



Saint Ann's Church

(THE DIOCESAN CHURCH)

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May 14, 1959

A. S. Paton, Esq.
Linton Road
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Dear Mr. Paton:

Will you forgive a stranger's presumption in approaching you regarding a matter which, it is to be hoped, may prove well worth-while? Your books and courageous appraisal of race problems in South Africa — and, by indirection, the rest of the world — have won you an appreciative audience in these United States which is readily attentive to whatever you may have to say upon the religious issues and personalities of our time. It is this — and your obvious readiness to promulgate the Faith on all occasions — that induces me to write to you regarding a book which Hawthorn Books (Prentice-Hall), an eminent New York publishing house, and myself as editor contemplate producing early next year. It will consist of ten studies of Faith as exhibited by certain contemporary figures, and we hope to include among our contributors: W. H. Auden, C. S. Lewis, George Seaver, Martin D'Arcy, Henry LaFarge, and others. We should account it an honor to be able to number you among the distinguished authors.

Briefly the project is this:— We have selected ten people who represent, in varying degrees, the continuity of Christian thought and idealism in an age of conflicting ideologies and grave amorality. If the future of our world is to be resolved in the realm of the spirit rather than in the area of material progress then these men we think, in their several ways, will serve to illuminate the verities, personal and universal, that ensure the endurance of a civilization which, in the past at least, has claimed to be erected on the conscious ideals of the New Testament. The personalities selected are sufficiently various, we think, to reveal the many sided character of Christianity and its relevance to the needs and urgings of our time. Eliot, it's true, may differ as much from Pasternak as Billy Graham differs from Eliot but they have this in common — they are all basically men of faith who, each in his particular way, sees human destiny as a drama conforming to certain timeless and classic rules. Thus Maritain, Ronald Knox, Huddleston, and the like, are skilled and dedicated performers in a drama that has become deeply meaningful to the average man of our time.

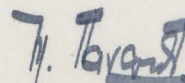
The lives and thoughts of the ten figures we have chosen — Temple, Eliot, Maritain, Schweitzer, LaFarge, Sayers, Huddleston, Pasternak, Knox, Clayton — are, we believe, peculiarly appropriate to our generation and if treated in a thoughtful yet popular manner (that is, written for an intelligent public which could not appreciate a scholarly treatise but would respond to a monograph lightly handled, with thoughtful references) can be generally helpful to thinking people today. It is proposed that some five or six thousand words — roughly twenty to twenty-five double-spaced type-written pages — be devoted to each personality which, while precluding an ambitious treatment, is sufficient to delineate and analyze the environmental influences and training that have produced a particular character and contributed to his thought and significance in the modern world.

In selecting the subjects for this book we have also given much thought to those whom we think could deal most adequately and sympathetically with them, and we should be grateful indeed if you could see your way clear to contribute a vignette, if you will, of Father Trevor Huddleston, one of the significant figures in our gallery. Father Huddleston has become for us in this country the living symbol of Christian conscience (indeed, the microcosm of all right-minded men) in defiance of the sinister racism that not only disfigures our world but so tragically negates all the high-falutin' clap-trap of democratic moralists. We feel that a wise assessment of Huddleston and the race problems that invited his intrepid testimony would throw light on both the character of a singular man and the tensions that made his witness so conspicuous in modern Africa. Your acknowledged sympathy with the principles for which Huddleston stood, and your deep understanding of contemporary Africa and its problems, would ensure a valuable contribution to this series which will aim to emphasize the Christian dignity of modern man. As I mentioned before we contemplate its publication early next year and, as is customary, each contributor will receive ten percent of half of the royalties (an initial payment of \$100. will be forwarded upon acceptance of the commitment), the other fifty percent going to the expenses of editorship, etc. The publishers feel that a volume such as this will have a wide appeal at the present time to the American reader and fulfil a definite purpose.

While we are aware that you must be an extremely busy person we are encouraged to approach you by the fact that the individual contributions are relatively brief and should not impose too much strain on a busy schedule. If the various manuscripts are in the hands of the publishers — Hawthorn Books, 70 Fifth Ave., New York 11, New York, who will gladly answer any questions regarding the project — by the late Autumn it is hoped to produce the volume for next Lent.

I do hope that we may have the privilege of including your contribution in what, we hope, may prove an inspiring and instructive series of personal studies for the general public. Your early reply would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



M. Harcourt

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