



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Some items of interest from “The Burning Bush” of September 1990

As already stated, I plan to discontinue publication of “The Burning Bush” from the end of February 2007.

In these final issues, I have been reprinting some items of interest which will possibly bring back memories of God’s mercies in the past and help to inform younger readers of events that have now passed into history. The Editor.

We will not ex-communicate the IRA say Irish Bishops

Following the murder of Mr. Ian Gow (30/7/90), a fresh attempt has been made to pressurize the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland to excommunicate the IRA. This time, the man behind the attempt was Roman Catholic MP, Mr. Nicholas Bennett. Despite the call, and the public outrage at the murder of Mr. Gow, an Anglo-Catholic member of the Church of England, the Irish bishops have once again refused to take the one step that would disassociate their church from those of their members who are involved with the IRA. Spokesman for the Irish Bishops' Conference, Bishop Joseph Duffy, of Clogher diocese, said that excommunication would “not serve any purpose”.

Nicholas Bennett had argued that “the point is not whether the Church could actually enforce its decree or those to whom it is addressed actually care. . . It is important the Church is seen to be taking every step to repudiate terrorism.”

The wickedly deceitful attitude of Romanism toward the IRA is exposed in an editorial in The Universe of 5th August. In one place it said, ‘The murder of Ian Gow hot on the heels of last week’s butchery of a nun and three policemen in Armagh has provoked the usual condemnations. But the question has to be faced. Whatever the past, whatever the callous injustices, has the Catholic community as a whole decisively renounced the armed struggle? Will it follow the moral lead given by the Pope and the bishops of Ireland?’ Of course the Roman Catholic people are following the bishops and Pope. Support continues for the IRA because the Roman Catholic people engage in the same equivocation as do their bishops. Their condemnation always falls short of the final censure of the gunman. It is a case of like bishop like people. A demonstration of the very equivocation that The Universe editorial appears to be condemning is found in the self same editorial! “The goal of a united Ireland, gained by political means and sustained international pressure, is entirely legitimate and ultimately will prevail. We should not allow it to be poisoned at this stage by crimes which are absolutely contrary to Catholic teaching and morality.”

The clear implication is that there has been no staining of the campaign for a united Ire-



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land up until the murders of Ian Gow and the Armagh nun. What of the thousands who have been murdered and maimed since 1969, not to mention the victims of the past IRA campaigns going back to the 1920s? That is Rome at its most polished.

It will condemn today's atrocity by the IRA but when it refers to it at some future date the atrocity will have been redefined as an act of patriotism.

The attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards its IRA members stands in sharp contrast to the attitude adopted by the Roman Catholic Church in America. It was reported in The Universe of 24th July that Cardinal John O'Connor of New York has warned Roman Catholic politicians who back abortion that they will be excommunicated if they continue their campaign. A political position that offends the Cardinal merits excommunication while terrorist murder does not.

Such is the morality of The Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth.

'BAN THE BURNING BUSH'

It has been reported to us that Belfast City Councillor, Brian Feeny, has written to the Director of Public Prosecutions demanding the banning of The Burning Bush.

Apparently, the Roman Catholic SDLP councillor was angered by the leading article in the June edition of the magazine which reported on the death of Cardinal O'Fee at Lourdes. The article drew attention to the irony of the Cardinal taking ill at Rome's centre of healing and then being rushed to a hospital rather than resorting to the power of the shrine. Councillor Feeny's call reminds us of what liberty under Rome would be like. Roman Catholicism demands the right to protest against everything that offends her but will stifle and strangle every attempt at a free examination of her dogmas and claims.