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## **Communism, The Church, Mission Methods**

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sage and a mercy that were for *all* men without distinction; as proclaiming God's all-embracing love and His sovereign will to save all men through His Son.

Luke learned much from the preaching of his great-hearted master St. Paul, the Apostle of the Nations. And it is Paul himself, perhaps, who gives us the best interpretation of the angels' song, when in the Epistle to the Ephesians, he writes: "But now in Christ Jesus, you who were once afar off have been brought near through the blood of Christ. *For He Himself is our peace . . . And coming He announced the good tidings of peace to you who were afar off, and to those who were near; because through Him we have access in one Spirit to the Father.*"

The Infant Jesus, uniting in Himself human nature and the Divine, is the bond of peace between God and men. In Him and through Him, *all men* though by nature "sons of wrath" have received the power to become "sons of His good will." With joyous hearts and ringing voices then can men echo the angels' carol on the first Christmas Day, "Glory to God in the highest"!

J. J. KAVANAGH

## **Communism, The Church, Mission Methods**

Recently Senator Claro M. Recto delivered a striking address at the Ateneo de Manila on the occasion of the symposium: "Asia and the West." First quoting scattered syntheses of Arnold Toynbee, foremost contemporary historian, on relations between Asia and the West and especially Toynbee's praise of the methods of Jesuit missionaries in India and China in the 16th and 17th centuries, he continued with more concrete details from a book of a French missionary expelled from Communist China, Father Francis Dufay, who from vivid personal experiences under the Reds has stressed insistently

that only a revitalized Christian civilization can hope to compete with the fiery zeal of present day Communists.

Then Senator Recto concluded in turn with his own appeal for a return to that same integral Christianity as the basic solution to the Communist challenge.

It was reassuring to hear so prominent a public figure affirming openly the primacy of the spiritual, without which all military and economic bulwarks ultimately collapse. However, the main purpose of this comment is simply to show, as a further development of Toynbee's ideas expressed in that address, the mission methods of Communism and the Church, to serve as a sort of x-ray of what is going on all about us in the Orient, and indeed in almost the whole world.

First, the missionaries of the Catholic Church originate from abroad. They willingly surrender their home and country to go to another nation, there to establish the Church. The Communists, however, usually begin their campaign with native henchmen. These are induced to become traitors to their own land, although outwardly covering themselves with all patriotic symbols. Mao in China, Browder in the U. S., Taruc in the Philippines, Togliatti in Italy, are easily recognizable examples among many others.

Secondly, although the first Catholic missionaries are foreigners, their constant goal is to form a native hierarchy and clergy, eventually to turn over the Church completely to them, and thus to make the nation a full-fledged daughter of the supranational Church. The native Communists, on the other hand, work to sabotage their own country, thus to hand it over to the Russians. Their glory is to make it a satellite of Russia.

Finally, Catholic missionaries openly proclaim that they are working for spiritual purposes alone. Yet indirectly they also fill the country with immense material and cultural benefits. They toil to construct schools, churches, orphanages, hospitals, show maternal solicitude in assisting people in all conditions of life; thus their spiritual apostolate flows over to aid even the merely human and temporal. The Communists on the opposite side openly proclaim hatred for anything spiritual, set their sights solely on the material. Of course they

impede the spiritual, but what is becoming increasingly clear behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains is that in the long run they wreck the material prosperity of a country too.

In brief, the Catholic Church starts from outside to build up inside, the Communists from inside to betray to Russia outside. The Church begins with sacrifice, advances through years in hope, rejoices finally in a self-supporting clergy and laity; Communism begins with traitors, progresses through fear, ends with new slaves for the most voracious imperialistic tyranny of all ages.

FRANCIS X. CLARK

## The New Sin

The book may be innocent, morally speaking. This does not stop or even slow down the publisher's advertising experts. They splash sex across the cover, underscore loose-mouth situations in the dust jacket write-ups. Books of the pocket variety particularly offend in this regard.

The movie may be innocent, morally speaking. This does not stop or even slow down that group of mental giants who do the promotion, which is packaged and shipped with the print all over the world. They slapdash down for the theatre lobbies any one of the thousand unspeakable pictures their sort of mind is evidently crawling with, they grind out deathless prose of one-syllable suggestive words (just a step above what is commonly written on the walls of latrines) for the newspaper notices. And the newspapers, locally at least, gobble it up.

All these people have conspired to compound a new and complicated moral situation for self-respecting customers. Suppose I know from another source that the book is all right, that the cover and blurb publicity is (as it often is) an outright lie. May I, nevertheless, condone this sort of scurrilous salesmanship by buying the book? The same for an immorally