

Courier Journal

THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1949

Most Reverend James Edward Kearney, D.D., President

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Dr. Higgins Says:

Reconstruction Fundamentals

Thirty years ago this week — Lincoln's Birthday to be more exact — the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic War Council (now the National Catholic Welfare Conference) issued an important document which has since come to be known as the Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction.



The four Bishops who signed the statement — long since called to their eternal reward — probably did not realize at the time how far-reaching their recommendations were.

As a matter of fact, they felt, and they so stated, that their program was a short-range program. They concentrated on moderate measures of reform which seemed at the time to be feasible and practical.

They consciously refrained from advocating a "fundamental scheme" for the reconstruction of industrial society because "such an undertaking would be a waste of time as regards immediate needs and purposes for no important group or section of the American people is ready to consider a program of this magnitude."

THE BISHOPS WERE correct of course. Their program was — under the circumstances of 1919 it almost had to be — a short range program for the specific reform of specific abuses.

Most of their legislative recommendations, to be sure, were eventually translated into fact, but not until a period of almost 15 years had elapsed, and then, in many cases, only partially and inadequately.

The significant thing to remember, however, — and it's the best possible proof of the far-sightedness of the signers of the Bishops' Program — is the fact that even today some of their proposals are just beginning to receive a friendly hearing.

IN THE SECTION of the Bishops' Program entitled "Labor Participation in Industrial Management" the signers advocated a degree of labor-management cooperation which must have seemed to many of their contemporaries in fact if not in spirit to be a radical proposal.

The establishment of shop committees, working wherever possible with the trade union, was recommended as a necessary means of giving the employees of industry their proper voice in management.

The Bishops obviously looked upon this as a mild and very moderate proposal. It was regarded as only a step — and a rather timid step, at that — in the direction of that more basic reconstruction of the social order which they thought it essential to dwell upon at any length in 1919 and which has since been outlined so clearly by Pope Pius XII and our present Holy Father, Pope Pius XI.

IT WAS IN FACT a very moderate proposal. Thirty years later, however, it was news — and good news of course — when the Labor Committee of the non-partisan Twentieth Century Fund, at the end of January issued a report, "Partners in Production" which used italics to emphasize the following recommendation: "That in all plants in which there is union integration of the union into the plant organization as an effective channel of two-way communication from managers to workers and from workers to managers."

Yes, the Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction — however moderate it may have appeared to its times in many if not most of its recommendations — was far in advance of its times in many if not most of its recommendations. We can be grateful that it is now changing, largely for the good in the field of industrial relations and that the American economic system, having adjusted itself to many of the proposals of the 1919 Bishops' Program of Social Reconstruction, is now disposed to take a few more steps gradually, year by year, towards the establishment of the Industrial Council program — that "fundamental scheme" for the reconstruction of industrial society for which the Bishops in 1919, by their moderate proposals, so effectively prepared the way.

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Cardinal's Martyrdom Called Warning to American People

(Following is a portion of the sermon of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman in St. Patrick's Cathedral Feb. 6, in making the strongest American denunciation of the "trial" of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, Cardinal Spellman calls on the United States to "have civilization from the world's most fiendish, ghoul-like men of slaughter.")

May 8, 1945 — VE Day! On that day I delivered from this pulpit a prayer of thanksgiving for the victory of the hour, begging peace with justice, beseeching that as victors we do not offend God by sinning against His Mercy.

The peace that came was not God's peace, and because in the ensuing post-war years men's hearts have not been won back to God, I must this day as a protest against the crucifixion of humanity entreat your prayers for persecuted, tortured, victimized Cardinal Mindszenty.

THIS IS CARDINAL Mindszenty Day — a day of prayer and of protest! Prayer for what? Protest against what?

There is no use to try to save Cardinal Mindszenty's life, for from the very hour he was taken away in the black of night from his home, his flock, his sacred mother, Cardinal Mindszenty became the victim of torturing and drugging that put him beyond the reach or realm of human help!

It was he himself who said to me when he was honor and glory were less than two years ago, "My enemies can take from me no more than my life and that has already been given to God."

No, the physical Cardinal Mindszenty can no longer be saved!

It is the spiritual Cardinal Mindszenty in his martyrdom of mind and body that we can still save, and that we can still save by our prayers, that in his soul he may know that in another part of the world other men are holding high God's torch of justice for Hungary's anguished peoples and the enslaved peoples of every land.

And in our own dear land each free man and woman must protect and fight to keep his own integrity of conscience, his own God-given freedom, and must even effort to save America and the rest of the democratic, God-loving world from trickery, torturing, disaster and defeat.

