

***Tilos tuos misericordes oculos nos converte.***  
**Turn, then, thine eyes of mercy toward us:**  
**(Salve Regina).**

**SERMON**

**For the third day of the solemn Triduum celebrated in the Church of the Conception of Quito, in honor of Our Lady of "Good Success", July 26, 1941, to ask to free Ecuador from the scourge of the international war with Peru, which is threatening it.**

*Venerable Ministers of the Altar:*  
*Very respectable Conceptionist Community:*  
*Dearest listeners in Our Lord Jesus Christ:*

I

1. War is the most dreadful and bloody scourge with which God, Our Lord, can punish a nation.
2. To David, whom God wished to punish for a sin of vanity, He gave a choice between war, famine, and pestilence; and the Prophet-King chose without hesitation, pestilence, to free himself from war and famine.
3. War is the worst punishment that can fall from heaven on the world, because it brings with it hunger and pestilence, and a thousand other sorrows and anxieties, such as orphanhood, desolation, misery, loss of national sovereignty (when the war is international), the absolute change of social customs, the fiercest hatred and revenge; in a word, the flight and departure from peace, one of the most precious goods that peoples - societies and individuals- can enjoy. in this world, [i.e.] this peace is the bearer of social welfare, of national wealth, of intellectual advancement in all its multiple facets, and therefore of the promotion of a Nation;
4. War, what else is it? It is an infernal monster with an enormous jaw that devours men by the millions and drinks human blood in torrents.
5. For this monster, this seven-headed dragon, is threatening us. It is approaching our Republic; but with fear, treacherously, outwitting the vigilance of those who want to calm and tame it, it is rising up in readiness to devastate our homeland.
6. Now, whatever the human causes that motivate wars between nations, the true cause that produces them and by which Christ, who as Master and Sovereign of the World,

governs all Nations, permits them, is sin, so that if Ecuador were to launch into international war, in any form, and if Ecuadorian blood were to flow in torrents on the battlefields, it would be caused by Divine Wrath in punishment for the sins with which, we, Ecuadorians have provoked and still provoke.

7. And what are these sins? Will it be possible for us to obtain, in time, forgiveness for them and remove the scourge of war hanging over our heads? .....

## II

1. These will be the two points, which I will try to develop briefly in this talk, namely:
  - Why does the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Master of all the peoples and nations of the world, want to punish us so cruelly, allowing us to engage in a war that is inevitable on the one hand and very one-sided on the other, given the diversity of elements of the belligerent parties?
  - How will we free ourselves from this formidable scourge that is threatening us?
2. But first, let us invoke the light of the Holy Ghost through the intercession of the Virgin of Good Success, his mystical spouse, who more than three centuries ago, appeared in this church, refulgent, shedding light and clarity, on her beloved daughter, Mother Mariana de Jesús Torres, who prayed devoutly in that venerable choir.

For this, let us greet her reverently, with the Archangel and pray: Ave Maria

## III

**Illos tilos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.  
TURN THINE EYES OF MERCY TOWARD US**  
*(Salve Regina)*

*Venerable Ministers of the Altar:  
Respectable Conceptionist Community:  
Expensive listeners in Ñ. S. J.*

### A. INTRODUCTION

1. Beyond doubt, it seems to me, that the Divine Heart wants to punish us, Ecuadorians, at the present time, first of all because many, very many of our fellow countrymen, especially a great part of the youth, and of both sexes, have turned their backs on Him, and have become unbelievers, taking a shortcut via religious indifference; Finally, because of greed, the root of all evil, (as St. Paul says)<sup>(1)</sup>, that eats away at the interior of the soul of many rich Ecuadorians.
2. And... the salvation of Ecuador, in the face of the imminent threat of war, for these sins: Will it be possible? .....

3. This salvation is in the hands of the Mother of the Lord and King of the Nations, Jesus Christ; in the hands of the Mother of God we are crying out to Our Lady. Queen and Mother of Good Success, to save us, and to turn towards us, "those merciful eyes of hers: *illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos convette*; a single glance of Mary, but merciful and solicitous, will save us.
4. Let's see how we can achieve this divine and heavenly look.

