

Speech to be delivered by Hon. John E. Fogarty, MC on occasion of annual Communion Breakfast of the Cranston Council, Knights of Columbus, after 8 o'clock mass at St. Matthews Church, Cranston, R.I., Sunday, May 13, 1945.

On last Tuesday morning our President dedicated this day to prayer in honor of the brave men who made Victory in Europe a fact.

This morning we have kept faith with those brave men by ~~attending~~ receiving our Creator at His altar. I know we all ~~prayed~~ thanked God for the Victory which He made possible. We beseeched Him, also, to take and keep close to His Heart all those brave men who have made the Eternal sacrifice in order that all people might gather, just as we have this morning, to take part in the rites of our faith - to worship our God - without fear of the lash or the concentration camp.

We are proud of the Victory which was announced last week - proud beyond measure of the GIs who thoroughly whipped the great Armies of the Prussian Militarists; but we are also conscious of the fact that other brave Americans will still die before our cup of victory will really be filled.

In the months that are ahead there will be added strain and sacrifice. Sometimes the burden of three or four years of war will seem more than we can bear, but we cannot afford the luxury of relaxing our vigilance, if we are to keep the faith.

During the next several months, while our brave soldiers, sailors and marines, grind the empire of Nippon into ashes, we should be conscious of the burden which is ours, here at home.

Every new sacrifice we make, every extra hour we work, we should remember. Every tear we shed for a loved one should leave an indelible mark on our hearts. In some private recess of our memories we should install every pain, every moment of grief, every throb of our hearts.

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If the suffering and sorrow which we bear between this day and final victory can be dedicated to the winning of the peace, then they will not have been in vain.

If these pains can fire in our hearts the determination that there shall never be on this earth another visitation of the death, destruction and pestilence of war, then we shall be keeping faith with the men who fight and die to win that peace for us.

We are living in a day of accomplishments which approach the phenomenal. Our honors are stupendous. Our pride in our Country is greater than ever.

But with that feeling of pride in our achievements there is a sobering thought for the responsibilities which also are ours.

We owe a great responsibility to the children of today - as much as to the men who will never return from battle - to make certain we shall build upon the sacrifice of those brave men - a peace which is ~~based~~ founded upon the principles of Christian Justice.

That task is certainly not an easy one - but if we have been able to dedicate our Country and all its people to the prosecution of an all out war; if we ~~have been willing to~~ could sacrifice the cream of American youth to win victory in that war, then, certainly, it seems to me, we should be willing and able to dedicate our lives, our fortunes and our sacred

honor to the winning of a permanent peace.

~~We dare not know our steps when~~

This is the path upon which we have set our feet. We dare not falter - for if we fail in this nobly purpose then the sweet taste of victory over our enemies will turn to gall in our mouths, and we shall have consigned a new generation to death and torture at the hands of some future merchants of war.

The peace we want is no passing fancy. We do not want a temporary lull in the fighting, while Nations re-arm and a new crop of cannon fodder grows to manhood. The peace we want and, Please God, will ~~shall~~ we ~~shall~~ have is one based on a new ordering of human society, a peace which guarantees to all people the right to live in security, free from the fear of want and oppression, We want a peace buttressed by the sense of charity and justice inspired by fear of God and not man.

We have paid a bitter price in blood, sweat and tears because of a reliance on expedience and compromise and appeasement. We have seen the depths to which the human mind can descend when its excuse for action is so-called Realism. It is high time we had a return to the principles enunciated by the Christ we have received this morning and a reliance upon the truth which He enunciated.

There are many throughout the country who subject the Nation's present efforts to win such a peace to carping criticism and ridicule. There are some who see in these efforts nothing but futility. There are those, too, who would demand a surrender of every American principle if necessary, rather than incur the displeasure of any of those with whom we confer.

Between these two there is a happy course. It is the course of

justice and honor. That is a course to which we as Catholics can subscribe.

The founders of this great Republic believed in the dignity of man. They wrote ~~that belief~~ into a lasting constitution the fact that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In spite of the great complications that always seem to attend international discourse, there is need only for a reliance on those fundamental principles if we would ^{prepare} ~~write~~ a successful, permanent order of peace.

An honest admission that man lives because of his Creator and not at the behest of some omnipotent state - a declaration that man's God given rights are inviolable - is all we need if this generation is to discharge its responsibility to History.

Godless dictatorship is vile and dangerous, no matter what form it takes, or what cloak it wears under the pressing needs of the moment. ~~We have learned~~ Our generation has learned to its sorrow the natural result of teaching that man lives only for the state. Under such teaching there is no respect for God - there is no respect for human life. The purpose of the state is all that matters and human dignity ceases to be anything more than a pawn to be offered as a sacrifice when the leader of the state shall so demand.

To such a belief we cannot subscribe - a world society which bases its hopes on such a principle cannot survive. A plan of peace which will permit the growth of such despotism cannot be accepted.

Power is necessary I know. Justice must have authority, but any plan for peace which depends solely upon power, or which is promoted in self-seeking agreements among the Powerful Nations, is doomed to failure. Such agreements can seek only the advancement of one group at the expense of another - and no people, honest in its protestations of a desire for peace, will resort to such a practice.

I know only too well the great importance that is placed on what is termed a realistic approach to the problems of peace. I see it, hear it, every day in the week.

Some of the world's most prolific writers are devoting their best efforts to enunciating the principles of realism.

Realism, as it is preached today, is Godlessness and is intended to serve as a drug - so that men will sleep - while power politics performs its function of robbing the people of the world of their objective and ~~settling~~ ^{SETTING} the stage for a new holocaust - when the blood of men, women and children will be poured forth as tribute to man's ambition.

Yes, Realism has many disciples who will argue that everything is comparative and there is no such thing as truth itself. But there is one truth which History records - there is one truth which generations of men have refused to learn but which stands as a monument in spite of the determination of militarists and dictators to ignore its existence.-

(That truth - that a) Refusal to recognize the existence of the Creator in the scheme of life - can result only in the revenge of just an ~~enraged~~ God.

The Emperors of Ancient Rome - Mongul conquerors - the great Kings of Europe and Asia - all have dragged their implements of death and torture across the pages of time, all powerful and magnificent ^{and} regal trappings. They have all had their brief day they have all played their small role in the story of life.

But like the Dictators of our time the proud empires they built were of sand and they have collapsed because they were erected without God.

The last generation sloughed through the despondency of war with all its suffering - and the last generation failed in its purpose to end war - because it permitted the power hungry and the realists of that day to snatch victory from its grasp.

We cannot permit another failure - We must demand that we be heard.

We are Knights of Columbus. We believe in the teachings of Christ. We know His justice is eternal. Therefore we can make a genuine contribution to our times. We are not groping in the dark seeking to learn what is truth, what is justice. We have a priceless ~~heritage~~ heritage. We must not waste it by indifference in this moment of greatest importance.

Our voices can be raised in insistence. An early start has already been made. As sure as the sun rises tomorrow success can be ours.

It is our responsibility to the men who have died - to those who will die on some tomorrow; to the wounded, the blind, the lame victims of war who kneel before a ~~crucified~~ crucified Christ seeking solace from

WHO KNOWS

Him who knows all human sorrows; and all human hopes and prayers.

It is our responsibility to the ~~men who have died~~ mothers and fathers whose hearts have been broken - to the memory of the homes which have been shattered - to the children who have been denied the right to be born.

It is a solemn and a grave responsibility.

With God in our hearts - ~~and~~ with His love and wisdom to guide us - we ~~shall~~ will not fail.