FOR IF WE fail to learn a lesson from Cardinal Mindszenty's martyrdom, we shall fail ourselves and ourselves face Communist conquest and annihilation!

When first Cardinal Mindszenty answered the call of Christ "Come Follow Me," to that day when only two years ago with thirty other priests and myself, he was received into the Sacred College of Cardinals, he has lived a life full and priestly.

Only two days ago Cardinal Mindszenty, priest of a people who love honor, trust and reverence him, was brought to martyrdom by the lords of communism — men among whom there is no honor, no trust, either for one another, for their neighbor or their God.

Thus has the symbolic red of his Cardinal's robes literally become the blood red of martyrdom!

HAD I A hundred tongues a hundred mouths, a voice of iron, I could not compass all the crimes of the men of sin as they wage war against the "Man of Sorrows" neither can I recount the miseries perpetrated by these slave men, crimes which it is neither in

my personal power to relieve or prevent. Nevertheless, so long as my heart beats and breath lingers in my body, I shall never cease to pray and labor to protect America and warn and work against communism and all the evils growing from out its nefarious, for I believe that rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God."



"Believe that rebellion to tyrants is obedience to God."

I vow that unless the whole American people, without further ostentatious actions and pretenses, unite to stop the Communist floodings of our own land, our sons, for the third and last time, shall be summoned from the comforts, tranquility and love of their own homes and families to bear arms against those who would desecrate and destroy them.

Yes, it is full time that a strong and vigilant America unite in prayer and protest against wanting the youth of her own nation and try to help our civilization from the world's most fiendish, ghoul-like men of slaughter, lest the anguished spending of a million lives will end again in war's beginning!

THEFORE, I BEG you, my beloved people, let us not confuse prudence with lack of vision, unity, courage and strength, as we watch nation after nation fall victim to communism for prudence is often but an excuse for silence, procrastination and compromise.



"Can you fail to see here a man tortured and drugged?"

Every day as we read newspaper headlines, the Communist controlled press of Budapest that tells us contradictory stories about a cardinal-priest who, so little time ago we took upon our own hearts and horrowed millions of Americans refuse to recognize that we ourselves are faced with these same most distressing dangers.

You have a seen pictures of Cardinal Mindszenty in the newspapers at his mortal trial in his own country. And all of you saw pictures of Cardinal

Mindszenty when, a free man, he sat kindly, willingly for his picture here in America.

Can you fail to see here a man tortured and drugged — even though the Communist press dares to print that he "denies duress"?

The Communists believe the American public is still easy to fool, willing to be "drugged" into believing whatever leaves them their own comforts, their own freedoms.

BUT ARE WE the American people the fools and the fools for which the Communists take us?

Are we always to endure the insults and wounds they inflict upon our American honor and decency as they enslave countries and persecute peoples, as they inflict wounds and beatings upon decent, God-loving men and patriots like Cardinal Mindszenty; for when the Cardinal confessed to treason against the present Communist government in Hungary he but professed his loyalty to his country.

If this be treason — to deny allegiance to an atheistic Communist government — than thank God Cardinal Mindszenty confessed to treason, as would I, if this free land of America were ever conquered by the demonic people now using every foul means to overthrow our republic.

How long are we, free-minded, fair-minded freedom-loving Americans going to allow these same fiendish Communists to drug us with their propaganda and our own apathy?

When will the American Government, the American public, the leaders in all phases of American life, religious, educational, political, labor, industrial, communications, yes, and entertainment, when will all free men raise their voices as one and cry out against and work against Satan — inspired Communist crimes?

How long — O my God — shall we stand by and see Thy peoples who love Thee reviled, persecuted and murdered by atheistic Communists who deny Thee and hate Thee even as again and again they crucify Thee upon Thy Cross?

CARDINAL MINDSZENTY'S jailers gave him drugs — perhaps without his knowledge. They did not want another hero like Archbishop Stepinac. No not another martyr would they have in Cardinal Mindszenty. They would break his will and show him to his people broken weak and faithless.

That is why they took Cardinal Mindszenty away in the night because the first time he was arrested by the Nazis he walked through the streets with his captors, daring to bless his peoples with the sign of the Cross as they lined the streets to pray for him and beg his prayers for themselves who would, they knew, also be persecuted, abused and slain.

Yet we should not grieve at the death of Cardinal Mindszenty, for man is not completely born until he dies to live in God.

