

# Editorial

With growing tension in the Far East we are on the verge of entering into armed conflict with Red China. Just recently East Germany celebrated with much ceremony the fifth anniversary of the Berlin wall. In our own country violence is erupting between the races in increasing proportions. Peace is almost nowhere to be seen. Yet throughout the world well intentioned political and religious leaders are making sincere efforts to bring about a state of peace, efforts that do not seem to have borne much fruit.

In the Far East the closer we get to achieving a military victory and consequently the beginning of peace the more ominous becomes the possibility of Red China's involvement. At home, the more our government legislates in accord with the demands of protest groups the greater become the protests and the violence and anarchy which accompanies them. It seems that the harder it tries the more remote becomes the goal. Many reasons are offered to explain our failure in the pursuit of peace, but most people seem to be quite unaware of the true cause of the present world situation, i.e., the sinfulness of man.

We are a sinful people and yet we have enjoyed a material prosperity unparalleled in the history of mankind—a prosperity we could well lose in the not too distant future. We are not unique in our sinfulness for all men are sinners, but God, in his economy of salvation, has demanded repentance of sinners.

On repeated occasions during the history of man God has punished peoples for their refusal to repent. In the sixth century B.C. he allowed the Babylonian armies to destroy Jerusalem; in the first century A.D. the same was done by the Roman armies. On each occasion the people were called on to repent and the consequences of their refusal were foretold well in advance. In the first case God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and in the second he spoke himself as the Word made Flesh.

Today the peace of the whole world is in danger, but almost fifty years ago the road to true peace was revealed to the children at Fatima. Unfortunately the world as a whole has paid little heed to the message of Our Lady. What is worse, the message of Fatima is today being degraded by individuals within the Catholic Church. We have been told by Our Lady that unless we heed God's call to prayer and penance

we will suffer repeated wars and devastation. We have been told that the rosary is a form of prayer especially pleasing to her Son and have been asked to pray the rosary daily. Many earnest souls have responded to her plea but most have not.

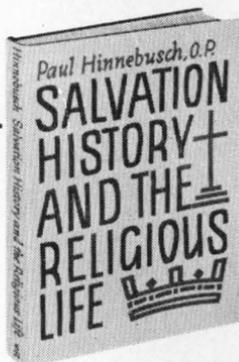
If we are to bring true peace to our nation and to the world we must use all the means at our disposal. We must enact legislative reforms when this is demanded by social justice, we must repel unjust aggression, but we must also heed the words of Our Lady. We must use that one means, prayer and penance, without which all the others are to no avail.

If we lose our glorious civilization, if, through internal strife and our wars, we are reduced to a state of savagery we cannot say that it was due to forces beyond our control. Our Lady has given us sufficient warning, though her God has revealed the efficacy of the rosary as a means for achieving peace. We must harken to this message or pay the consequences.

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