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EDITORIAL



ANY EVENTS that the world considers important will take place in the autumn of 1956. New enterprises in business and politics, disasters and rumors of war, personalities and ideas—all these will catch our attention through the newspapers of the world as this year comes to a close. These events come and go in a whirl of rapidly changing circumstances which bewilder and weary by their noise and confusion. The unwary reader finds it difficult to distinguish between what is essential and what accidental, and most often he misses what is important before the mirror of truth, the vision of reality that is from God.

But the events that happen in the world of the true Christian "the city of God" as St. Augustine calls this world, are of a far different nature. This is the world of God's grace quietly working through His instruments, His ministers both among the clergy and the faithful producing results that are infinitely greater because they are supernatural and eternal. This is the world of love of God and neighbor, victorious over love of self. Here there is no confusion but perfect order, everything working for the honor and glory of God.

Seldom do these events make the headlines. In the majority of cases the drama of the action of grace is internal, hidden from the world, quiet in its achievements. Thus the announcement of the opening of a new mission field in Pakistan by the Dominican Fathers of St. Joseph's Province creates no sensation among the observers of political trends. Nor does the news of Dominican teachers assigned to the far Eastern country of Lebanon arouse the interest of many outside the circle of friends and relatives and their Brothers in St. Dominic who wish them well.

But to the fervent and apostolic Catholic the news is of major importance. The news is important because every missionary is important ever since the initial command was given by Jesus Christ to His Apostles: "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost." The news is

of special importance to every Dominican because it means that the spirit of the Gospel reflected so perfectly in his own constitutions is in his own time a concrete reality. "Our Order from the beginning is known to have been instituted especially for preaching and the salvation of souls." (Chap. I, Para. 3)

Thus, the small band of Dominican missionaries and teachers who form the vanguard to the new posts in Pakistan and Lebanon are the living, contemporary witness to these commands. They carry on the traditions of the Church and the Dominican Order, reflecting in their sacrifices, the sacrifice of Christ for all men on the Cross. By word and by example they will bring the truth of Christ to those who still answer the question: "Why do you stand here all day idle?" with: "Because no man has hired us." (Matt. 20: 6-7)

The Popes have praised mission work above all other works of charity, superior to these as the infinite surpasses the finite. The reason is obvious to the fervent Catholic. What could be greater than working as God's chosen instruments to bring light to the blind, the good news of the Gospel to those poor souls living in darkness?

And yet, under God's providence, the greatness of this role, the awe-inspiring grandeur of this pattern in the Divine Mind is often hidden, like the leaven in the bread or the seed in the ground. Christ Himself foretold that it would be so. It is only through the vision of faith that we can see the real significance of these events, strange and unimportant to the unbeliever, consoling and a source of joy to the faithful soul.

Dominicana extends congratulations to those who have been chosen for work in our new missions in Pakistan and Lebanon. We wish them God's blessings and a fruitful Dominican apostolate and ask our readers to join us in prayers for the success of this work.

"The education of Christian youth never had a more decisive or vital importance, faced, as it is today, by the disconcerting errors of naturalism and materialism which, in precipitating the world into an appalling war, give cruel proof of the falsity of a philosophy based on essentially human foundations."

Pope Pius XII, Broadcast to the Catholic University of America, Nov. 13, 1939.