

Editorial

Christ is risen! The day of hope is with us! Let us rejoice!

There are those who paint somber pictures of our world. They tell us that millions of people go to bed hungry every night. Innocent people are being maimed and killed in that war which we find so hard to understand. Negroes are still without the full exercise of the equal rights which are certainly theirs. Some relax because China appears to be less a threat; others are rightfully concerned because the Chinese people are many decades away from the peace and happiness which men of every race naturally desire. Crime and violence are everywhere in our land. Wealthy America has far too many slums. What a dreadful situation! Let us rejoice! There is reason to hope! In recent months we have witnessed genuine efforts to battle the awful plight of so many Americans. On all sides we see Christians acting like Christians! This is indeed the day that the Lord has made!

In late December a group of priests and seminarians gathered in Jersey City to discuss the Church in the modern city. This was taking time from their Christmas vacation. They did not come merely to attend another convention. They did not come to deplore the terrible situation of our city-dwellers, and then return home to forget about those same city-dwellers. They did not come to agree that the problem was of such giant proportions as to put it beyond their sphere of activity. No, these men were Christians acting like Christians. They came because they are resolved to be Christians today. They want to

help these people; they *will* help these people. They know that it is difficult. They came to learn, to get information from men who are competent in sociology, to pool their experiences, to share their ideas. But most of all they came because they are determined to do something, to get out there and be Christians in the modern city. They are men of vision as well as men of action. They know that blind activity will lead nowhere. That is why they want to talk about the problem. That is why they want to begin now to train men who can work intelligently and effectively tomorrow. That is why they want the advice of men who have studied the problem. But these men also know that endless talk is just as dangerous as blind action. They came to talk because they are going to act. They are determined to be Christians. Let us rejoice!

Early in February two priests moved into a slum neighborhood in one of our big cities. They are not discontented priests, priests whose life has lost meaning. They are not looking for headlines. They are not looking for a way to fill their spare time. They are educated men. They are busy enough teaching in their regular assignments. They are men who are genuinely respected and admired by their fellow-priests and religious. Now we know that they are even more than we might have suspected. They are Christians. They have a solemn vow of poverty; now they live with men who have no such vow, but who have their fill of poverty. They will shave in the morning while a cockroach loafs across the mirror in front of them. They will learn what it is like to be poor. Why do they want to learn this? Because they are determined to help the poor. But most of all, they just want to be there in the modern city with the poor. They know that Christ would be there. They are determined to be Christians today. They bring us hope!

DOMINICANA is proud to salute all these men who have announced hope to us once more. They will not solve all problems in a day. Their task is not easy. They would not have us deceive ourselves by thinking that we can now rush out and change everything immediately. But they are inviting us to try. They are suggesting that the modern city can be improved. They are optimists, not pessimists. They are Christians!

The poets tell us that hope springs eternal. It is always with us because Christ has risen once for all. Now *is* the time to hope! Now *is* the time to rejoice! Look at those Christians. . . .