

Catholic Guidance Given in Current Events By Verein

(Because of the profound delirium given resolutions of the Catholic Central Verein and their finalities they will be reproduced in this column from time to time.)

Central Verein On Present Crisis

Convinced that Catholics have a definite task to perform at this time, the Catholic Central Verein of America undertook to hold its 47th annual convention in St. Louis on Aug. 27-28. Not only the discussions and meetings themselves, but the decisions and more resolutions adopted on this occasion bear out the organization's conviction. Problems of the immediate war effort and the post-war reconstruction occupied the convention for five days. And out of the deliberations came both a set of principles and concrete proposals for action.

Conceived as a preamble, a resolution on "The Present Crisis" sets the pace for the succeeding declarations. Significantly, this resolution asserts:

The Catholic Central Verein of America, assembled in St. Louis, Mo., at its 47th annual convention, once again solemnly enunciates its unswerving loyalty to God and country, and pledges its undivided political allegiance to the flag and constitution of the United States of America.

True to the lofty principles and ideals of its founders, and guided by the Voice of Christ speaking through the Pope, the Central Verein has throughout its glorious history consistently directed its efforts toward the goal proclaimed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when, in his letter to the American Hierarchy last winter, he said that at the end of the present war a world order shall be established in which the spirit of Christ shall rule.

Peoples and nations find themselves in the present chaos precisely because men and governments, led astray by false philosophies, have disregarded and willfully violated the natural and the revealed law of God and repudiated the teachings of Christ. There has arisen, in consequence, a new paganism, whose spirit not only governs the thoughts and actions of its avowed exponents but also influences in a large measure even many of those who wish to be regarded Christians. The organic structure of society has been shattered; the very root of society, the family, has been seriously weakened and is threatened by complete disruption. Class is set against class in deadly combat, nation is warring against nation, continent against continent.

This neo-pagan spirit is not confined to one country or one continent but prevails, although in different degrees, throughout the world. Bolshevism, Nazism and similar philosophies have in theory and practice systematized the errors which have sprang from the revolt against the divine order, and thus have become the leaders of world revolution which seeks to solve the social question by sheer force. The terrible second world war, therefore, is more than a war for political and economic advantages. It is at once the effect and culmination of errors and misdeeds, the collective responsibility for which rests on all nations and society as a whole.

Order and peace, in which the spirit of Christ shall rule the lives of individuals as well as human relations in national and international affairs, cannot be brought about by condemning those nations whose guilt is more flagrant and manifest than that of others, neither by mere superior physical power and resources. The present chaotic conditions are a challenge to all those who profess Christ, to conquer under the banner of Jesus Christ, opposing to the forces of darkness the forces of justice and charity. Filled with the justified will to win the war and resolved to bend to this end all our energies, individually and collectively, let our thoughts and actions at the same time be governed by the conviction that war is a scourge in the hands of an all-wise and all-just God against Whom society has grievously sinned, and that only a just peace will appease the Divine Ruler of the world, that only a just peace is worth warring for and will grant the nations, and all mankind in fact, the security of the

we won the war and lost the peace. Instead, let a peace born of justice and charity be witness to the justice of the cause for which we are waging war. Many injustices will have to be righted, many resolutions which may seem radical to those who fail to realize the full significance of the collapse of a historic era will have to be applied. If a better era is to arise from the ruins the present article will leave behind. Nationality and internationally will we be confronted by problems the like of which few periods of history have witnessed. We are at the threshold of events and decisions which will lead either to the reconstruction of society as urgently demanded by the Pope of the past half-century, or to destruction of existing institutions and those.

While preoccupied at present with the problems of the war raging on every continent, and also those of a new social and economic order, we cannot lose sight of the tremendous tasks awaiting us as a

nation at the conclusion of the war. The destruction of Peace Plan will be fraught with the danger

of a huge task which will have to be done in order to prevent the return of the present conditions of economic chaos. We therefore urge our

members to prepare themselves by working hard for the better world. All citizens everywhere of every nation toward the common goal.

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