

Our Era Needs Heroic Holiness

Catholics in the current world crisis have a vocation they must not shirk.

That vocation is to be heroic in holiness.

This holiness is not to be limited to mere devotional practices in quiet churches, however.

At another crisis in history — when barbarian invasions in the fourth century doomed civilization — St. Augustine reminded Christians they should not hold aloof from the great tasks of mankind — to feed the hungry, to protect children and family life, to free slaves, to learn the truth, to establish justice.

Sixteen centuries later, these same problems confront mankind — and Communism claims it can solve them. In a scant half century, half the world has learned by its own experience whether the Kremlin boast is true or not.

The Catholic Church has repeatedly insisted that a Christian solution be worked out for housing, wages, education, work conditions, race relationships and the other varied problems of our times.

Recent Popes have deplored the fact that Catholics and other Christians too, by and large have taken little notice of the Church's teaching on these subjects and have even often approached these problems with un-Christian prejudices.

This failure has left the world's masses in a moral vacuum — frightened by Communist brutality though stirred by its claims but unimpressed by the Christian claim to have the Saviour the world seeks. In this twilight era, Communism has scored repeated victories over a shrinking free world life with wounds of narrow, selfish partisanship.

During the long days of imprisonment in a Communist Czech concentration camp, a group of priests recorded their reflections of why their faith was in chains.

"We have too often forgotten that Christ came to serve and not to be served. We have taken advantage of our spiritual dignity in order to take our place in the ranks of those who are served. We have lived in well-warmed houses and had no thought for Christ suffering at our very doors.

"In the social conflicts of our times, we have often — to all intents and purposes — lent our support to the wealthy. At least we have not dared to protest against social injustices for fear of losing the alms of our benefactor who were not always the most fervent of Christians.

"In criticizing our past religious life severely, we have no intention of decrying it. The religious life of our country was intense and vital. But after we were deported, what we regretted most was that we had given our souls insufficient preparation for an epoch which calls for heroism and genuine saints."

Circumstances obviously vary from nation to nation. The wealthy are not always wicked nor are the seeming pious always just. Furthermore, the Czech priests were speaking not only of the clergy but of all Christians, even all who profess to serve God but fail to meet the needs of their neighbors.

This strong indictment cannot be ignored. These imprisoned priests in their silent cells were not making an accusation but a most humble confession.

Those of us who yet enjoy freedom can profit from their experience.

We still face problems in our community. In our country, in our world which await our Christian concern. If we fail to meet the needs of our era then we too shall have our turn to look back with regret. We are convinced, however, that the American people with their free world associates will accept the vocation to which God Himself calls us in these perilous days — to be heroic in holiness.



BOY, WANT A SURPRISE. THEY'LL GET!

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Cream Puff Art Sours Religion

Cincinnati — (NC) — Belgian-born Ade Bethune, who has made her mark as an American artist, despises "cream puff religious art" and insists children ought to grow up with decent objects of religious art around them.

The former editor of the Catholic Art Quarterly magazine admitted that in her own childhood vague pictures had given her an impression of the Blessed Mother as "a plump woman picking flowers."

MSGR. BETHUNE told students at Our Lady of Cincinnati College's art festival that "we are affected more than we realize by what we see. It is necessary, therefore, to provide 'good visual aids' in teaching catechism to children, she said.

Miss Bethune's work ranges from Christmas cards and comic book cartoons to stained glass windows and church decorations. She is the proprietor of the St. Leo Shop in Newport, R.I.

