

CONCLUSION

Our best hope for the reformation of both individuals and of society is based on our Lord's death and resurrection. Through Christ alone can we be born again into a life filled with hope and meaning. No matter what the powers of darkness may try to do to us, we know that in Christ we are more than conquerors. In one of his letters St. Francis de Sales alludes to a custom which he had observed in the country districts of Savoy, where he lived. The good bishop had often noticed a farm servant going across the farmyard to the well to draw water; he also noticed that before she lifted the brimming pail she put a piece of wood into it. One day he went to the girl and asked her, "Why do you do that?" She looked surprised and answered, as if it were a matter of course, "Why? To keep the water from spilling, to keep it steady." Writing to a friend later on, the bishop told this story and then added, "So, when your heart is distressed and agitated, put the Cross of Christ into the center of your heart, to keep it steady."

"Nails would not have held God-and-Man fastened to the Cross had not Love held Him there." These words express the innermost secret of the cross with the utmost simplicity. In the strong arms of love we know we can live with the assurance that our lives do matter to God. They matter so much to Him "that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). The cross is still the power of God unto our salvation and reformation and therefore the final answer to revolution.

In the ancient legend, Pilate's wife is said to be standing at the foot of the cross on Good Friday afternoon. She turns to the centurion standing nearby and says, as Jesus breathes His last, "Do you think Jesus is dead?" "No, lady, I don't," is the answer. "Then where is He?" "Let loose in all the world, lady, where neither Roman nor Jew nor any other man can stop the victory of His risen life."⁸²