(1)"Cupiditas radia omnium malorum." "Covetousness is the root of all evils." (Epistle 1 of St. Paul Timothy VI, 10.)

### **A. RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENTISM**

1. First of all, let us speak of the causes or sins that, before the Throne of the King of the Nations, are provoking His wrath upon us.
2. The first cause is indifferentism, in matters of religion, which has seeped, as if by magic, into almost all spheres and sectors of our society and mainly among the youth of both sexes.
  3. And what is this Religious Indifferentism? Religious Indifferentism is the annihilation, the sterilization, the loss, the death of the habit of Faith, of the infused virtue of Faith, of the potentiality of Faith, (one could say) in the souls of Catholics, to produce acts of Faith, Christian virtues, life of Faith, life of grace; This habit, this virtue, or this potentiality of Faith, received by the rational creature in the sacred sacrament of baptism, must be kept alive in the soul, because without it, one cannot do good in the supernatural order, nor live the life of Faith, which is the practice of Christian life, without which no one can be saved. Religious Indifferentism sterilizes this divine potential.
4. It is this habit of Faith, or potentiality of Faith, that is proven in the parable of the talents: the father of a rich family, before setting out on a long journey, distributed part of his wealth among his servants. To one he gave five talents, to another two and to another one; with the general instruction that they should make this money bear fruit, trading with it, until it had doubled. The one who received five talents obeyed, traded and doubled the amount, and earned another five. The one who received two also doubled the amount, he earned another two. But he that received one, he was idle, and sluggish; and did nothing; he kept the talent, he secured it, he hid it, but he did not trade with it, nor did he gain anything. So it is with the habit of Faith, infused in the Holy Sacrament of Baptism: the extraordinary Saints receive a maximum potentiality of Faith, to reach the practical life of the Christian virtues: they receive five talents; and how they make them bear fruit... Virtue and penance are advanced in them when reaching the use of reason and then becoming adults - what heroic virtues, what astonishing penances, what admirable works of zeal and charity! They obtained, as a reward, the gift of miracles, of prophecy, of penetration of spirits, they have doubled the five talents.... Other souls do not receive such an extraordinary potentiality of Faith, but of two talents, which is used in spiritual business and management (one could say) produce double; because those souls although they do not reach the [level of] penitence and almost superhuman and heroic virtues (in all the sense of the word); nevertheless they practice virtues that are exemplified to the whole world. They fulfill

the duties of their state, marvelously well, they overcome their passions, even at the cost of bloody combats, they persevere until death, in their holy intentions. They have doubled the two talents, in the day of reckoning they present four talents. But very many other souls, who in the Catholic Nations, like ours, received Holy Baptism, and for the same reason, [they received] the habit of Faith, the infused virtue of Faith, the potentiality of Faith; but they did not correspond to that grace. They received a talent, but they hid the talent received. That is to say: they no longer work as adults, supernaturally, they do absolutely nothing; but instead, they give themselves up to spiritual idleness. They allow themselves to be carried away by the scandals of the world. They give free rein to their passions, they trample upon the Holy Law of God, they make mockery and scorn of the sacraments, and Catholic worship, practices and observances. These unfortunate souls do not duplicate the talent received, because they do not even exercise the practice of any ordinary and common virtue that is no longer required of them. That is to say, they fell into Religious Indifferentism, that is, they are left completely sterile, without [good] works, the habit of Faith, received in baptism. Within their intellect, they killed that infused virtue of Faith which was to be translated into works of virtue and grace. After reaching the use of reason; the Faith is dead in their soul. They produced nothing but works of death, that is, sins. That is to say, they produced nothing, in the supernatural order; for sin is nothingness or the absence of grace. And what works of death are produced by those who are indifferent in matters of Religion? For them, [they] say and maintain that all Religions can be embraced, as well as Catholicism, which is the only true Religion, as the Church teaches, and that the mortal man or woman must always remain indifferent, neutral, free to choose the Religion that pleases him. And this inasmuch as he cannot suffocate in his soul the Religion of his own choice, that innate tendency to recognize a Supreme Being, before whom the mortal must kneel; but yet [they believe] the mortal can kneel before Jesus in the Sacrament, before Buddha, before Mohammed, before Luther; he is free; all Religion, all worship is admissible. Buddha, before Mohammed, before Luther. He is free. All Religion, all worship is admissible... What horror, dear listeners! What aberrations! What nonsense!

