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Sursum Corda By Rev. James M. Gillis, C.S.P.

## ONE DICTATOR OVERLOOKED

On January 2 a mass meeting was held in New York with the purpose of influencing our government to break with France. It was an odd way of starting the New Year. I should imagine that we had enough enemies to deal with and that a little good will to men would have been more appropriate. But the sponsors of that meeting will not rest content until we make at least one more nation our enemy. They say they are anxious for peace, so they try to drag another people into war.

Strange logic. Strange method. But that is only a sample of what was said and done at that meeting. For example, a Methodist bishop, Dr. G. Bromley Oxnam, was present. He knew, of course, that the meeting was held in the interests of Soviet Russia. It would be funny, if it were not pathetic, to see a clergyman of a Christian body promoting the cause of a dictatorship dedicated to the destruction of the Christian religion.

"The hands of Democracy must be clean," said the bishop. "I do not want the hand of Democracy made foul by clasping the hand of Fascism." Apparently he doesn't mind fumbling the hands of Democracy by the touch of the hand of Communism. He said I am not going to fraternize with France, but I had to make a choice I would shake his hand rather than that of Stalin. I wonder where the bishop has been since 1932 if he has not heard of the mass murder of Ukrainians, Poles, Finns and others at the hands of the man of steel. Man of steel and of blood.

The bishop, not content to take a crack at Fascism made an even more vicious swipe at Catholicism. He said: "I would not be true to myself if I did not add that whenever the Church, in a blind endeavor to preserve its privileges and its property, makes common cause with fascism, allies itself with the great landholders and the military, it not only repudiates its Christ but deserves the wrath of the Lord."

Evidently the bishop has more talents than one. He is, among other things, a mind reader. Not an ordinary mind reader who can tell you or me or some other individual what we are thinking of. Bishop Oxnam can read the mind of an entire Hierarchy at once. Not only can he read thoughts, he can discover motives. Sacred Scripture says, "For what man knoweth the things of a man but the spirit of a man that is in him." But Bishop Oxnam knows no timidity and recognizes no limitations. He knows that every member of the Hierarchy in Spain—he makes no exceptions—betrayed Christ and the people because every one of them is concerned only about the property and the privileges of the Church. Pretty strong stuff. If you ask me, pretty wild stuff. You or I would have guessed that the Hierarchy in Spain was the worst of two evils—the other being Stalin; and that if they tolerate Fascism it is as a counter-irritant to Communism. That

## Mystery of the Kingdom of God

Christ came to reveal to the Church the Kingdom of God. These were revelations connected with his teaching, with his early history, with his continued history down the centuries. To him speaking in today's Gospel, he states: "To you it is given to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God." Not just the mystery of his origin, but of his functioning. Now was Christ preaching the Word, working miracles to enable people to know His power and the validity of His message. How was Christ able to accept the word, how was he able to see the signs that faced them, not willing to receive the Kingdom of God by their own weakness, they were to be blind and deaf? That seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.

The mystery of the Kingdom of God is the mystery of grace and salvation. Acceptance of God's word is only the beginning, there must be continued attention to that word, there must be perseverance, in both good and evil. The persons of the God, of the diverse but united persons, is a powerful reminder of what may happen to our soul according to our care of that gift.

The mystery of the Kingdom of God continues to be with us. The Church is the great mystery of the world today as in days past. Mysteriously speaking the history of the Church would have been impossible. The current mystery of the Church is a mystery: the one great power in the world, as revealed with wisdom and wisdom in the power that has no weakness, no sin. God help us to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God!

is the first explanation that would come to the mind of a charitable Christian. It doesn't come to the mind of Bishop Oxnam.

He might have left the matter there. But like some others who take a sting at the Church, he emboldens himself with hypocrisy. He did not mean, he said, to attack a particular church. Of course not. He means Heaven forbid that he should attack any particular church; but he felt compelled in conscience to say that the church he had in mind, the church that betrayed Christ and the people of Christ was the Roman Catholic Church. Deliberate concealment!

But Bishop Oxnam didn't have the final say at that mass meeting in Madison Square Garden. A certain Dr. Kingdon declared in a fine burst of indignation: "I join with all Americans and all free men who are sick of our appointment of tyrants everywhere. The hour has struck for democracy to inherit the earth. . . Hitler must go. Hirohito must go. France must go."

