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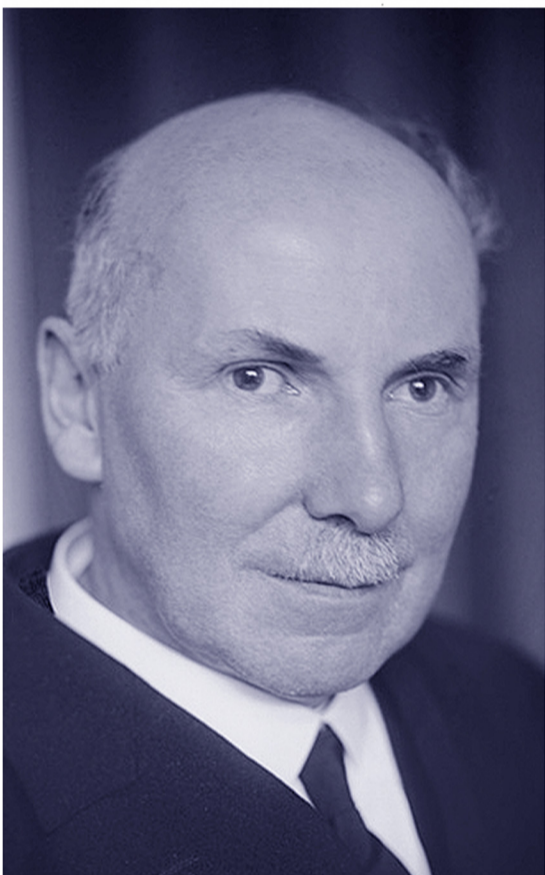
Religion and Social Service

## The Cross Still Standing Triumphant Above the Swastika

*German Catholics and Protestants Are Resisting Efforts to Make Them Subservient to the State - But Nazi Effort to Control National Conscience is Not Yet Ended*

**H**ITLER'S program for complete nationalization is stopped at the door of the sanctuary. Neither the Catholic nor Protestant church will recognize him as the chief standard-bearer of Christianity or the mouthpiece of God.

Out of Bethel, a remarkable social settlement in Westphalia founded by his father,



BISHOP OF THE REICH

*Dr. Friedrich von Bodelschwingh, who was elected over the Nazi candidate to head the German Protestant Church*

which includes hospitals, orphanages, asylums for the insane and defective, a training school for deaconesses and a theological institution, comes the newly elected First Evangelical Bishop of the Reich, Dr. Friedrich von Bodelschwingh, Lutheran. He was elected head of twenty-nine German Protestant groups over the Rev. Ludwig Mueller, defiant candidate of the Nazi group, or German Christians, so-called.

From their recent annual conference at Fulda, the burial place of Saint Boniface, first missionary to the heathen Germans, the Catholic Bishops of Germany issued a pastoral letter declaring the Catholic Church independent of the Government.

So far, but the struggle for State Supremacy even over conscience is not yet ended.

Almost simultaneously with the proclamation from every Catholic pulpit of the Bishops' pastoral letter, the Nazis suppressed the Catholic journeymen's congress in Munich, and prevented Cardinal Faulhaber from holding solemn high mass for the journeymen.



CARDINAL FAULHABER

*Whom the Nazis prevented from holding solemn high mass for Catholic journeymen during their congress in Munich*

### Catholic Independence

While this riotous outbreak was occurring in Munich, the Catholic Bishops' pastoral was being read in every Catholic church in Germany. "Not since the revolution was effected," says a wireless dispatch to the *New York Times*, "has such an enunciation of independence and the right of self-determination been heard in Germany." In the course of the pastoral, running to 7,000 words, the Bishops declare:

"Proudly and emphatically professing ourselves to be German and ready to make the heaviest sacrifices for our people and our fatherland, we feel ourselves also to be members of the great Catholic universal church whose head is Christ's vicar on earth, the Holy Father in Rome.

"In this Catholic solidarity we are deeply rooted by sacramental force and unalterable personal convictions that we should regard any attempt to loosen our adherence or create a national church independent of Rome as an intolerable aggression against the most sacred elements of our being."

However, the Bishops indorse the Government's program for the physical and disciplinary regeneration of Germany. But, they say, "the Church can uphold the State only if the freedom she needs according to her nature and task is granted to her. The Church," they insist, "is a holy, self-contained and independent society receiving her charter not from the State but from God. Those who govern the country would therefore do well not to regard the Catholic Church as a serving-maid, but as the divine power on earth."

The Bishops are equally outspoken in their specific references to the race issue. "We believe," they say, "that exclusive emphasis on race and descent in determining membership in the national organism leads to injustices that oppress the Christian conscience. . . . In our love for our people and our fatherland we can not forget our

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natural and Christian interconnections with other peoples and groups of peoples. We are mindful, on the contrary, that the great world-wide kingdom of God on earth was intended by the Savior to embrace and redeem all, irrespective of differences of creed, time, nation and race."

### Protestant View-Point

The view-point of the followers of Dr. Bodelschwingh, which include the Lutherans, the Reformed churches and the United churches, is expressed by the *Taegliche Rundschau*. That paper reminds its readers that "the Government holds the opinion that even a semblance of the State attempting to influence the situation must be avoided. Chancellor Hitler," it says, "has vouchsafed complete freedom to the churches. There is, therefore, no reason to assume that he identifies himself with the demand of the Nazi German Christians for the appointment of Dr. Mueller."

A common creed will unite all the group of the Landeskirchen in one church of the Reich, tho each member church will retain its own creed. The Lutheran Bishop will stand at the head of the united church, by cooperating with him will be a spiritual ministry, or Cabinet, representing non-Lutheran evangelical bodies. Each member of this Cabinet will conduct the affairs of his particular faith.

A national synod is to be created, partly by election, and partly by appointment, says the Associated Press. This synod is to cooperate in promulgating church legislation and in appointing church heads.

Advisory chambers also are to be created "to insure that the living forces inherent in the German evangelical folk shall be enabled to cooperate freely and creatively in the Church's services to the people and the Reich."

"The Church's service," said Dr. Bodelschwingh in his first message to the Protestant churches, "must be nothing except to spread the Gospel of word and deed. The Gospel, however, can and will make us free and save us."