

Dick Bernard

From: Dick Bernard [dick@c...]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2003 5:46 AM
To: 'Dick Bernard'
Subject: P&J#401 William Dalrymple on an unseemly aspect of Christianity

It is paradoxical, but Christianity, the religion of Peace, which has its very roots in War and Violence, both of offense and defense.

Just for a single example, yesterday was the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and at my church, which has an immense PEACE sign out front, and really tries to live the message of Peace, the Congregation sang as the Processional song, "By All Your Saints", whose second stanza says this:

"We praise you for Saint Peter; We praise you for Saint Paul
They taught both Jew and Gentile that Christ is all in all.
To cross and sword they yielded And saw the kingdom come
O God, your two apostles Won life through martyrdom."

(Text based on Horatio Nelson, 1823-1923, by Jerry D. Godwin, b 1944 c1985

The Church Pension Fund)

I suspect I will point out this definite "mixed message" to my Pastor and Liturgist, both who I have the greatest respect.

Self-righteous Christians seem comfortable criticizing certain Moslems for actions that are part of the very fabric of Christianity. But large numbers of Catholic Saints, many adopted by Protestantism, reached their Heavenly pinnacle by Martyrdom for the Faith. We are not good examples. We give encouragement from elevation of past violence without the Christian Church. Similarly, the Jewish tradition takes great comfort in God being on their side....

For those of us who happen to be Christians of whatever denomination, our "Eye on the Prize" has to be to get out own Churches to live the essential message, which is Peace.

I remain Catholic by choice. Better in than out, I say to myself. I remain hopeful, though there is lots of hard work ahead.

Have a great week. And many thanks to SAK in London for the below.

-----Original Message-----

From: S.A.K.
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2003 11:22 AM
To: Dick Bernard

Last week I attended a lecture by William Dalrymple, the wonderful Scottish (still British!) travel writer at the Catholic Centre in Chiswick, London. I also had the chance to chat with him briefly afterwards. Here are my notes of the lecture followed by an article of his that was published in the New York Times, the International Herald Tribune ...

Dalrymple's popularity over here is due to his recent book "From the Holy Mountain". He travels along the footsteps of a monk (John Moschos) in the early 7th century around the Middle East. Perhaps an indefatigable traveller such as yourself will consider tracing that same route!?

Unfortunately it is something of a sad story for Christian tradition, heritage, archaeology, and presence in that area. The article you pointed us to by Weinberger explains paradoxically how the evangelical Christians with whom G.W. Bush has surrounded himself are partly to blame for the continued haemorrhage of Christians from the Holy Land and the Middle East in general. For a review of "From the Holy Mountain":

<http://www.unomas.com/reviews/book/reviews/item015.html>

By the way Gregory Peck sadly passed away on the 12th at the age of 87. He played in To Kill a Mockingbird. He was of Armenian descent although name was modified along the line (Armenian names end with "ian" or "yan", eg William Saroyan). The Ottoman/Turkish slaughter of the Armenians in 1915 did not attract much attention which led Hitler to declare "Who remembers the Armenians" ...

by WILLIAM DALRYMPLE
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7/14/2003