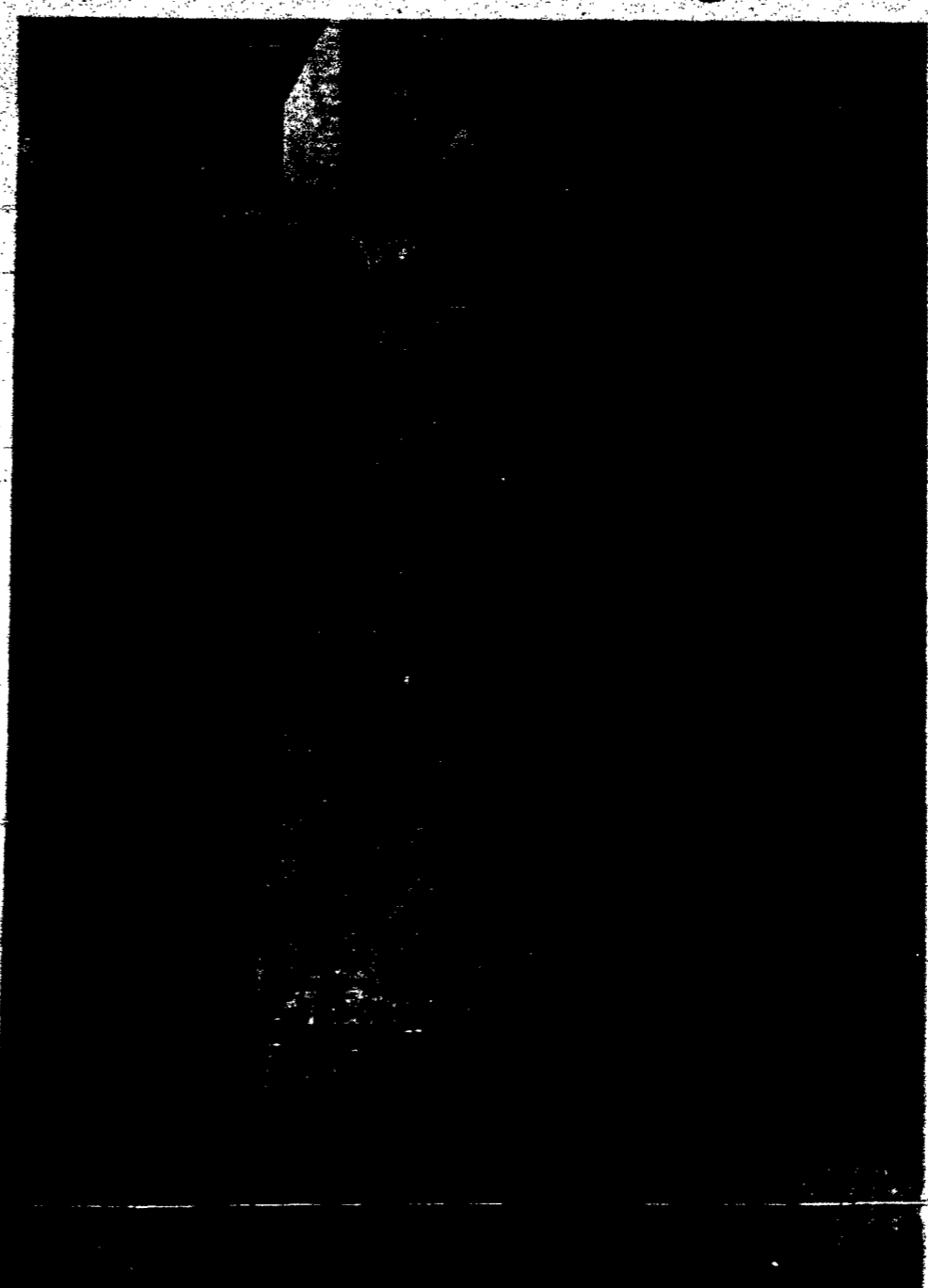
At the art festival, she described her efforts to interest the people of a parish in the Philippines in the decorations of their church. One of her chief aims, she said, was to persuade the Filipinos to break away from their tradition of Spanish art and to develop forms appropriate to their own culture.

An artist who is both contemporary and popular, Ade Bethune doesn't see it as all Victorian images and has been disturbed by wings on angels.

As for the old-fashioned images, "if it has something to offer, the child will get something out of it," she told art students. Showing angels without wings, she said, makes them look like human beings, "and they are not human beings."

Asked about rules for judging religious art, Miss Bethune pointed out that current themes should be treated in new ways rather than by imitating the past.

She recalled that one child she asked her mother how she picked out so quickly the fish she wanted when they went shopping. Her mother replied, "You just look at the fish and he wishes for you."



This striking statue of the crucified Saviour atop rugged Sierra de Cristo Rey near El Paso, Texas, illustrates modern religious art recommended by Ade Bethune in the accompanying article.

"It is the same with sacred images," she said. "And the same thing applies to judging works of art. The important thing is to see things to become acquainted with them."

She appealed to the students to "learn to be discriminating, to be the best, and to estimate the best as good."

"If you want to be a good fish buyer, you have to spend money badly a few times," she said. "And the same thing applies to judging works of art. The important thing is to see things to become acquainted with them."

Justice to religious subjects" and therefore avoided them.