No let us not be sorrowful nor fearful for him but rather for one whom I pray God to take unto Himself ere her heart be more deeply pierced by anguish for her saintly son.

I speak of Cardinal Mindszenty's 85-year-old mother, like unto Mary, our own blessed mother, who was witness to the passion of her only Son, this mother's cross is far heavier than her son's.

I pray that God shall raise this gentle mother into the arms of his own Mother Mary, there to be pressed close to the sacred heart of Christ her Son, there at last to find peace.

Dr. Gillis Says:

Moral Problem for the President

Frank C. Hanghen in "Not Merely Gossip," the supplement to Human Events for January 5, reports the rumor that President Truman is worried by the prospect of using the atom bomb.

"He dreads the day," says the rumor, "when admirals and generals might place before him the decision to wipe out the lives of countless Russians. . . . The prospect keeps him awake at nights."

If there is any substance to this report I think there is, because Human Events is a reliable organ it is the best that Christian moralists in America have heard since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We had for some time commenced to think that no one had any scruple about the use of the atom bomb. Almost all newspaper and magazine articles about impending war with Russia regard the use of the bomb as inevitable. Their writers offer no apology, no defense, no argument. They do not even refer to any ethical scruple about wholesale slaughter of humans by this latest and most horrible implement of war.



Dr. Gillis

FOR INSTANCE in an article in The Reader's Digest for January 1949, William Bradford Huie — introduced as "the close confidant of several of the ablest air generals" and "well known for his studies on air power" — says, "The B-29's will go in at night, preferably when the weather is high and sunny, at around 30,000 feet. The crews will switch on their radarscopes when they near the drop-point. They won't worry about pinpoint hits; there won't be any misses, for in air warfare the targets are people as well as industries."

Only those whose memory is very short can fail to remember the apologetic utterances of President Truman Secretary Strom and Winston Churchill immediately after the atomic horror had taken place in Japan. I recall in particular the utterance of Hanson Baldwin, military expert for The New York Times, to the effect that America could never again presume to anything like moral leadership. The Brooklyn Tablet for August 11 of that year, in a front page editorial in bold type said:

"The daily press reported that when the atomic bomb was released over Hiroshima the aviator in charge of the plane looked down and with great emotion declared, 'My God! This was undoubtedly the same exclamation that came to the lips of millions of people everywhere. Phelps Adria, Washington correspondent of the New York Sun, asserted that in the nation's capital there was more apprehension than jubilation over the terrific success of the bomb and that 'the entire city is pervaded by a kind of sense of oppression, and among many persons there is a sense of fear that forces some to admit — a little shamefacedly — that they would be happier if this \$2,000,000,000 laboratory could somehow be hauled up in a sack and lost in the river like an unwanted kitten.'"

THE TABLET expressed its own view with characteristic honesty and vigor. The editor said "This is not war. This is not military combat in which man meets man in a matching contest of strength, courage and skill. It is a form of annihilation which is devoid in utter contempt for the Christian teaching that man is a creature made to the image and likeness of God. . . . Alongside of it the use of poison gas and undisguised attacks on civilians — outlawed by the rules of civilized warfare of international law as inhuman — sunk into insignificance. Religion, morality, intelligence and civilization are confronted with an awesome crisis in this catastrophic instrument of death. Here, indeed is a challenge to Catholics, Protestants and Jews."

The Catholic News of New York asked also in a front page editorial: Are We Reverting to Savagery? "Suppose," said the editor, "that the fascists or Nazis or Japs had discovered this secret first. Suppose they had dropped such a bomb in the center of one of our war industry communities which like the atom bomb had a pre-war population of about 100,000. Jersey City, for instance, or Indianapolis, or Detroit, or Seattle, or Rochester, Atlanta, Los Angeles, or St. Paul, destroying 60 per cent of the city and killing 100,000 civilians, men, women and children. . . . Or suppose it had been dropped in the middle of Manhattan Island with like results. What new executions would we not have invented to hurl against the Axis savages?"

IN AN EQUALLY indignant editorial the Boston Pilot, under the caption Have We Begotten a Monster? expressed itself in much the same terms of horror. Other Catholic papers all over the country printed sympathetic expressions of our lost forefathers and patriots. For example, Father Conroy, a C.S.S.R. said: "From the account of the horror which the atom bomb is capable of effecting there are grave reasons to fear that it lends itself to methods of warfare contrary to the law of God. . . . It is never permitted in war to attack directly the non-combatants of the enemy nation; consequently, if the bomb were employed for a direct attack on a residential section of a Japanese city — a section in which there are no important military objectives — its use would be a flagrant violation of the law of God. This principle would hold even if it were foreseen that as a result of such an attack on the civilian population the morale of the people would be broken and the war brought to a speedier close. A good end does not justify the use of an immoral means."

