

March 28, 1950

Five things must be done:

First. The prefects of Italy must be instructed that religious liberty for all, regardless of what they call themselves in mass, is a part of the Italian Constitution and is not to be violated.

Hon. Barone Quinto Quattieri
Membro della Camera de Deputati
Rome, Italy

Caro Quinto:

I am sorry that times have been so fast and conditions such that I have been unable to write to you for a long time, but something has come up which I want to call to your attention, and through you, to your colleagues, members of the Italian Parliament.

You will recall that when you were here in the United States that I took you to Philadelphia with me where we attended a meeting of the Evangelical Church in Philadelphia, using the Pentecostal Cult. For some unknown reason we now have received word from Italy that the Italian Ministry of Cults as decreed that the Pentecostals are not Evangelicals. Of course, we know that this is just simply an excuse to keep these humble people from exercising the right which is granted them under the Constitution and the greater right granted to them of God. We do not understand so foolish a procedure nor do we know who is responsible for it.

I have great confidence in the Hon. Cesare Cardamone, Director General of the Ministry of Cults, but I am sure that some individual who doesn't have the best interests either of Italy or of the spirit of the new Constitution has made a snap decision which they will find very harmful.

Now, Quinto, my brother and friend, I am sure that you in your wisdom and your generosity of spirit can take this matter up with the proper authorities and see to it that the promise which was made us by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Alcide de Gaspari, that religious liberty would be protected and exercised as long as he was Prime Minister, and also, that Article XVIV of the Constitution shall have free exercise in the hearts and minds of the people of Italy who so desire it.

Surely those of us who are opposed to Communism and want to practice Christianity regardless of the form that we use should lend each other a hand instead of impeding and hindering and jailing and persecuting those simple disciples of Christ who are willing to make any sacrifice that is necessary even to going to jail that they might worship Him in truth and in spirit.

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