"People have terrific reactions about religious art," she said. "They think about it as they think about football — something gloomy." She advised the students to approach religion in art with a "frank, well-ordered, unshuffled approach."

Miss Bethune praised the students' work at the art festival. She said 25 year age "college students didn't think they could do

Sacred Heart Year

Security

By REV. LOUIS J. HOFFMAN

"I will be their secure refuge in life and especially in death." Thus the fourth promise of the Sacred Heart to those devoted to him. Of all the promises none could be more apt for the postwar era.

Security is a word much used by moderns. Well it might be, inasmuch as security is the keynote of today's Britain. Western citizens are security at the state of being free from danger, anxiety. Mental hospitals are crowded with patients suffering unbearable anxieties.

Now would one be going too far out on a limb to say that the majority of people today are suffering at least mild anxiety neuroses. For many it is the most common of ailments, and it is not always easy to detect. Mental hospitals are crowded with patients suffering unbearable anxieties.

THE FEELING of insecurity is not without foundation in fact. The world situation since 1945 is enough to render it all alarmingly accurate. The prospect of mighty powers ever poised with mighty weapons, needing only a minor accident to set the world ablaze is far from ideal.

As never before in history we are seriously asking the question, "Will there be a human race for any of us?" No one can really know the answer.

There is economic insecurity. Even in these days of prosperity the haunting vision of the "dark days" of 1929 returns. How will we stand in such a situation? What of our jobs, our homes? What of the education of our children? Unemployment, bread lines, starvation — a constant, if not immediate threat to security.

There too, there is our modern health consciousness. The unprecedented publicity given to cancer and heart disease is enough to cause constant even in the most calloused. For many it becomes a source of constant mental fear.

It is true that most people, that as mature people recognize the fact that this role of years can offer no real security.

Catholic Schools Soar To New Record High

Washington — (NC) — The Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference released today a report on Catholic education in the United States.

The report noted that a half century of unceasing growth had made the Catholic school system in this country the largest private school system in the world.

It said that promotion among Catholics had made the schools "a commodity in short supply."

But at the same time it stated there was a need "to allay the fears of those outside the Church who are so impressed by its growth that they view it as a threat to the public school system."

The report was in five parts, each published in pamphlet form, and covered the topics: elementary schools, high schools, college education, seminaries and Catholic school superintendents.

The report concerned itself chiefly with fact, figures and curriculum trends, but two sections at least dealt with the reasons for establishing a private school system when one is already provided by the state.

The elementary school pamphlet said that for Catholics a "moral" obligation was involved — the obligation to

provide a "level of education not guaranteed by the curriculum of the public schools."

The pamphlet defined the school curriculum as "all the guided experiences of the child under the direction of the school."

"The greatest experience which constitutes the Catholic school curriculum is the development of character and the acquisition of Christian attitudes, appreciations, and ideals," it said.

The pamphlet said brief that the child should be educated for heaven as well as earth had resulted in educational differences. "The child is a citizen of two worlds," it said. "It is the educator's responsibility to equip him to fulfill these dual roles."

The high school pamphlet noted that the American principle of respect for the rights of the individual had enabled the Catholic system to develop side by side with the expanding public school system.

This American principle "has resulted in acceptance of the right of parents to send children to schools of their own choice and of the Church to establish schools in which religious instruction is a subject and in which religious principles are the basis of all public and private education for every

phase of school life," the pamphlet said.

The elementary school report said the chief problem facing the grade schools was a shortage of teachers. The report cited figures for 1954, the last available, as given in the N.C.W.C. domestic news service.

In 1954 approximately \$500,000,000 was spent on construction. In the same year by conducting their own schools, Catholics saved the United States public treasury, in which they had already contributed an estimated \$200,000,000 in operating expenses. The public treasury was thus saved \$1,200,000,000 because of the Catholic school system.

The pamphlet said that between 1954 and 1959 the number of elementary schools has grown from 9,279 to 10,292, and expenses increased proportionately.

The survey of Catholic high schools showed widely varying distributions in different parts of the country. Wisconsin has only one. New York has 208. There are comparatively few Catholic secondary schools in states from Kansas westward, except in California, the pamphlet said. The Catholic population in these states is also limited.

An increase in lay teachers similar to that in elementary

schools was projected. They averaged from 115 per cent of the total staff in 1953 to 224 per cent in 1954.

