

# Editorial

How many of our readers will ever have heard a sermon on the Trinity? The central Christian mystery often seems to be thought too abstract, too remote from the realities of parish life to interest any but the professional theologians in the seminary. Yet where such a feeling becomes widespread, as was the case in England immediately before the Reformation, the danger to faith is far greater than any external enemy can offer, far greater for example today than the threat of communism. Indeed the real threat of the communists does not lie in their power to persecute so much as in their power to offer a way of life more vital and therefore more attractive than a Catholicism which has come to look merely negative by comparison. Like all important human conflicts, the struggle in which we are engaged today is first of all taking place at the level of mind: and to suppose that theology has nothing to do with real life is to say that ultimately the mind is unimportant.

The doctrine of the Trinity provides something of a test for us. What, for instance, do we think of the men who in the fourth century considered it worth while to turn the world upside-down over the difference of a syllable in its formulation? Were they barbarous and illiberal, as the enlightened Gibbon presents them to us, or had they grasped something we are in danger of forgetting? Again, what do we make of the fact that those Catholics who speak about religion at street-corners and in the market-place find in the doctrine of the Trinity the subject most certain to draw in crowds of people eager to be informed? And would we have cared to be among that group of London University students who in St Patrick's Church, Soho, listened to the conference on which our first article this month is based? Do we, in short, recognize in the revelation of the inner life of God the pattern of our own lives, made by grace sons of God in his Son through the power of the Holy Spirit? The future of the world may well depend on the way in which we are able to answer questions such as these.