

Guide Thou My Path

Guide Thou my path, O Lord,
Watch over me,
Thou art my Hope and Light,
And unto Thee
Look I for guidance clear,
In ev'ry anxious fear,
For Thou art always near,
Saviour, to me!
—Adameus, O.S.F.

Testimony Of History.

We are living in troublous times. All around rage the elements of disorder. Pessimists predict that the economic structures created with such pain and toil by human hands will crumble, and that a new social system will rise upon the ruins of the old.

We know not what the future may bring, but this we do know, that the only stable element in the world today is the Catholic Church. When all else is fluid she is firm and immovable as the rock upon which she was founded. For she was not built by human hands. She was founded by God.

She has received a divine commission that preserves her forever impregnable from within, and impregnable from without. "Behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world." This is the secret of her perennial youth. This is why she is able at all great crises in history to inject poise and balance into the councils of men and save civilization from chaos and confusion.

It is one of the enigmas of history that men of the world have always failed to recognize this patent fact that the Church is the great stabilizer of human society. This studied blindness in regard to the Catholic Church, this sin against the light of history, will always continue, for Christ Himself has said that the world will always be found arrayed against His Church. It is a sign of her holiness. By this mark she is known as the true Church of Christ.

We can take comfort in the fact that what the Church has done so well in the past she is doing today, saving the world from a relapse into barbarism. The great War is one of the giant cataclysms that the follies of men have produced in all history. Other great upheavals have occurred in the past and will in all probability occur in the future. The persecutions of pagan Rome, the fury of the barbarians, the fanaticism of the Turks, are instances where the machinery of civilization failed to function, and the Church alone opposed and triumphed over the forces of destruction.

It is the same today. History is repeating itself. Against Bolshevism, divorce, irreligion and injustice, the Catholic Church is continuing her centuries-long struggle. When human agencies are willing to compromise in essentials, she stands firmly and unyieldingly for the observance of the law of God. When others propose false and fantastic theories, she proposes the truth that she has received from on high. And so the Church is today the one stable element in society the only agency that can regenerate and reconstruct a stricken world.

The Eucharist And Peace.

The world is too full of reformers to-day—men who are trying to circulate somewhere—anywhere—their ideas as to conditions whereby a permanent peace will be guaranteed to the world. Combinations of peoples, abrogation of teachings long accepted as pivotal, confederations, and a half-dozen other expedients, are being put forth as a solid rock basis on which to rear a temple of peace which no nation shall have the hardihood to desecrate, whatsoever the provocation or pretext.

But all these men, says the "Rosary Magazine," forget that peace to be lasting must be sanctioned by something more binding than just political convenience and expediency. If such a covenant is to be anything more than the traditional scrap of paper, it must have a moral sanction, and this cannot be without religion. In the last analysis nations are afraid of one thing only—God. They dare not contravene His laws all too wantonly without an outcry from the masses.

Now, in the Blessed Eucharist we have the very essence of true religion, because we have Christ there. He holds the destinies of the nations in the hollow of His hands. At His word the greatest nation must crumble.

And in the Eucharist He is waiting for his own to come to absorb the spirit of Him who was foretold as the Prince of Peace. The only real democracy we find at the Communion railing, where high and low, rich and poor, kneel side by side to receive Him who, being Lord, put aside His power and might to become "the servant" of us all. This truth, once assimilated by the nations, will do more to assure the world a lasting peace than all the covenants men can frame. The Blessed Sacrament is the source of true democracy. It has made possible that "one sheepfold" where there is neither "Jew nor Gentile, bondsman or freeman," but where charity reigns and goodwill toward all prevails.

Before the Tabernacle let us ponder these thoughts which are so opportune now that we are trying to make a new world out of the stuff of human nature, which, after all, changes little, even in the sharp fires of war. If we are to have a new world we must have a new people regenerated in Christ from which to construct it. If the world is to be saved by democracy, it must be equalized through the Eucharist, where Christ looks to merit, not pretence. If we are to have peace through democracy, then the only permanent peace is that which Christ left to us—a peace grounded on righteous living and based upon equal justice to all for His sweet sake.

The Reason

Why Catholics support Catholic schools was thus pithily expressed lately by a Catholic layman: "Because they feel the vital need of moral and religious instruction; because they believe that the soul of the child should be trained as well as his mind and hand; because they feel and know that it does not profit a man much to have knowledge if he have not also an enlightened conscience to guide him in using that knowledge aright." Education, according to every dictionary, implies bringing up, instructing, training, teaching. But what does all this mean? For many it appears to mean the instilling into the mind a certain amount of knowledge of reading, writing and ciphering, with some additional information more or less ornamental or useful. This certainly cannot be an adequate conception of education. For if with physical culture of the body attention were paid to the development of the arms only, the rest of the frame being left to take care of itself, the result would probably be a monstrosity. So, also, in the culture of man, exclusive attention cannot be given to one portion of his being without producing very unsatisfactory effects. If undue prominence is given to the intellect, to the neglect of the heart—that is the seat of religious aspirations—we shall form a man who may be smart but who will be sadly lacking in moral principles. Education to be complete must embrace all the faculties of man. Hence his will, his moral and religious being must be trained as well as his intellect, as they have more influence on his present and future happiness.