5. This disastrous heresy has infected, to a great extent, the moral environment of Ecuador. We cannot deny it; we are seeing it, daily; we can tangibly feel it within the bosom of our society.

6. And the selected victim of this insatiable infernal beast of Religious Indifferentism is the youth, of whom it makes its favorite prey; see the jaws of that ferocious animal, they are dripping with human blood, the blood of the Ecuadorian youth.

7. And see. The poor and unfortunate youth, if the international war intensifies day by day, is going to be not only decimated but annihilated, razed to the ground, (God forbid). It is true that many men will march to the battlefields; but the bulk of our armies will be formed by the young men who make up, almost in their entirety, the line corps, the civil guards and recruits ...And perhaps these youths will perish in the middle of the anguishing and bloody battles of the war, leaving, in many homes of our Republic, thousands of mothers, wives and brothers, who will inconsolably weep in pain, madness and desperation for their son, their husband, their brother, and that son. And perhaps, that husband, that brother, that son will never respond, because in the midst of the heat of battle, a shell, a grenade, a machine gun discharge snatched their existence. Thus, they offered their lives for the sake of duty, defending their homeland, but their homes remained empty, and pain will cover an entire family with grief.... dreadful and fateful are the consequences of the war....

8. Does this not seem to you to be the punishment of Religious Indifferentism in our country?

## **B. OBSCENE FASHIONS**

1. The second cause of our moral discomfort, which provokes the Divine Wrath against us, is constituted by

obscene fashions, which without a Christian blush and with a cynicism that defies the educated, law-abiding, and sensible citizenship, have established their realities in our society.

2. I am not speaking of elegance and artistic taste in dress, which enhance and define as if to highlight, the qualities with which nature adorned woman, so that she could succeed in the fulfillment of her lofty mission as wife and mother; I do not speak of them, but of those indecent and immoral fashions, that throw modesty and reserve under the bus [These virtues] which are like the veils with which the Christian woman, as in the Gospel, is presented covered to the world as Queen of the home. [These virtues] like steel armor, against which the darts thrown against her, on the part of licentiousness and free love are shattered.

3. You understand what fashions I am talking about. I am talking about those fashions that present women half-naked in society and even inside the churches. I am talking about those fashions that relax in girls the Christian thoughts of decency. Due to the skimpy proportions of the clothing and I am talking about those fashions that claim that due to the economic crisis of the country their [clothing has a] ridiculous and scandalous tightness. Those fashions relax the Christian customs, paganize women and the young Catholic girls, and provoke the wrath of God.

4. So worldly and libertine becomes the young woman given to these obscene fashions, that she is not afraid to scandalize adolescents and children, who are already realize these things, striving to be on equal footing (to say the least) with the young man, who publicly calls her his fiancée, and displaying impudence in the streets, squares and parks of the city. That fiancée, in these cases, becomes an accomplice of so many sins.

5. Well then, these public challenges to Christian morality, since obscene fashions and their consequences cannot be otherwise titled; they draw down upon societies, the punishments of Heaven, in the form of various scourges; because the Divine sanction cannot fail to be launched, against the transgressors of the Christian Law.

The causes of the wars of the people of Israel with the neighboring nations of Palestine, was none other than the relaxation of customs among the Jews, caused by idolatry, a sin that became habitual among the Hebrew people, despite the warnings of the prophets. Thus Holy Scripture says, this is what the Prophets preached, who, in each century, God sent to awaken his people from the moral quagmire in which they lay prostrate. Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch and Ezekiel spoke clearly on this matter, threatening them on behalf of God, with the scourge of international war. The Jewish people, hard-necked and hard-hearted (as expressed by the Deacon St. Stephen) continued unperturbed in their moral relaxation, for wars fell upon them, and bloody, formidable, and desolating wars.

