Life of the Spirit

Volume VI MAY 1952 Number 71

EDITORIAL

THIS issue of LIFE OF THE SPIRIT may seem to be unusual in its character; but it should be read as a background to the Eucharistic Congress to be held at Barcelona at the end of the month. The theme of the Congress is to be 'The Eucharist and Peace'—a beautiful and important theme at a time like this. The sacrament of Christ's Body is destined to draw all men into one life, the life of love in Christ, the life of Christians in his Church.

The divisions today are so deep and so numerous that the need for seeking union by its fruit, the peace in the true and living bread, is imperative. It must, however, be remembered that there are many 'eucharists' being offered, marxist 'eucharists', scientific 'eucharists', a host of differing christian 'eucharists', all offered as the bread of life which brings peace. These are in many ways false and specious eucharists and unities, and yet they offer some unity and peace, and he that is not against unity is for unity, he that is not against Christ is for him—at least in the sense that he wants men to be as one. The true Christian faith alone offers the true unity, we know, but these other unities have something, borrowed indeed from Christ, which could be returned to Christ. We find the materialist and anti-Christian offering a united view which could help to feed the Christian life of man today. We find the Protestant layman being executed on account of his association with fellow Christians who are Catholic; and we find a whole army of religious cut off from Rome who recite the praises of the same God in the same Christ in the words of the divine office. All such fragments of peace must be brought to the Eucharist of Christ's Body, and every christian living in that Body should recognise their existence. The life of the spirit is not a life within a glass case, an interior peace all on its own apart from the life of men. The life of the spirit is the life of the Son who became man, to live man's common life and so make the common life of man the holy life of God.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S026935930003384X Published online by Cambridge University Press