

A M E R I C A

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German Catholic Resistance. The current issue of *Thought* (December, 1945) prints the text of two protests lodged with the Nazi government in 1940, one by Cardinal Bertram of Breslau, the other by Cardinal Faulhaber of Munich. Both concern the barbaric Nazi practice of murdering inmates of mental hospitals, "because they are no longer of productive value to the folk community." In commenting on these two documents, Father Rudolph Arbesmann, O.S.A., says:

In order to understand the importance of these letters, it must be kept in mind that they were written at a time when the Nazis were at the height of their power, when Europe had been overrun and the outlook for western civilization was very dark indeed. In that critical hour, the German Bishops never wavered in their defense of human rights.

We do not yet know the full extent of Catholic resistance to Nazi tyranny in Germany; the record must be carefully documented, then widely publicized. These two letters contribute powerfully to this purpose, as did the recent publication by the *New York Times* of the German Bishops' letter to Pius XII, written in June, 1941. In an article in *Thought* (March, 1945), "Catholic Resistance in Germany," Prof. Friedrich Baerwald called attention to the definite attempts being made by certain groups to suppress or distort the facts. Certain groups are indeed anxious to exclude the Church from the work of German reconstruction. On its side, the Church stands on its record in demanding that the way be open to it to make its indispensable contribution. Hence the full publication of the record, as it becomes available, is an important task, both in justice to German Catholics and for the guidance of our German policy.

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