7. The Jews refused to listen to the Prophets, and the Syrians, with Benadad and Antiochus Eupator; the Assyrians with Salamanasar and Senaquerid; the Egyptians with Necho; the Chaldeans with Nebuchadnezzar and Nabusardan; the Greeks, with Antiochus Epiphanus and Apollonius; the Romans with Titus and Vespasian, invaded Palestine, circumvented its principal cities, Jerusalem and Samaria, sacked or pillaged them, killed their inhabitants, took others captive, and razed their principal towns to the ground.

8. This is how God punished the relaxation of customs in Judea. Why would He not cast a similar punishment on our country, on our Ecuador today?

### **C. -GREED OR AVARICE**

1. The third cause of God's possible punishment against Ecuador seems to me to be the greed or avarice of the rich or opulent, who, can and should soften the harsh, hard,

unhappy lives of many of their brethren, instead, exhibit a heart of stone before the hunger and nakedness of the unfortunate, who are not to blame for having been born poor and needy.

2. Covetousness, which St. Paul says is "the root and origin of all evils" <sup>(1)</sup>, brings the world into turmoil today: the lust for gold is a high fever that soon plunges souls into a comatose and unconscious state, from which they do not react for years and perhaps their whole life, until they fall into the grave, where they fall empty-handed, unable to get to the grave holding nothing, absolutely nothing, of what they have possessed in life.
  
3. Greed in a father of a family disrupts the home; the wife is a real servant, the children have no aspiration, the servants die of hunger.
  
4. Greed and dishonesty, in the Head of a Nation, is the ruin of all citizens. The disorders, degradation and immoralities of the Russians, pour from the avarice of the Soviets, which have reduced all the dwellers of what the Russian Empire was once and is now a dungeon of slaves, to the condition of outsiders, and Materialist and Atheistic outcasts.
  
5. The present Nazi Russian war seems to be the punishment fulminating from heaven against the greedy. The greedy Soviets and their Dictator, Stalin, are in real conflicts. The Germans are advancing. They are already in the outskirts of Moscow. What will be the result? It is not known. But the fire of the Nazi planes is raining down in torrents on the cities and villages of Russia.
  
6. Thus, God punishes covetousness. On this occasion He has chosen the scourge of war, against the insatiable greed of the Soviets, which is the most frightful scourge, in the hands of Providence, to punish and instruct the peoples and leaders.
  
7. Let us apply these teachings to our Homeland, where we certainly do not have to deplore the excesses of the greed of the rich and the rulers of Russia; but as a Minister of Jesus, I must remind Ecuadorians who possess wealth and superfluous goods, to be merciful to the unfortunate so as not to provoke the wrath of God.
  
8. Ecuadorian philanthropists and benefactors in the various provinces of the country already have their names written, with letters of gold, in the Diptychs of the Nation; very charitable people exist among us, it is true; but there is still much to be done in this field of action.
  
9. There are still in the country families and humiliated persons, who weep with hunger and have nothing to wear, nor know how to take care of their illnesses. These tears provoke the wrath of the Almighty, who, if He has given to some considerable goods of fortune, has given them, as Administrators of those goods, for their own benefit, and then for the benefit of others. <sup>(1)</sup>  
First Letter to Timothy VI, 10.

10. By the law of social justice, the needy are the absolute owners of the superfluous goods of the wealthy. And if these Divine Laws are not fulfilled on our soil, is it not possible that the war will take away those colossal fortunes, from which we do not want to subtract a penny, for the benefit of the poor and the disinherited of fortune?

## **E-HOLY MARY DELIVERS US FROM THE PUNISHMENTS OUR SINS DESERVE**

1. Having exposed the true moral causes of the scourges and punishments that God casts upon guilty Nations; let us see, in a few words, who can deliver us from that Divine punishment, which sometimes appears heart-rending, dreadful, bloody, irrevocable.

