

The Archbishop of Melbourne

Most Reverend Joseph J. Booth, M.C. B.A., D.D.,

Dear Dr Booth,

Aware of the dollar domination of democracy; afraid of the effects on faith and freedom of the conflict of totalitarian Rome and Russia: I pray you earnestly to consider the rapid Romanising of democratic America and Protestant Australia; and the challenge to our Church and Nation.

In your own Archdiocese, in the presence of Mr de Valera, representing Ireland and Spain; and other Catholic Action Over-lords from overseas (and Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these) Papal Princes and Prelates perform the worse than pagan ceremony of "Consecrating Australia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

And you know there is no such Person.

Mary, the mother of a large family - and therefore to be revered - knows the meaning and ministry of matrimony. Her spirit rejoices in God her Saviour. She is no more the "Immaculate Mother of God" than the pope is Christ's "Holy Father."

So with the shocking - and typical - statement of the Australian Catholic Truth Society, pamphlet 217, The Catholic "cannot even deliberately doubt that God reprobates and detests" non-catholics - the Baptist President of U.S.A.: the Primate of Australia; and you, Joseph Melbourne!

You know there is no such God.

The monopoly is ecclesiastical moonshine; "Excommunication" a political move dividing the world into "Rome versus Moscow," treating Westminster and Washington as the Pope's war allies!

As a non-Catholic God reprobates and detests "you." Add another lie. "As a non-Catholic you are a Communist." Now it is claimed "EACH AUSTRALIAN STATE IS A PROVINCE OF ROME." What are you going to do about it?

Each Australian State "Province of Rome"?

Not exactly, NOT YET! It depends on Anglican acquiescence, Protestant paralysis, Canberra's connivance, and continued adroit papal manipulation of Communism.

But do not these conditions already obtain in each Australian State? Are not "The Papal States of Australia" taking shape before our very eyes?

That, 'Your Grace, is your concern'. Or is it? Is your Church, are your clergy vitally 'concerned'?

While Professor Laski grieves over the rapid Romanising of America, Dr Mannix gloats over the creeping paralysis of Protestant Australia.

Catholic Action in America exercises a power of infiltration making Communists look like infants at the game. "Any one who measures R.C. strength in U.S.A. today with what it was a generation ago, cannot fail to be impressed by its growth, and perturbed by its direction" says the professor.

And Dr. Mannix says "Australia is a different place from what it was five or ten years ago. That is something for Catholic Action to be proud of. We can look forward to greater things with God's help and the help of Our Lady."

Over against all this - what troubles me is the inadequacy of the Church we know.

A Melbourne Gallup Poll puts the Church of England at the bottom of the list for Church attendance on either of two previous Sundays - Roman Catholic 63 per cent, Church of England 49. Non-attendance R.C.'s 37, Baptist's 46, Methodists 66. Presbyterian 69. Church of England 81. - You have too many 'nominal' members.

A New Zealand Archdeacon tells of 600 families who call themselves Anglican and never contribute a brass farthing. He agrees that "the Church of England is the easiest to get into, the cheapest to stay in, and the easiest to get out of. Little comfort in that for you; less in the

idea that many of the Roman 63 and some of your 49 get rid of their religious duty early morning and then devote themselves to "Secularising Sunday"; but there is no comfort in the words of Sidney Dark, erstwhile Editor of The Church Times - "When ritual becomes the priests' main occupation... their sparse congregations mainly consist of elderly and frustrated spinsters and the rather unpleasant young men who love to wear lace cottas and serve at the altar. Jesus lays the stress elsewhere."

Archdeacon Robertson of Canberra sounds the clarion note. "The Roman Catholic Church and the Communist movement constitute a serious challenge to the national life of Australia... Both are represented by men and women almost fanatical in their belief. Both create an enthusiasm the Church of England lacks."

"Communists are penetrating into high places in the life of the nation and into the public services. Rome has exactly the same ideals, the same motives. She is out to conquer the world. Never has the Church been challenged as it is being challenged today. If we do not accept the challenge IT WILL BE TOO LATE."

The Archdeacon's Challenge is to the Church of England. The warning is to all Christian Churches. The Archdeacon has Canberra evidence of R.C. repudiation of Common Christianity. For the most part, Protestants take it lying down. Anglicans are indifferent. Presbyterians are too proud to fight. Congregationalists comfortably tolerate the intolerable. Baptists are busy keeping their own heads above water. Methodists compromise with the enemy. Protestantism goes by default!

Now Canberra has been created a Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Apostolic Delegate proudly declares "Each Australian State is a Province of Rome" AND WHO CARES?

"Protestant Churchmen, accustomed, decade after decade, to dwindling denominations, are selling out to Rome, for the privilege of dying in peace." I wrote after 30 years in Australia. — "A panic paragraph" said a passive Protestant. Dr Panico knows! And Protestants will probably remain passive even if the pope, driven out of Italy, takes up residence in one of his Australian provinces. Christian Democrats preparing the way.

"Christian democrat" is precisely what a Roman Catholic is!t, even in Italy. Dr Raffaele Mariano, R.C. Professor of Philosophy in Naples university, said "Roman Catholicism is the very antithesis of Christianity". The Italian statesman, Francesco Crispi, said "Christianity will kill Roman Catholicism".

And "Democrat"? A Roman priest in Liverpool thought he and I belonged to "The Church of Jolly Good Fellows". But his Church excluded me! The Roman Catholic - conscious Dr. Irving Benson is in like case. You and I know him as essentially catholic-minded in life and letters. It is ludicrous for Romans to believe that his only hope of salvation outside their Church, lies in his "invincible ignorance".

And see how "Christian" and how "democratic" is Rome in your own Archdiocese! Victoria's 625 R.C Churches believe that "God reprobates and detests" your 800; the Methodist 1116; Presbyterian 968; Baptist 123; Churches of Christ 120; Salvation Army 107; Congregational 80; Brethren 49.

I heard Dr Mannix boast that his Church is "self-assertive; INTOLERANT; EXCLUSIVE." just like that!

Remembering statements you have signed; and what the Bishop of Ballarat has written; I pray that you returning inspired from the Lambeth Conference may expose what is pagan; recover the dynamic of preaching; and encourage the revival of unprofessional Protestantism AND MAKE AUSTRALIA CHRISTIAN.

With high regard, I am, Yours sincerely, D. R. Luth.