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THE CAMPION ERA

The Development of Catholic Social Idealism in Australia. 1929-1939

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M.A. Thesis

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I hereby certify that this is my own work, and that
all sources used have been acknowledged.

B. H. Gray

PREFACE

The nucleus of this work is to be found in an Honours thesis on the Victorian Campion Society which I wrote for the History Department, School of General Studies, Australian National University, in 1967. I have here extended and developed the themes and areas of research which I first explored in that study.

The nineteen-thirties encompassed the Great Depression, the victory of Nazism in Germany, the Italo-Abyssinian War, the Spanish Civil War, and the outbreak of World War II. It was an age when European Liberalism, which fifty years before had been all-conquering, teetered on the verge of extinction; when political, economic and intellectual confusion were rife; and when the future of the West appeared to be dangerously dependent on the interplay of the contending totalitarian ideologies, Communism, Nazism and Fascism. Yet, for the Catholic Church, it was an era not of decline, but of consolidation and resurgence.

For Australian Catholicism also, it was a decade of revitalisation. Why this should have been so, how the renewal took form, and to what depth it permeated the Catholic culture of this country, are the problems which I hope to elucidate in this thesis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since this thesis is based almost entirely on primary sources, most of which are in private collections; and since in its compilation interviews have constituted, as it were, the mortar between the bricks of documentation, I am indebted for their assistance to a considerable number of people.

To all those whose names appear in my Bibliography, under 'Primary Source Collections' and 'Interviews', I extend my gratitude. In addition, I thank those many people who allowed me access to archives, and to seminary, school and University College records. I must single out in this regard Father J. Keaney of the Melbourne Archdiocesan Archives; Monsignor C. Duffy of the Sydney Archdiocesan Archives; and Father Greg O'Kelly of the Jesuit Archives, Hawthorn, Victoria. For their hospitality over a prolonged period I especially thank Messrs. Heffey and Butler, Solicitors, of Lonsdale Street, Melbourne; and Father Peter Hoy of the Sacred Heart Monastery, Croydon, Victoria.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.C.T.S.	: Australian Catholic Truth Society
<u>Adv.</u>	: <u>Advocate</u> (Melbourne)
ANSCA	: Australian National Secretariat of Catholic Action
C.B.L.	: Catholic Boys' Legion
C.E.G.	: Catholic Evidence Guild
<u>C.F.</u>	: <u>Catholic Fireside</u> (Sydney)
<u>C.P.</u>	: <u>Catholic Press</u> (Sydney)
<u>C.W.</u>	: <u>Catholic Worker</u> (Melbourne)
C.Y.M.S.	: Catholic Young Men's Society
H/B	: Heffey/Butler Collection of Campion Society records
K.S.C.	: Order of Knights of the Southern Cross
M.A.A.	: Melbourne Archdiocesan Archives
S.A.A.	: Sydney Archdiocesan Archives
Y.C.W.	: Young Christian Workers' Movement

Note on Terminology

In this work I have favoured the term 'Catholic actionism' when speaking of activities of a Catholic Action type, which do not constitute Catholic Action in the technical Church sense. The nature and meaning of Catholic Action, as defined by the Catholic Church, are explained in the text.