The higher education report showed that colleges and university enrollments jumped from 16,600 in 1950 to 200,570 in 1959. The students are in 204 colleges and universities in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

"Notwithstanding this 1700-percent increase," the pamphlet said, "Catholic institutions, according to estimates based on current data by the National Research Club Foundation, now employ only one-fifth of all American Catholics who go on to higher education."

Father Charles Albert, C.P.S., executive secretary of the National Student Conference, said in commentary on the report, that there were about 600,000 Catholic students in the U.S. — Catholic schools of higher learning. He said that was a conservative estimate.

The report noted a high accreditation rate for the Catholic centers, with 87 per cent of four-year Catholic colleges and universities meeting the standards and requirements of their regional accrediting organizations. It compared with 73 per cent of Protestant and 41 per cent of all other private foundations.

Reapings At Random

One of the most distressing outcomes of the recent "spy" plane incident has been the reaction of our Allies and the alleged Neutral countries. They all act as if international espionage was something unusual and that the United States is the only villain in this regard.

Frankly, the only criticism that can be made of us is that we were foolish enough to be caught red handed in this game. Furthermore, our propaganda machinery is so inept that we have failed to strike back effectively at our accusers — the Soviet Union.

If ever a country should be brought up to the bar of world opinion, it is Communist Russia. Their espionage facilities are obviously the greatest in the world.

Everyone of their satellites and controlled throughout the world have intelligent facilities on their staff. Their espionage record is impressive.

One has only to recall Klaus Fuchs, the spy who stole the atomic bomb secrets from the United States, to know that the Soviet Union is a constant spy for the Soviet Union. And for every one caught there must be ten or more who go undetected.

There's Milk In Our Punch

has enough evidence to indict Communist Russia for many such violations high above our American land space. We do it over their country, and they do it over ours.

In addition, the Russian are known to have carried out such spy flights over almost every country in Europe. Hence, one cannot understand the "fear" reaction of Mr. Khrushchev's unscrupulous spilling.

This is, of course, what really galls us. The Communist violation of Soviet territory while all the while the world knows that he has authorized the same thing in respect to the air space above countries of the West.

Not only has he violated the air space of other countries, but also the land space. The Communist spy of the Baltic States, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Yugoslavia, China, North Vietnam and North Korea are constant examples of a genuine, unrepentant criminal record — of hostility at its core.

Our propaganda machinery must certainly be kept and miserably weak to have allowed this kind of thing such a tremendous cold war effort.

take full responsibility. However, it seems to your Reeper that instead of crying over spilt milk, we must find ways of beating the Russians to the punch.

Personally, I think we have to apologize whatever we make for our actions — neither to our Allies nor to the Communist. The facts of international life make it essential that we protect these shores from aggressors from any quarter. Let's face it. Up to now we have not been able to trust the Russians in any way whatsoever.

Treaty after treaty has been broken and aggression after aggression has been perpetrated against innocent peoples. The Communist rulers have opened the world court of public opinion. They have gotten away with it but they now have the gall to indict us.

We are on the defensive for no other reason than that the Russians are better at the spy game than we are. In addition, their propaganda machinery is constantly on the alert, ready to justify their view, and when that fails to do the job — the Russians have been doing it for years.

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Pork Chop On The Way

Reaper's Vantage — You know it is to be ready for the everything here, this situation seems learned recently.

Now Kansas Popper, a British volunteer — whose work in the Maryland station of Father Peter J. Petrucci, M.S., of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., has done much to improve the medical and hygiene standards of Roman Catholic

"This is called upon to apply all of our medical talents," says Father Petrucci. "Not only does our work not only help but often most attend at night hours or hunting dog or even a chicken. For as you have can afford to lose their domestic treasures."

"Recently, however, it was called upon for my biggest case — a young man given our best medical attention. The whole world turned out to cheer the patient when it was announced that she delivered five of viable babies alive and managed to save the mother too."

As the commander-in-chief of our Armed Forces, as Chief Executive of our nation, he is responsible. If he takes the promise of our government, he must also take the responsibility of our failures. And for this latest "spy" plane episode, we certainly have a failure.

International Members: Mr. Khrushchev, should he get word there are weapons, they would be used in the event of an effort to end world peace. But we should not go in to a such a conference with the attitude of a private detective reporting an admission from an angry father.

Mr. Khrushchev has much blood on his hands and we need to recognize it from the very start. Any future summit can succeed if he is made to recognize that he is the real culprit, that he is the real agent of "peace" who has been the real force above the Soviet Union cannot be denied.

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