

Roman Catholic Intolerance

The growing intolerance of the Roman Catholic Church, particularly in Colombia, South America, and Spain, should cause every American, including Roman Catholics, to rise up in loud and convincing protests against the atrocities that have been committed for many months. The General Assembly of the Confederation Evangelica de Colombia, comprising fourteen Protestant denominations, reported last August (1956) the following statistics on persecutions in the country since 1948.

Destruction: 47 churches and chapels destroyed by fire and dynamite and many other buildings used by Protestants damaged, confiscated, or destroyed.

Martyrs: 75 Protestant men, women, and children killed because of their religious faith during these eight years of persecution.

Schools closed: Over 200 Protestant Primary Schools closed by government order.

Churches closed: More than 40 Protestant churches closed by the government since January 1, 1956.

All of this in spite of the fact that in June the Foreign Minister of Colombia publicly announced that there was no persecution of Protestants in that country.

The American Council of Christian Churches in spring convention in Jacksonville, Florida, April 24, 1957, raises its protest by reporting the statistics above. We view with regret and alarm that the Pope nor any other high-ranking member of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, has, to our knowledge, issued any orders to stop these atrocities. In some literature of the Roman Catholic Church, particularly that published in current periodicals and papers, she lays claim to being tolerant. We would like to see this demonstrated in countries where the Catholic Church predominates.

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