Benedictine Educators from 16 States assembled in Convention at St. Bede College, Peru, Ill.

The National Benedictine Educational Association held its Second Annual Convention from June 27th to July 1st, at St. Bede College, Peru, Ill. Representatives were present from Benedictine Institutions in the sixteen states of Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

The Chairman of the Convention was the Rt. Rev. Abbot Ernest O. S. B., of Newark, N. J., President of the American Cassinese Congregation of Benedictines. The Rt. Rev. Abbot Vincent, O. S. B., of St. Bede College, Peru, Ill., and the Rt. Rev. Abbot Aurelius, O. S. B., of St. Vincent College, Beatty, Pa., took an active part in the proceedings. Many topics of national import were discussed, particularly those that concerned intimately the serious problems of reconstruction now confronting all educators in this country. Special provision was made for a readjustment of the Courses in Technology, Sociology, and Agriculture, with which latter work particularly, the Benedictines have been identified for more than a thousand years. The establishment of Summer School Courses in Benedictine Institutions was strongly advocated by the delegates. The Convention further expressed its firm conviction that the Classics are to be retained as fundamental in any scheme of a liberal education. The association welcomed the co-operation of the Federal Authorities in educational activities, but took a firm stand against Federal domination, as featured in the Smith-Towner Bill now before Congress.

Prominent among the resolutions was the following: Assembled at a time when the war-worn people of the globe watch with anxiety the threatening triumph of might over right, of tyranny over democracy, of international chaos over organized government, The National Benedictine Association of America, representing independent institutions in the sixteen states of Oregon, Washington, Minnesota, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida, hereby reclaims its solemn conviction that education is the bulwark of freedom, and invites the universal co-operation of serious-minded American citizens upon the platform of Educational Reconstruction that here follows:

1. Federal co-operation with our free and self controlled educational activities we recognize and welcome as an ally of educational freedom. Federal domination we condemn as educational tyranny.
2. The Spirit of Liberty, the fountain-head of our National Constitution, serves to condemn any governmental agency that tends to disregard or abolish the God-given right of each and every American father to create and control for his child a school which satisfies the dictates of his conscience.
3. Power to create and control the school depends on the power to control the money that creates the school.
4. Consequently, Federalization of all school moneys, the essential feature of the Smith-Towner Bill, is the death-knell of Educational Freedom.
5. Consequently, the voters of America will employ all legitimate agencies, and the final sanction of the ballot-box, against a measure subversive of the Educational Freedom guaranteed to our families and our States by a Constitution that has lately been rewritten in the life-blood of their sons and brothers.

SPARKS FROM THE ANVIL

—Don't wait for your happiness until it is handed to you on a silver platter.

—In an article lambasting the indecent fashions of the present day the University of Illinois specialist says among other things: "Although not born with a silver spoon in his mouth, the animal is at least born with his clothes on, and nature has considered appropriateness, beauty and decency." That's the big item—decency!

—The Catholic going on a summer vacation," said his Grace, Archbishop Glennon, "must see to it that the 'farm' is near enough to the church' to be able to attend. There is no vacation from church-going. Ours is not a fine weather religion."

—Whatever the world may preach, good Catholics know that there is no vacation from the Ten Commandments. The laws of God and of His Church are just as binding during July and August as they are during the other months of the year.

—Real liberty consists in will power and self-control until such a moral condition has been obtained that the individual is absolutely and at all times complete master of himself. Licentiousness of our desires only leads to slavery.

—Little things! Life and death, prosperity and ruin, happiness and misery, hang upon little things; they are like the lynch-pin to the wheel, on which depends the safety of the vehicle; they are like the rudder to the vast mast it guides; like the slender nerves to the bulky muscles.

—Bad reading corrupts the mind and depraves the heart. Some parents are woefully remiss in failing to supervise the books and papers read by their children. "To the pure all things are pure" is a false principle. We might as well say "to the healthy all things are healthy." The results of such reading evidently have a bad effect on the minds of boys and girls and tend to corrupt the hearts and set the imagination running riot.

—The Rosary said in common sweetly fosters the home life which was one of the most beautiful features of the Christian family in the ages of faith, and the absence of which is one of the crying evils of our own time.

—It is a waste of time to grasp at opportunity unless you know what to do with it.

Appeal To The Canadian Clergy

In Jerusalem, London, Paris and Rome, Novenas of Masses have been celebrated for the conversion of the Jews, by hundreds of Priests and eminent Prelates of the Church.

The founder of the "League of Israel," Father John Mary, in England, has expressed the desire that Canada join in this saving practice, whereby the Precious Blood of our Saviour will fall in benediction upon the chosen but blinded people of God. From Canada and the United States the Novena will extend to Spain and Holland.

The Novena begins on September the twenty-ninth and ends on October the seventh. Any Priest who is willing to say a Mass in this intention, on any one of these nine days will confer a great favor on the Congregation of Zion. The name of the celebrant as well as the date and place where the Mass is said, will be sent to our Associates abroad.

Kindly let us know beforehand if you have acceded to our earnest appeal by communicating with, Rev. Mother Superior, Convent of Our Lady of Zion, Prince Albert, Sask.

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