The Catholic Herald of London declared point blank "Use of the bomb is not only utterly and absolutely indefensible in itself but the reaching of this appalling goal lights up for us all the immorality along the path we have all been treading." To give non-Catholics their due praise, many of them spoke with no less assurance and vigor than Catholics. All in all, there was all but universal expression of horror and shame.

But now alleged experts in moral as well as military matters write and speak as if there were not and never had been a reason for conscientious opposition to the use of the atom bomb. It is good in the circumstances to hear, if only a rumor, that the President is losing sleep over the matter. We shall pray that he becomes convinced that Christian morals take precedence in military strategy and that he act in accordance with that conviction.

Do You Remember? 25 Years Ago — Feb. 7, 1924

Breaking of ground for the new Aquinas Institute in Dewey Ave. by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey followed. Supreme Pontiffical Mass celebrated by His Excellency in St. Bernard's Seminary.

A Modern Martyr

Martyrdom was nothing novel in the early days of Christianity. The devil resented the coming in of his domain of the children of light. In Rome and its pagan satellites young and old, noble and common citizen, went down to death gladly by flame and sword and will beat. A proud pagan government thus sought to destroy the newly nascent Christianity, little knowing that the blood of the martyrs was to be the seed of Christianity.

So far removed from the instinctive justice that nations and men had acquired as a result of centuries of Christianity, was any taking of human life for the faith, that it was difficult for us to visualize the ancient murders of believers by pagan oppressors. Modern communists are making it easy. Diabolic hatred of all that is of God, inhuman persecution and torture of those whose only crime is their belief in God, lying and inept attempts to deceive decent nations and men, parades on legal processes and news service, mark our modern murderers.

All the world hails its Modern Martyr, Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty! Men in civil life; men of other faiths, members of the Jewish group, join with Catholics in denouncing the action of the criminal Hungarian dictatorship.

Prayer is the principal weapon of our Catholic people in assailing the poor substitutes for men that persecute and torture and vilify and prepare to kill the saintly leader of Catholic Hungary, Cardinal Spellman led the army of Catholics who last Sunday placed before God in solemn and devout prayer the cause of Cardinal Mindszenty. Bishop Kearney guided his flock in humble supplication for our Modern Martyr. Surely God will hear these prayers, God will bless our brave hero, God will bring to justice the pagan murderers who now seek to destroy religion by encompassing the death of its intrepid Hungarian leader. God be with our Modern Martyr!

Good Will to Men

To love our neighbor is to please God. All men created by God have a right to our love. When God makes no distinction between His children, man will make no distinction. My neighbor may be of my own faith, he may be of my own color, of my own national descent, in every case, he is my neighbor and has a divine right to my love, even though he happens to be of a different faith or color or national descent. Brotherhood Week is a national movement to make effective the practice of love of our neighbor throughout our land. Washington and Lincoln bless the brotherhood movement in this month of February.

Our community has found in the Interfaith Good-Will Committee a lasting symbol of the love of our neighbor that is the accepted practice in Rochester and vicinity. Members of our community gather on next Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce under the auspices of the Interfaith Good-Will Committee to give public testimony that Christians and Jews can dwell together in mutual love and friendship. God's command guides us in this love. God's command protects us from the hatred and bigotry and bias and ill-will that pagan principles would so gladly promote. All are welcome to attend this annual dinner, and may secure tickets from Mr. William T. Nolan at 50 Chestnut Street. Your presence will give added power to the group who are pledged to make the love of our neighbor effective in our community life. Brotherhood Week is a national observance that will help all of us in our endeavors to show good will to men!

For God's Church

With the constant increase in our Catholic population, there arises the need for more churches and schools. Father Bruton is seeking \$175,000 for a new edifice for St. Margaret Mary's Parish, including a church seating 1,100 and a rectory to complete the parish plant. A zealous committee is nearing victory in the drive for this sum, which will underwrite a large part of the cost leaving a balance to be paid off in future years. The Courier congratulates Father Bruton and his loyal people on this significant building program and on the signal success they are attaining.

