



IS SANCTITY POSSIBLE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH ?

THE question sometimes presents itself to Catholics — one they would like to have answered — whether sanctity be attainable outside the true Church.

The Anglicans pretend, more strenuously perhaps, than any of the sects, to possess the power of producing personal holiness ; but these pretensions, in the presence of true Catholic doctrine, are vain and deceptive. The absence of the Sacraments, whence flow such life-giving streams of grace into the souls of Catholics, and the freedom from restraints both of the intellect and will that distinguishes alien religions, necessarily leave little foundation for non-Catholics to build up personal holiness.

Father Richard F. Clarke, S. J., in *The Month* for February, in a scholarly review of the recently published *Life* of the Anglican Archbishop Benson, of Canterbury, treats this question in a very lucid manner. He gives the great Anglican churchman credit for being "a good administrator, a man of tact, and moderate in his views, quite a picture, in fact, of what an Anglican bishop should be," and he then puts the interesting question : Is it possible for a man in Archbishop Benson's position to reach a level of virtue to which we can in any sense give the name of sanctity ?

"What is it makes the difference ?" asks Father Clarke. "What is the reason why, outside the Catholic Church, virtue can never rise to the level of sanctity ?" The question