indispensable source" of holiness? . . . Is it that we are ashamed of purity and of the example of Christ when it comes to taking vigorous stands against lewd literature, stories, shows and entertainments? . . . Is it our nonchalant estimation of those "little sins", such as coming late to Mass, profanity, intemperance, lying, cheating, chisling? . . . Is it our culpable and scandalous ignorance of the social doctrine of the Church? . . . If these are the symptoms of moral lethargy, then there is no moral lethargy!

Why are we here? What is life for? We come from God. We belong to God. Our business in life is to know, love and serve Him. God's claims on us are absolute. Our chief business in life is — to obey God; to do His will. "The Lord thy God thou shalt adore, and Him only shalt thou serve."

Suggestion For Overcoming Moral Lethargy

Judging from Mass attendance and Communion figures for the last three weeks, it appears that most of you have been waiting for something. "The mighty reawakening" Think! Think twice! But think! The Holy Father's plea is a personal one, one directed to each mind and heart on this campus. Lent is the time for penance. It is time to wake up and live. "Unless you do penance, you shall likewise perish."

Resolve:

1. Intelligent, devout participation in daily Mass and the fervent reception of Holy Communion.
2. Make at least a weekly half-hour of Adoration. This provides you an opportunity to speak person to person with Christ. "With desolation is the whole land made desolate, because there is nobody that thinketh in his heart."
3. Attend Wednesday night devotions in the Main Church . . . In honor of Our Lady say your rosary daily and visit the Grotto.
4. Fulfill the duties of your state in life as a student. Put in eight full hours of study . . . And 15 minutes meditation in the chapel daily.
5. On March 7 the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows will be inaugurated. This nationally popular Novena will be held each Friday night. It's primary purpose will be to honor Mary and to plead for peace through her powerful intercession.

Take Heed

Be mindful of Mary's revelation at Fatima. "If my requests are heard, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. If not, SHE WILL SPREAD HER ERRORS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE WORLD, FOMENTING WARS AND PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH. THE GOOD WILL SUFFER MARTYRDOM; THE HOLY FATHER WILL SUFFER MUCH; DIFFERENT NATIONS WILL BE ANNIHILATED. BUT IN THE END MY IMMACULATE HEART SHALL TRIUMPH."

Our Sorrowful Mother

