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THE POPE'S PROGRAM FOR PEACE

By REVEREND GERALD WALSH, S.J.

No one nation in Europe is responsible for the present war. The cause must be found in four centuries of modern history. The pride of modern philosophers in tearing up the map of moral values in men's minds and the greed of modern governments in tearing up the map of historically formed nations—these are the causes. The only cure is a return to some kind of medieval Christendom, dominated by traditional values of justice and Christian charity.

The Pope has proposed a Program of Five Points: The restoration of rights to all historically formed nations, large or small, weak or strong; a universal policy of progressive disarmament; an international organization for the settlement of disputes by arbitration; a return to the traditional values of justice and charity in diplomacy and the making of treaties; a recognition by the statesmen of the world that Government policy is as morally responsible for right and wrong as individual conscience.

Peace is not merely the ending of a war or the gaining of a victory or even the making of a peace-treaty. Peace is to society what health is to a body. When there is a place and function for every historically formed nation, and when every nation keeps to its place and function, the world is in a state of peace.

In the Christian world of the Middle Ages there were plenty of "family quarrels" and there were times when the whole of Christian society took up arms to defend itself. But in that world, no one believed there were two standards of justice and charity, one for Governments and one for individuals, one for peace and one for war, one for big nations and one for small.

The trouble with the modern world is that both philosophy and politics have rejected traditional human standards. The magnificent structure of metaphysics and rational ethics developed by the Greek genius has been pulled to bits. Machiavelli told the princes of his day that whatever policy proved successful was right; and the princes pretended to believe him. Hobbes taught that political right was based on power. Modern rationalism, by denying personality and immortality, has taken all meaning from the words right and wrong.

The statesmen have learned from the philosophers. Empire building was reckoned as independent of morality as fox-hunting. Means which in private life would be thought wicked were justified by "reasons of state." History and tradition were as much disregarded as reason and Revelation.

It is for a revision of old values

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S.J., spoke on the value of the retreat movement among physicians.

WILMINGTON GUILD—On Monday evening, November 4, the first meeting of the season was held at the Ursuline Academy, in conjunction with the Catholic Forum of the Diocese of Wilmington. The Reverend Thomas V. Moore, O.S.B., eminent psychiatrist and priest, was the speaker of the evening. His subject was "Religion and Mental Health." Father Moore spoke of the urgent need of religious instruction for children in Child Guidance Clinics as a means of combating anti-social and psychotic trends in children.

Father Moore's talk was followed by a lengthy discussion in which members of the audience participated.

Election of officers for the current year will take place at the next quarterly meeting.

BRONX GUILD—This Guild held its Fall meeting at Fordham University Sunday, November 17, 1940. There was Holy Mass in the University Church said by the Reverend James J. Redmond, S.J., Principal of the Fordham Preparatory School. The communion breakfast followed at which the following slate of officers was elected: Dr. John Conboy retired as President in favor of Dr. Paul Casson; Dr. Hamilton J. Hammill was elected Vice-President; Dr. Thomas Leahy continued as Secretary and Dr. James Ryan as Treasurer. The guest speaker was Father Gerald Walsh, S.J., editor of *Thought*, the Fordham University quarterly. The speaker handled his subject, "The Pope's Program for Peace," with such masterly brilliance that the Guild was enthralled. The moderator, Father Ignatius W. Cox, S.J., spoke briefly at the end of this successful meeting.

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that the Pope pleads. Instead of artificial, treaty-made "nations" that have no roots in history and tradition, he asks for a restoration of the frontiers which really correspond to national groups. In order to maintain this map, once it is made, he asks for two necessary means: for disarmament to take the claws out of greed, and for arbitration to put wisdom in

the place of war. To make these means effective he asks the statesmen to use them in the light of justice and charity. And, finally, to keep the light of justice burning, he insists that all Governments must return to the idea that they are as responsible to the moral law as individual men and women. Only if such ideas prevail can we hope for a period of genuine peace.

Postage Stamps

Two medical postage stamps have been issued by our government in 1940,—one to commemorate the achievement of Dr. C. W. Long (1815-1878), who discovered the use of ether and per-

formed the first operation under that anesthesia in 1842. The other stamp honors Dr. Walter Reed (1851-1902), who won the victory over yellow fever.