2. Only Mary Most Holy can save us From that just sanction; Mary's eyes, turned towards us and gazes at us full of mercy as she sees our miseries and then turns upward to Heaven, shedding tears, to implore forgiveness to forget our crimes and sins: *Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte*: (Turn, then, thine eyes of mercy toward us).

3. At the beginning of this year, this venerable image made by angels, keenly opened her eyes, gazing around the areas of this church, and let several people see them (so remarkably opened); I also had that joy. And when she opened her virgin eyes, as if to look at Quito, and the whole Republic, her face became charming, and she smiled.

Our Queen-Mother of Good Success gazed upon us with glances of love and affection, as dwellers of the Republic that was the first nation in the world to consecrate itself to Jesus. She watches with tenderness and compassion, observing that we are threatened by a dreadful punishment, which could soon fall upon us. All this could be seen with that remarkable opening of the eyes of this Sacred Image; But now, let us ask her not only to look at us eyes of the Holy Image, but also with the eyes of the Virgin Mary, with the eyes of the Holy Spirit with love and affection, of tenderness and compassion, but also with the gaze of mercy, of solicitude and of decided undertaking to keep Ecuador from the punishment that already seems to be hanging over us.

We are called upon to avert the scourge of war that threatens us, and to relegate this monster to the infernal regions, giving us peace, which is the most precious asset in this world, to make this existence bearable, already riddled with so many other miseries and pains: *Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte*: - "Turn, then, thine eyes of mercy toward us..."<sup>(1)</sup>.

In Cavadonga, the Virgin sustained the courage of a handful of Spaniards, led by Don Pelayo, who annihilated the power of the fierce Muslims and freed the Iberian Peninsula from Ottoman despotism; for this reason, Our Lady of Cavadonga is celebrated throughout Spain.

6. In Lepanto, the Queen of Victories annihilated the Muslim power that was trying to break the European unity and enslave the nations of that continent, taking away their secular autonomy.

7. In regard to Ecuador, May Our Queen and Mother of Good Success cover it with her mantle, and do not allow a fierce, artful and underhanded enemy to prey on its good faith,



patience and loyalty; she has never refused us.

#### IV

1. So that this protection of Mary may be felt in our Republic, let us flee from religious indifference, let us correct our disorderly customs. Let us be merciful to the unfortunate, let us pray fervently for our fellow-countrymen guilty of these sins.
2. And the international horizon, today darkened with the dark clouds of the infidelity of a sister nation, of its deceit in the diplomatic field, of its obstinacy in unjust pretensions, will become clearer as if by enchantment, and Ecuadorians and Peruvians will sing the Hymn of Peace, at the foot of the Throne of Mary, acclaiming her with jubilation, as the Savior of both Nations.
3. Yes, O Queen and Mother of Good Success, I ask you to look with mercy, solicitude and determined commitment on behalf of Ecuador and Peru: *Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte*: "Turn, then, thine eyes of mercy toward us." Thou art the Queen of the world and this American Continent is thine, because from Guadalupe (in Mexico), to Luján (in Argentina) and Andocollo (in Chile), passing through Quinche, Baños, Biblián and El Cisne, (in Ecuador) and the Shrines of Our Lady of the Rosary in Lima and Copacabana, (in Peru),<sup>2</sup> (Our America is full of Shrines in which the faith, and Marian devotion and love palpitates daily.
4. By this American love for Thee, O Great Mother of God: save us, protect us; deliver us from war. Amen.

(1) Mary's mercy was not long in coming: the following day the great miracle of the opening of the eyes of the Image or Statue of Our Lady of Good Success was verified, in the Church of the Conception of Quito, of which "El Comercio" spoke on July 28, 1941. The favorable ruling of the Ecclesiastical Authority on this prodigy, witnessed by thousands of people, is expected.

(2) (1) Volume IV of the General History of Ecuador by Monsignor González Suárez, p. 178.

**NIHIL OBSTAT. The Censor**

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