

Low Sunday

True Peace

“Peace be with you” (John, 20:19)

Our Divine Lord came to earth to bring peace to mankind. That is why the angels, on the night of His birth in Bethlehem, chanted: “Peace on earth among men of good will” (*Luke, 2:14*). Today's Gospel relates that when His stay on earth was about to end He again emphasised His desire for peace, by greeting His apostles on His first meeting with them after the resurrection with the words: “Peace be with you.”

When Christ spoke of peace He did not refer merely to friendly relations of men with their fellow men, as is commonly understood by peace at the present day.

His idea of peace was far more fundamental. He conceived the essential form of peace as friendship of the soul with God.

When that type of peace is widespread, then men will be at peace with one another. And peace between the soul and God is established by sanctifying grace.

The chief reason why there is so much conflict today among men and nations is that there are so many persons who are not at peace with God. Many of those who exercise extensive political power, especially in communistic lands, have no concern for God. Some of them reject the very idea of God and are striving to tear religious belief out of the hearts of their people. Little wonder that they are stimulating hatred and strife, not only among the unfortunate people whom they are subjecting to their tyranny but even among their own people who still retain a yearning for God and for religion.

It is becoming more and more evident that Communism, both as a philosophy and as a form of government cannot endure permanently, because it drives all true peace out of human life, and men instinctively crave peace. How much longer Communism will maintain its hold in those lands where it has seized political power we do not know, but we can and should pray that it will soon be overthrown, for it is a system that is based on a spirit of injustice and hatred and despair.

We should do all in our power to promote peace in our own land. The most effective way of doing this is to strive to promote love for God and recognition of Christ and His Church. The rejection of God in our land will mean the beginning of discord and national disaster.

Practical Application

Keep true peace in your soul by remaining in the state of grace. If you have the misfortune to commit mortal sin, remember that Our Lord has given you a remedy to return to His peace through the sacrament of Penance, instituted by the words: “Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, they are retained.”