Two Special Intentions

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Have you been at Adoration since Lent start? 8 to 5 daily.

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Russia

While you are reading these lines, Russia is in the process of suppressing another nation, besides lining up her stooges for the seizure of still another. Sure, all this injustice makes your blood boil. But aren’t you moved to do more? You should, and that is to pray for the conversion of Russia.

Three reasons demand that you should pray.

Ordinary Christian love for your neighbor requires you to pray for those who suffer oppression. Charity demands that you pray for the oppressor too. You must pray for sinners, and nations can be sinners as well as individuals.

Our Blessed Mother thought the situation so perilous that she came from Heaven in 1917. She appeared at Fatima in Portugal and her appeal to the whole world was for prayer and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners and for Russia.

Pope Pius XI wrote a very special letter to the Bishops of the world about Russia. In his letter, called the encyclical on "Atheistic Communism", he warned the world what to look for in Communism. He also begged for prayers for the return of that nation to Christian thinking.

So you must do something about Russia. The minimum you can do is to say the prayers after every Mass you hear for the conversion of Russia and the end of her reign of suppression. Pope Pius XI, ordered every priest to make that his intention for the prayers after his Mass. That ought to be your intention, too, a conscious intention, that is, you should think of Russia and the people suffering under Communism during the recitation of those after-Mass prayers.

You can do more for the cause, of course. And that would be to take time out to say the Rosary every day. This was one of the requests made by Our Lady at Fatima.

You can do still more. Again it is Our Lady who makes the suggestion — deny yourself now and then during the day. How? Above all, by doing your duty, in which there is always ample denial of self involved.

The atomic bomb won’t convert Russia, but your prayer will. So become Russia-conscious these days.