

BLACKFRIARS

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EDITORIAL

SEVEN centuries ago, and barely a dozen years after his death, Dominic Guzman was raised to the altars of the Church. He rose in his day as a new star in the spiritual firmament to lead wise men to Truth. And as of old the light that guided the Three Kings brought them to the incarnate God in all the lightsome mystery of His helpless, new-born humanity, so Dominic from his rising until now has shone before men as a light to lead his fellows to an understanding of the truth of man's relation to God revealed at Bethlehem. It is when men become wise with the wisdom of this world that they tend to lose sight of that 'foolishness of God' which is wiser than man; it is when men feel most strongly the urge to freedom of thought that they need a divinely appointed star to show them the way to that Truth, God become man, which alone gives freedom.

It is a notable fact that when the mass of men become newly conscious of themselves, of their needs, of their powers, they tend to err in their estimation of their own human nature, to separate body and soul, despising the one or the other. In Dominic's day this perennial heresy had permeated the ranks of the faithful in a recrudescence of manichaeism which regarded the body and things corporeal as fathered by a supreme cause of evil, even as the soul was fashioned by a supreme cause of good. There could be but one remedy to this heresy and the flood of viciousness which it let loose. The divine humanity of the Incarnate God must demonstrate to them the truth about human nature, body and soul, and its worth in the eyes of God. So like a new David with his sling, Dominic went forth with his rosary of the Incarnation to slay his Goliath.

Seven centuries are past and a new form of the ancient error has taken hold on our time. A new wisdom belonging

to this world has again falsified men's appreciation of their own nature; body and soul are torn apart, but this time it is the body that is exalted and the soul despised. Men seeking for freedom are binding themselves with the shackles of materialism, and the fabric of civilization is crumbling to its ruin. The star of Dominic is needed more urgently even than before if this blind flight from God is not to end in chaos. The truth which he taught more even by his life than by his word must flame again in those who are called to this Apostolate. And what Catholic is not called? The Holy Father has issued the summons to Catholic Action, and the essential foundation of all Catholic Action is a Christlike life. *Actio sequitur esse*. St. Dominic's mission was crowned with success because he was, before all, of a sanctity that won for him the title of *After Christus*. For that reason this Seventh Centenary of the Church's sollicit declaration of his holiness comes home with particular force, not only to the Brethren of his Order, but to the Church at large.

*O Lumen Ecclesiae
 Doctor Veritatis
 Praedicator Gratiae
 Nos junge beatis.*

EDITOR.