



AT FUNERAL MT REV. ARCHBISHOP JOSE M. MORA Y DEL RIO
CATHEDRAL SAN FERNANDO

24 April 1928

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Mt Rev. Archbishop, Rt Rev. Bishops, Very Rev and Rev Fathers
and dear brethren of the Laity:

Parce Dne, parce populo tuo et ne des haereditatem tuam in
opprobrium ut dominantur ei nationes. Spare oh Lord, spare thy
people and give not Thy inheritance to reproach that the
heathen should rule over them. Joel 2:17

Facing the bier of this latest and most prominent victim of
Tyranny and bloody persecution, that coffin holding the mortal
remains of Archbishop Mora y del Rio, the Primate of the
Church of Mexico; -surrounded here in our venerable Cathedral
by the members of the Mexican Hierarchy and by hundreds of
the Clergy, the Seminarians, the Religious communities and
by thousands of the noblest sons of our unhappy neighboring
Republic--what text could be more appropriate than the
fervent plea of the prophet of Israel imploring mercy and pity
from the Lord of Hosts for his oppressed people. We too may
well lift up our hands and pray Spare oh Lord, spare Thy people,
and be not angry with us for ever.

The papers almost daily tell us of executions by the wholesale
in distracted Mexico. By the hundreds have the Machabees of
Jalisco and Guanajato and other States laid down their lives
in defense of liberty and the inalienable rights of man.
To the Primate of Mexico a longer and more cruel martyrdom
was decreed: daily grieving over the misfortunes of his Country
he died of a broken heart far away from the land of his Fathers
an exile in a strange land.

The deceased Prelate always appeared to me not only as a sainted
soul but above all as one whose heart had been faithfully mode-
led upon the Heart of Him who said "Learn from Me that I am
meek and humble of heart. He was gentle as the dove, patient
and meek as the lamb; eminently a man of peace and charity.
When during his daily Mass he spoke out that beautiful ritual
greeting Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum, May the peace of the
Lord be ever with you, surely the feelings of his noble soul
did not belie the words that crossed so often his ~~xxx~~ lips.

But then, why was a man so gentle sent into exile? Twice did
the Archbishop appear amongst us in San Antonio as another
Athanasius, driven out from the land of his birth: the 1st
time in 1915 during the bloody reign of the unspeakable
Carranza and last year again under the tyranny of Calles.
But why was there no room for this peaceful man of God in
~~the~~ the valley of Anahuac? There is plenty of room
there for the drunkard, the gambler, the thief and the brigand
and the painted denizens of the underworld. Why was he cast
out as a most dangerous character threatening the well being
of Mexico?

Why? Calles announces to the whole world and the Associated
Press takes care to broadcast his lie to the civilized world:
that there is NO RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION in Mexico. The bishops
have all been exiled, the priests have been shot down like mad

dogs ; the name of God has been banned from the schoolroom and the very homes of the people; a simple prayer on the grave of father or mother is a crime punishable with death or deportation to the awful penal colony of the Islas Marias. Yet: there is no religious persecution in Mexico. So says Calles. The trouble there comes only from the bishops and the clergy who are plotting against Calles and wish to place the Church in supreme authority over the State.

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The Church in Mexico rebellious!!! Could accusation be more silly and flimsy? It is as though we hear again the mob crying before the Pretorium of Pontius Pilate "inventum hunc subvertentem gentem nostram" (We have found this man perverting our people and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar and saying that he is Christ the King). And did it not logically lead up to their blasphemous demand: Crucify Him; away with him? Nero delivered the imperial city to the devouring flames. The temples of Rome, the palaces, the monuments, the marble and the gold of the Mistress of the World, aye and the homes of the poor and the humble were turned into a heap of ashes and charred ruins; all to satisfy the mind of Nero crazed by an orgy of crime and lust. But he had to cover up his wanton deed and he accused the Christians. And the cry of an outraged people: "The Christians to the lions" followed the disaster and Nero's lies with natural swiftness. It's so in Mexico today. History once again repeats itself. The whole country is made desolate; the State is on the verge of bankruptcy; thousands upon thousands of Mexicans have left their native soil to seek a crust of bread amongst strangers; liberty is dead; freedom of conscience, of education, of assembly, of the Press is trampled under foot; the country is running red with blood. And the cause of all this desolation, of this untold misery is--not the tyrant and autocrat whose word is supreme law in Mexico today--no--but the Catholic Church!!! The blame attaches to the bishops and the priests!!! It is the story of the First Good Friday; the story of burning Rome over and over again.

Archbishop Mora y del Rio leading a rebellion against Calles!. Did you ever meet His Grace? ever speak with him? If you did then you know that he was meekness, gentleness personified. There was no room in that sainted, meek soul of his for resistance against legitimate superiors. He was the highest dignitary of the Church in Mexico. That Church has been preaching these past 1900 years reverence, obedience to lawful authority. This doctrine is the warp and woof of all her teachings. It's too late for her after all these centuries to preach a different code; to hold out a different doctrine. And the Socialists, the Communists, the Anarchists, aye and the Bolshevists of Mexico and all who wish to uproot our ancient christian civilization with its blessings hate the Church because they realize that it is the Church which stands as a mighty bulwark against their destructive schemes. She is the Mighty One standing in defense of Law and Order and true Liberty. Hence their cry: Away with her; crucify her. Hence the blood of Mexico's glorious Martyrs; hence these vile calumnies; hence this fierce persecution; hence the death in exile of this sainted prelate; hence the hundreds and thousands of Mexico's best and noblest families here today in Texas and San Antonio.





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"Beati mites, quia ~~in~~ ipsi possidebunt terram" (Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the land).

Do not these words of Our Blessed Saviour sound almost prophetic here before the open bier of the meek Archbishop of Mexico City? Are not these words encouraging and consoling? No our sorrow should not be like the despair of those who have neither faith nor hope. The hour of peace and happiness, the day of the Resurrection will soon come. The ultimate triumph is being hastened by the glorious deaths of Mexico's Martyrs; by the sacrifice of Archbishop Mora y del Rio. God is still reigning in his Heaven; He sees your tears; He hears your supplications. As sure as the sun is shining in the skies, Mexico will rise again and be free and happy. The tearful prayer of today: "Spare oh Lord, spare Thy people" will give way to the joy and jubilee when all together we shall sing the solemn hymn of thanksgiving; the "Te Deum" in Mexico's magnificent Cathedral. And he who died in exile and will be buried in the land of the stranger will be borne back, like Jacob of old dying in the land of Egypt, to rest ultimately in the midst of his loyal, beloved children.

It is with this thought of hope and resurrection that we bid farewell to him who during the terrible and turbulent years that make up the contemporaneous history of Mexico has kept his soul in patience. Indeed he has kept the faith; he has fought the good fight; and now we trust he is receiving from the Immortal Judge the crown of glory in the mansions of everlasting peace.

May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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