Why The Catholic Church Is A Target

A certain man (you know many like him) has the faith but doesn't work very hard at it. But he carries in his pocket a little advertising essay put out six years ago by the Cadillac Motor Car Co., entitled, "The Penalty of Leadership," and he applies its lesson to the Catholic Church when he meets one of the Church's antagonists. His point is well made, in so far as it explains a natural source of enmity, hence we pass it on to you for your own needs:

In every field of endeavor, he that is first must necessarily live in the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a man or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work.

In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same. The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and destruction. Then a man's work becomes a standard for the whole world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work be merely mediocre, he will be left severely alone -- if he achieves a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues wagging.

Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play, or sing, or build, no one will strive to surpass or to slander you, unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius.

Long, long, after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done. Spiteful little voices in the domain of art were raised against our own artist as a mountebank, long after the big world had acclaimed him its greatest artistic genius.

Multitudes flocked to Bayreuth to worship at the musical shrine of Wagner, while the little group of those whom he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all. The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river banks to see his boat steam by.

The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or to excel, the follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy -- but only confirms once more the superiority of that which he strives to supplant. There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the human passions -- envy, fear, greed, ambition, and the desire to surpass.

And it all avail nothing. If the leader truly leads, he remains -- the leader. Pastor-pot, master-painter, master-writer, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurels through the ages. That which is good or great takes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live, lives.

Tupper Club Mass For Joe Trelli Tomorrow

A requiem High Mass for the repose of the soul of Joe Trelli will be sung tomorrow at 8:26 in the church. Joe, you will recall, was a sophomore half-back on the football team of 1920, and a regular in later competition. He was a very fine boy and became a devout daily communicant at Holy Mass. His untimely death was caused by acute tuberculosis. You are invited to join with the Tupper Club in this mass tomorrow.

T EEPROM: Father Fischer's father is very low. Francis U. Leary, '28, lost his father recently. Coco Lesko requests prayers for an ailed relative. Frank Sullivan, '28, requests prayers for a sister who is suffering from a severe infection of the eye. Five special intentions. Arthur Korzen, of Laporte, a friend of students here, is dangerously ill.