

CARDINAL SERÉDI, PRIMATE OF HUNGARY,  
AND BISHOP RAVASZ, SPEAK FROM PULPIT  
OF STRUGGLES OF HUNGARIANS  
AND OF A JUST PEACE

**T**he Assumption of the Virgin was celebrated at Esztergom with traditional pomp.

*At 10 a. m. Cardinal Justinianus Serédi, Archbishop of Esztergom, Primate of Hungary, with the assistance of a large body of clergy, celebrated High Mass in the Cathedral; and after the reading of the Gospel he preached a sermon in the opening part of which he spoke of the worship of saints and stressed that in these fateful days even unbelievers were beginning to realize that only God could save the humanity exposed to the destructions of a world-war of extermination.*

When the Europe menaced by the devastating hordes of Mongols refused to move, the only Power that assisted the Magyar people was the *Apostolic See*.

"During the three centuries of Turkish wars, when the nation was utterly exhausted, apart from the *Apostolic See* the States of Europe either offered no help at all or only very belatedly, and that they provided was exceedingly small. And we experienced the ingratitude of Europe in 1848 and in 1918 too.

*"In the world-conflagration now raging"* — continued the Primate — *"we would fain hope that the opposing Parties, when the time comes for them to decide their own fate and that of the other nations, will not forget to follow the example of the Apostolic See and will remember the defensive struggles Hungary had to wage for a thousand years, which decimated our ranks, while they during the same period increased in numbers and advanced in culture.*

"We venture to hope — and do hope — that the Parties now engaged in deadly struggle, *profiting by the sad experiences and taking to heart the lesson of what happened*

*to victor and vanquished nations alike, will realize the awful responsibility which they will have to bear before God and man for the judgments passed by them. They should be made to understand that they must not take any decisions which, by failing to take into account all circumstance, and being based solely and exclusively on misleading propaganda and false information, will be bound eventually to sow the seeds of the next Great War and of all kinds of conflicts between the nations and perhaps to cripple the whole world for centuries to come.*

### *The Justice of Hungary's Cause*

"I repeat: though we trust in human justice too, *we nevertheless regard as our surest refuge Christ and His Holy Mother, together with God's blessed Saints, above all our Hungarian Saints of the House of Árpád, and the Apostolic See; for in Them we have never been disappointed. Nor shall be disappointed now, if, fulfilling the desire of Pope Pius XII. recently communicated to the world, we all pray zealously for our Church, our fatherland, humanity and a just peace.*

"God's glorious Saints have often intervened on our behalf. In the days of the Mongol inroad, *when the country and the nation were wellnigh on the brink of the grave, soon God raised us again as recompense for the good deeds of St. Margaret of the House of Árpád.*

"*And after the first Great War — into which we were also plunged against our will —, when our nation had been humiliated to the dust and our country cruelly dismembered, on the occasion of the nine-hundred anniversary of the beatification of our first King, after the Budapest Eucharistic World-Congress, the help and assistance of Our Blessed Lady and of the Saints of our House of Árpád restored to our country parts of the territory it had lost.*

"And now, in this terrible conflagration, as we Hungarians scattered over the world join all the nations in looking to the future *with inexpressible misgivings, we feel that perhaps God has scattered our Hungarian brethren far and wide over the world simply that they may be able every-*

where to proclaim the historical services of the Magyar nation and the justice of its cause, and to join us in earnest prayer to the Blessed Virgin and our Saints for help and intervention, to hope for an honest manifestation of human justice and to supplicate God — the God of the nations — to have mercy on our nation.

"We feel" — were the concluding words of the Primate's sermon — *"that our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII., now ruling our Church with so much glory, was inspired to providentially surround with the halo of a Saint our Margaret of the House of Arpad in order that she might once more, in these times of grave trial, intervene to save our Hungarian fatherland and our ancient Catholic faith."*

After the sermon the Primate conferred the *Papal blessing* on the devout believers who crowded the Cathedral to overflowing.

*Bishop Ravasz: "What is Wanted is a New Man and a New Soul."*

On August 15th., in the church in Kálvin-tér, Dr. Ladislas Ravasz, Protestant Bishop of the Danube Diocese, preached a sermon on the subject of peace based on Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

By way of introduction he said that it would be heinous to agitate for war and then, when the enemy were knocking at our gates, to strike chords of peace.

Christ's Church had never desired war, nor did it desire the present war. But, once the war had broken out, it had done everything in its power to prevent the war spreading. It had rigorously condemned every breach of the rules of chivalrous warfare. Not as if it attached an exaggerated value to worldly life or shrank from heroic sacrifice, but because it felt itself to be the advocate — whose voice though often merely crying in the wilderness, could never be silenced — of the innocent and defenceless, of the women, the aged and the children.

The Church now too raises its voice in the cause of peace and reconciliation, — doing so, not because we had been seriously threatened that Budapest would be bombed, for

it would repeat without waiting for such motives what it had been saying from the very outset.

*"On the other hand, it cannot allow false modesty to make it keep silence today, when — not by its will — the question is being discussed as to whether Budapest can be regarded as an open city or not?"*

*"We entered the war, because we were attacked. We have taken good care that our methods of warfare shall be humane. We are well aware that in war the decisions taken originate from a union of mass-passions and ingenious propaganda; we know that enemies whom we have never offended may in a short time destroy in our "unique" Budapest all that forms the heart of our country; but we know also that this destruction would serve no strategic interest and, instead of intimidating, would merely create a feeling of extreme bitterness.*

*"For that reason, in the calm before the storm, we would in soft and quiet tones point out that, the smaller the enemy attacked and the greater and unjust the injury that enemy has inflicted on him, the graver the historical responsibility of those who have behind them gigantically superior odds."*

What is wanted now, continued the Bishop, is a new man and a new soul, — *the man and the soul of Christ*. The preacher pointed out that the peaceful Kingdom of Christ could only become a reality in *an entirely new social order*.

*This new order will not be the fruit of brute force and confiscation, but of sacrifice and service.*

The Bishop then prayed for *peace and victory*, — for a victory in which not Man, but God, should be the victor.