That's the stuff! All tyrants everywhere. Democracy and Democracy alone must rule. There's my sentiments. But Dr. Kingdon in his blanket indictment of "all tyrants everywhere" oddly enough seems to have missed one. Hitler, Hirohito, France—are these all the tyrants that Dr. Kingdon can name? Seems to me I have heard of another. What say dear reader, can you complete the list? Good! You got it right the very first time. I wonder how the biggest dictator in the world can have escaped Dr. Kingdon's eagle eye. Yes and I wonder at more than that. I wonder if Bishop Oxnam and Dr. Kingdon imagine for a split second that they are fooling anybody.

## FATHER THOMAS CARROLL

A priestly career that had its beginnings in Ireland when the call of vocation came to a young boy there, that was given a solid foundation at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, that took concrete form with the conferring of Holy Orders on that young Levite in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1905 by Bishop McQuaid, saw its earthly close last Saturday night in the death of Rev. Thomas F. Carroll, Pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake Church at Watkins Glen.

Well do we call it "his earthly close." Because there can be no real end to the priestly career of one who has been ordained a "priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." His priesthood shall continue forever in the home of the Great High Priest above. Indelibly imprinted on his soul, the mark of Holy Orders shall single him out as one of that order which shall render priestly services before the great throne on high through endless ages of ages.

The spiritual direction of thousands of souls in this diocese have been tied up with the life of Father Carroll. As Patrick of old prayed that God might bless his mission to the Irish, so Thomas Carroll in his home in the Emerald Isle prayed that God might bless his vocation to serve and save his future charges beyond the western sea. In the great Judgment Book of God is written a striking record of priestly devotion in the training of the young in God's way, the instruction of his people, the administration of the sacraments, the care of the sick, the offering of Holy Mass, under the direction of this great God who call his native shores at God's summons. In a pastorate of twenty-two years at St. Mary's of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen this Man of God, this Son of Erin, has rejoiced in a host of vocations. Especially worthy of note is the constant care he has given to the families of Italian immigrants within his parish. Father Carroll introduced the Filipino Sisters to work in the diocese and to teach those Catholic doctrine, Catholic principles,

and to lead them to Christ continues to minister to the needs of his people. His mission was given, but the Priest of God has been called to a higher and more fruitful, older and more fruitful mission. The mission of the priest is to be a man of God, a man of peace, a man of prayer, a man of service, a man of love. The mission of Father Carroll was to be a man of God, a man of peace, a man of prayer, a man of service, a man of love.

By Rev. David A. Lord, S.J.

## ON ALL FRONTS

There is a certain irony in the fact that Al Smith was not elected back in 1932. At the time we were depressed. A little later we should have thanked a gracious Providence that took better care of us than we know. For hardly had Hoover gone in when the stock market crashed. The black depression set in. The world seemed upside down. All the people who had been up in the years before, but Hoover got the blame. Now imagine that Al Smith had been elected. The depression, born of his predecessors, would have been over. But he would have got the full blame. The country would have said, "A Catholic and a Democrat has wrought us! Never again! Oh, indeed and indeed, never again!" And whereas in his defeat, Al Smith was counted down by his Catholic opponents and Catholic newspapers, both before and after 32 and 36, he would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 36 and 38. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 40 and 42. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 44 and 46. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 48 and 50. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 54 and 56. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 60 and 62. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 66 and 68. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 72 and 74. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 78 and 80. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 84 and 86. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 90 and 92. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 96 and 98. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 100 and 102.

lines, and for all of them the election of Dewey would be easy explanation.

And that takes me back to the luckiest thing that ever happened for us Catholics — the fact that Al Smith was not elected back in 1932. At the time we were depressed. A little later we should have thanked a gracious Providence that took better care of us than we know. For hardly had Hoover gone in when the stock market crashed. The black depression set in. The world seemed upside down. All the people who had been up in the years before, but Hoover got the blame. Now imagine that Al Smith had been elected. The depression, born of his predecessors, would have been over. But he would have got the full blame. The country would have said, "A Catholic and a Democrat has wrought us! Never again! Oh, indeed and indeed, never again!" And whereas in his defeat, Al Smith was counted down by his Catholic opponents and Catholic newspapers, both before and after 32 and 36, he would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 36 and 38. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 40 and 42. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 44 and 46. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 48 and 50. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 54 and 56. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 60 and 62. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 66 and 68. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 72 and 74. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 78 and 80. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 84 and 86. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 90 and 92. He would have been counted down by his Catholic and Democratic opponents in 96 and 98. He would have been counted down by his Protestant and Republican opponents in 100 and 102.

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