**Signs of the Time**

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Herr Pastor Dr. Braun said briefly in a gathering in Nuremberg “that we (namely the Catholic part of the German *Volk* and its Priesthood) will not stand so very far from the National Socialists, if the time comes.” Obviously the Bavarian People’s Newspaper [*Bayerische Volkszeitung*] disavowed these words when it declared “that the Catholic Church stands and will stand very far from this movement (Nazi Party), if the time comes.” Regardless that Herr Pastor Braun was speaking of the Catholic people, not of the Catholic Church, we believe that Herr pastor Braun knows his parishioners better than the scribe of the “Bavarian People’s Newspaper.”

**Cross, Swastika and Cardinal Faulhaber**

On December 18th Cardinal Faulhaber spoke about “The press in service of popular education.” He alluded to the importance of the press in current day life, to the need to open up the profiteering paper industry and then sharply criticized the “tyranny of phrases and lies” in the realm of the newspaper sector. As for examples, the Cardinal furnished as good as none, much less did he identify – as he had already done at the Catholic Congress – the Jewish lies and deception of our Volk. Then he came to speak of anti-Christian voices, briefly named the Berlin Newspaper [*Berliner Zeitung*] and then went into a criticism of the – “Völkisch Observer.” He said literally: “In a Munich newspaper, in the “Völkisch Observer,” the Christian cross was mocked that Sunday in a manner that must make every Christian red in the face. To be sure, the cross was not often depicted in the catacombs, because the first Christian really had to keep everything hidden from their persecutors . . .” Then Cardinal Faulhaber referred to the anchor symbol and the mock-crucifix [*Spottkruzifix*].

The issue of the “Völkisch Observer” in question (no. 98) is thoroughly concerned with the *Volk*-traitor-ing [*Volksverräterischen*] politics of the Center Party, and we had thought that every Christian must have, above all else, become red in the face over the supposedly Christian Center Party marching in step all year with atheistic Marxism and getting it a mandate in the Reichstag. The Cardinal appears to be of a different opinion. Now in what concerns the “mockery” of the Christian cross, there is the following in our essay in regard to attacks by the Bavarian People’s Party: “Pagan, old-Germanic is our swastika; the Christian cross has exactly the same origin (just as the symbol of the sun, later re-interpreted into the gibbet of the cross; yet not extant in any of the Roman catacombs).” Thus a purely factual determination. In that case we have the following to say:

It is not understandable that a historical indication that a particular symbol was one taken over, can be taken as mockery. Then the dome of St. Peter’s in Rome would have to be considered a mockery, because its architecture was taken from Hellenistic, that is “pagan” forms.

That the cross as such represents an ancient symbol of salvation and symbol of the sun, there is not the least doubt today. Primitive man, from his everyday experience, identified the sun as a wheel. The ring with spokes became the symbol of the sun; later just the spokes (that is the +), in order to represent the movement of the sun, i.e., rays of sunlight, also identified as the original form of the hooks, i.e., spikes. The anchor arose as a Christian symbol before the cross as a special symbol and has remained such up to today. The simple cross appeared in ancient times related to the swastika. We do not know whether Cardinal Faulhaber knows the work of Theophile Roller, “The Catacombs of Rome.” There he will find a range of such images....

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