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Pious Rhubarb.

The banning of the Church of Christ in Italy, as delineated by some of our great American dailies, leaves much to be desired in the realm of journalism. It reminds us of those who, bent upon proving a thesis, choose only items which prove that thesis. The implications, if not the bald statements, indicate that there is a sinister move on the part of the Catholic authorities to outlaw all denominations. It remained for Time magazine to shed some pertinent truth on the case:

- 1) All denominational churches are required to register with governmental authorities and receive permits to operate. Other and older Protestant churches in Italy which have complied with the registration laws have not had any trouble. To quote the Chairman of Italy's Federal Council of Evangelical Churches: "We enjoy complete freedom of worship... We feel that our friends of the Churches of Christ are not entirely in the right."
- 2) In three years of missionary work among Roman Catholics, the Church of Christ missionaries have made only 450 converts. Some of these converts, after accepting gifts of food and clothing, have gone back to Catholicism.

Of course the Catholic Church does not relish the presence of these missionaries. The Church cannot be indifferent to their efforts at proselytizing -- leading men from the true Faith into error.

While the Chicago Tribune thinks proselytizing is all right, we doubt if one of our American Protestant ministers (even though he may regard all denominations equally) would be very happy at the sight of you standing outside his church persuading -- with a sack of candy -- the youngsters from his Sunday School class to come over to the Catholic Church for catechism. This is precisely what is happening in Italy.

It is to the credit of the Italian "converts" that, once the pangs of hunger had been assuaged, their reason began to assert itself, and some returned to the Truth of their fathers. Others are still hungry.

Some idea of the attitude of the Church of Christ minister toward his Roman Catholic neighbors is garnered from his encounter with the Italian police. When he urged them to come in and hear him preach, they asked: "Why? We are all Catholics." Replied the minister: "All the more reason for us to save your souls!"

We are not sure just what is their objective in Roman Catholic Italy. It can't be to bring Italians to the knowledge and love of God through Christianity. That knowledge and love antedated Pastor Paden's arrival -- by 1900 years, to be exact about the matter.

Prayers Requested.

Deceased: father of Reverend William Schreiner, C.S.C.; uncle of Father Healy, C.S.C.; Reverend William B. Williams, Class of '07; Len J. Welsch, Class of '20; wife of Philip J. Phillip, Class of '12.

Ill: Gerald Holland, Class of '25; Father Hebert, C.S.C. (operation).