

CATHOLIC ACTION FOR CHRIST OUR KING

by Fr. Stephen P. DeLallo FSSPX

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REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR "CATHOLIC ACTION"

INTRODUCTION

1. *What are the means which Christ has given to extend His Kingdom on earth?*

His Church, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Sacraments, public and private prayer, the missionary work of priests and religious, and finally, the work of Catholic Action.

2. *What did Pius XII say to the members of Italian Catholic Action in 1940?*

Pius XII said: "From this it is clear how exalted is the mission of Catholic Action, since it contributes to the attainment of the very end of the Church: to labor for the salvation of souls, and to continue through time and space the work of Our Lord Jesus Christ for the redemption of men. Is this not the high purpose of the Church and of the ecclesiastical hierarchy, to convert the world and to unite all nations in the Kingdom of God?"

3. *Does membership in Catholic Action elevate a person to a position of superiority? Explain.*

No, Pope Pius XII says in the same allocution mentioned above that "Membership in Catholic Action does not elevate to a position of privilege or of superiority, but it infuses into its members a conscientious purpose to make themselves, through a spirit of humility, self-denial, and charity, "all things to all men " in order to win all men to Christ, and to regard themselves, Re the Apostles, as "debtors " to all men, to share with them the ineffable treasures which they have received from the divine Bounty."

4. *What does St. Pius X say about those who assume the burden of Catholic Action?*

St. Pius X says: "But when they assume this burden, they must be ready and fit to make a complete sacrifice of themselves and all things belonging to them for the good cause, to bear the envy, contradiction, and even hatred of many who will repay their benefits with ingratitude, to labor like "good soldiers of Christ, "to run "by patience to the fight proposed to us, looking on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith." A conflict, assuredly, of great difficulty, but one that is most efficacious for the well-being of civil society, even though complete victory be slow in coming."

5. *According to Fr. Denis Fahey, why do many Catholics fail in their duty to defend the rights of Christ and the Church against the enemies of God?*

The reason why so many Catholics fail in defending the rights of God and the Church is because (1) they fail to live fully as members of Christ in the personal lives, and (2) they are not trained for the real struggle in the world. They leave school without adequate knowledge of the organized opposition they will have to meet, and they do not understand the points of Catholic social

organization they must defend. They do not realize that the opposition's ultimate aim is the disruption of Christ's order, and they are not accustomed to think that they must co-operate with other young Catholics for Our Lord's program. Thus they display a lamentable lack of cohesion and a pitiable want of enthusiasm for Christ's interests.

1. THE APOSTOLATE OF CATHOLIC ACTION

A. GENERAL VIEW OF CATHOLIC ACTION

1. *According to St. Pius X, what are the main objectives of the Lay Apostolate as explained in his encyclical, *Il Fermo Proposito*?*

The objectives [of the Lay Apostolate] were expounded fully in the vast synthesis of the encyclical *Il Fermo Proposito* of St. Pius X: collaboration in the evangelizing mission of the Church and in her work of civilizing the world; in the defense of her liberties and her fights: such will always be the goals to which lay collaboration must always be directed.

2. *According to the same Pontiff, what are the conditions for an effective Lay Apostolate?*

The conditions under which this activity will be effective will be found in fidelity to the principles on which the Popes, one after the

other, never cease to insist: submission to the hierarchy, unity of forces, and the spiritual formation of those involved.

3. *How were the Church and the Christian life being attacked in Germany and Italy in the 19th century, and what Catholic Action groups were founded to combat these attacks?*

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the defense of the Church and of Christian life, which were threatened in Germany and in Italy by the attacks of Rationalism then in power, called into being the first Catholic Federations: German and Italian Congresses, Italian Catholic Youth. These groups were encouraged by Pius IX, and his successors were happy to see in this the first achievements and the starting-point of the organizations of Catholic Action.

4. *How did Leo XIII instruct the organizations of Catholic Action to combat the evils of Socialism?*

To build an effective barrier against Socialism, the organizations of Catholic Action were asked to introduce into economic life and public life the social doctrine of the Church.

5. *As Fr. Mateo says, what was the starting point of Catholic Action as a worldwide crusade, and who was the Pope who established it?*

Fr. Mateo says: "Catholic Action, today a worldwide