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Headline: Rome, Christianity and Germanism: At a Lecture by Bishop Hudal in Trier

Text: In the course of a recent conference of the Görres Society in Trier [Germany], a lecture was given by His Excellency Bishop Hudal, Rector of the College of St. Mary of the Anima in Rome. His chosen theme is of the greatest current relevance and -- at the present moment in Germany -- is extremely delicate: “Rome, Christianity and the German *Volk*.” The select audience of this leading academic association of German Catholics, including most notably the Bishop of Trier, the President of the State of Rhineland (Koblenz-Trier), and Duke John George of Saxony, followed Bishop Hudal's talk with rapt attention and warmly applauded him in agreement and gratitude.

We are looking forward to a summary of the main points of this lecture, which will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

. . . Rome and the German people, working in concord in past times, built a new ideal of civilization upon the civilization of old, and more recently they have been seeking since the 16th century to draw closer. This aspiration to draw near again, to collaborate in a new concord for new tasks, represents the tragic impulse -- because it still remains unsatisfied -- in the history of the German people.

Between Rome and the German people there exists no contrast by reason of race, because Rome does not represent a race, but rather an indelible expression of a great civilization. . .

Today the German people are presented with the vital question of whether they are going to have the strength to break free from the dissolute doctrines of their 19th century philosophers and turn back anew toward Rome to find the liberating syntheses for their civilization. . . .

. . . The German people have a mission all their own, which is to mediate between East and West and to act as a trusted bulwark against Bolshevism. For its part, the mission of Rome will always remain the same, which is to act as a light to the nations. The more that particular civilizations freely progress, the more they need an integrating center that is the custodian of eternal truth.

A great son of the Church, of German blood, Nicholas of Cusa, stated in his last will: If I die in Rome, may my body be buried in Rome but my heart returned to German soil; if I die in Germany, may my body stay there but my heart go to Rome.

In the same way -- concludes Bishop Hudal -- we too want to love Rome and the fatherland with all our hearts.