Father George Schmitt rejoices with his people in the dedication of the new St. Anne's School. The zeal of a faithful Pastor of souls joined to the wonderful Catholic spirit of people blessed with deep love for religious education of their children, gives to the Church here a modern and effective school in the best architectural tradition. Father Luddy sees with joy the fulfillment of the dream of many years in the dedication of the beautiful new School of Our Lady of Lourdes. Generations to come will rise up to give praise to Father Luddy and his devout congregations for the provision they have made to train children in God's law and School Board and by the State of New York for our grammar schools. For God and for country, two new schools, one new church, now take their place in the community's equipment for our life as Catholics.

Because I Am Generous

God is generous in all His dealings with us. He is generous in giving us life and all that goes with it. He is generous in making us in His own image and likeness, in giving us a body and soul with which to serve Him. He is generous in uniting to the material body the splendid equipment of a spiritual soul endowed with the splendid will that can know God and His works and that can love Him. Above all is He generous in giving us the things we need for our earthly life, and the means of attaining the reward of the life eternal.

And He is generous. Man should never forget this. Man should never follow God's teaching in nature and in revelation, should never know good God has been to us. Above all, man should carefully avoid the mental aberrations of those who would deny His teachings who would deny the things of their own mind and senses. God's teaching is for all of us. It will keep us from the errors of those who use their mind to deny that they have a mind, and speak of the soul only to deny its existence, who speak of God only to deny there is a God.

Calendar of Saints

Sunday, February 13 — St. Valentine, Priest-Martyr. He served the priesthood in Italy, Italy, where he was tortured and put to death for his faith about 303 in Diocletian's persecution.

Monday, February 14 — St. Valentine, Martyr. He was a Roman priest who with St. Marcellus and his family aided the martyrs who were persecuted by Emperor Claudius II. He was beheaded about 270.

Tuesday, February 15 — St. Faustina and St. Jolita, Martyrs. They were brothers who lived in the second century and preached Christianity during the early persecutions in the city of Brescia. They were beheaded in 121.

Wednesday, February 16 — St. Juliana, Virgin-Martyr. She is said to have been beheaded in 306 along with 130 other Christians at Nicomedia in Asia Minor by Diocletian's colleague, Maximian Galerius.

Thursday, February 17 — St. Polychronus, Bishop-Martyr. He served as Bishop of Babylon with his clergy, he was imprisoned under Decius and was put to death in 250 by being struck on the mouth until he expired.

Friday, February 18 — St. Simeon, Bishop-Martyr. The son of Cleophas and a kinsman of Our Blessed Lord, he governed the Church for more than 40 years. At the age of 100, he was put to death by crucifixion.

Saturday, February 19 — St. Conrad of Speyer, A nobleman, he lived from 1250 to 1264. He and his wife decided to join the religious life. She was professed as a Poor Clare and he joined the Third Order of St. Francis. He went to Sicily, where he spent the last 30 years of his life as a recluse.

Diversion Tactic 'Trial' Played Up To Befog Red China Aims

Washington — (CN) — Soviet Russia is obviously engaged in a greatly stepped up propaganda campaign to cover its recent maneuvers of conquest and distract the worried world.

That is the opinion of Washington observers who see the Mindszenty trial, the Stalin Peace Move and the China War as heralds of a new phase of Red International relations.

CHINA HAS LONG figured in the Kremlin's plans for world domination by Communism, but it is thought that until World War II these were long-range plans subservient to the conquest of Europe.

The victorious onrush of Chinese Communist troops equipped with American material has exceeded Moscow most sanguine hopes, and faced the Politburo with the necessity, not of improvising, but of advancing one plan before another, shifting emphasis from this point to that.

These moves are Premier Stalin made to President Truman through a press syndicate and the abrupt inauguration of the trial of Cardinal Mindszenty at the same time. These are highlights in a larger pattern which Communists are presently following.

There will be other steps to come. Soviet Russia may propose to withdraw a little from Europe, as it can well afford to do now. It may even agree to going ahead with a peace treaty for Austria — and even Germany. It may dramatically lift the blockade on Berlin.

It has seemingly endless tricks that it can afford to lose, so that it will appear to have grown mellow and tolerant, so that in the end it may win the game.

Then, too, there is a rumor that Czechoslovakia is to be absorbed into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. It is already behind the Iron Curtain, but not now, some people say it is going to be made a part of the USSR proper.

Baptist Church Is Now Catholic

Kansas City — (CN) — St. Martin's Church in Crane, Mo., the first Catholic Church in Stone County, has been dedicated by Bishop Joseph Marling, C.F.P.S., Auxiliary of Kansas City.

The building was erected in 1907 as a Baptist church and was in use until last year when it was purchased by Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City to be used as a mission for the Paulist Fathers in charge.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Morga Resto" and "M 10".