

Industrial Sunday, 23rd November, 1941.

Pastoral letter from the Most Reverend the Archbishop
(To be read in the Churches on the preceding Sunday).

I write to commend the appeal which will be made through sermons and in other ways throughout the Diocese on Sunday, November 23, to give earnest and prayerful consideration to the implications of our Christian Faith in the industrial and economic life of our day.

You will remember that in the slogan of our Diocesan Campaign of Witness we have declared that "Our Witness is to Christ as the Lord and Redeemer of all life—intellectual, social, moral and spiritual—to-day as always. Nothing less than this is adequate either to His Gospel or to our needs." One of the directions, therefore, in which we have set ourselves to bear our witness is that bundle of industrial and economic activities and relationships to which such a large proportion of our time and energy is necessarily given, and which affects so profoundly the whole of our life and outlook.

I do not suggest, of course, that it is any part of the Church's business to pronounce upon the respective economic events of the policies of rival political parties except where they trench on the moral domain, but I do believe that it is her clear duty to proclaim with constant urgency and insistence the great Christian principles which ought to be embodied in any industrial programme or economic order, and to do this intelligently and effectively demands earnest study and wise and courageous witness.

While it is true that no economic system, however skilfully contrived, will work satisfactorily unless it is directed by men and women whose hearts and wills are consecrated to the task—even to solve our economic problems we need above all else to strive for the regeneration of mankind. Yet on the other hand, we have ever to bear in mind that the utmost goodwill and the most fervent dedication will be immeasurably hampered and hindered in their beneficent designs if they be not well informed and their tools be inefficient.

We all realize that the Church's vision cannot be limited by the horizons of time, and that her main concern is for the eternal welfare of the souls for whom Christ died, but it is surely her bounden duty to bear her witness to the full implications of the Gospel with which she is put in trust, and to remember that it has a relevance to every department of human life. We have been placed in the garden to dress it and to keep it.

In these days when corporate associations and influences exercise so large a measure of control over the lives—and even the thoughts—of men, the challenge to us is the greater to do everything we can to cast our social activities into a Christian mould, and to secure that every human relationship shall reflect the mind and will of our Lord. We must claim the whole of life for Him.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Howard Sydney