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Faith, Works, and Praxis: Emergent Post-Colonialism and the Catholic Church in North America

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Faith, Works, and Praxis: Emergent Post-Colonialism and the Catholic Church in North America

The Historic Question (1926-1929): “Is There Religious Persecution in Mexico?”

Reporting the Mexican “Question”: Center and Radials

- The Center:
 - Jesuit Weekly Magazine, “America”
 - Editor-in-Chief, Wilfrid Parsons, SJ
- Radials:
 - Public Exchange in News Media
 - The New York Times*
 - The Nation*
 - The Tablet*
 - Personal Correspondents and Informants for Wilfrid Parsons

The Catholic Church in North America: Indigenous or Foreign?

- Conflict between identity, allegiance, and liberty:
- Place of Catholic Church within American and Mexican notions of national identity
- Issue brought to the fore by Mexican Civil War, Hoover v. Smith presidential election, and Lateran Treaty
- Post-colonial implications of the “Revolution” called into question the Church’s function as an indigenous or foreign institution



Reforming the Social Reality: The Question of the Church’s Legacy

“PRIEST CHARGES THAT ‘ONE OF THE MOST SAVAGE AND BLOODY BUTCHERIES OF ALL TIME’ IS GOING ON IN MEXICO IN THE PERSECUTION OF THE CATHOLICS, AND THAT AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS ARE NOT PUBLISHING ‘THE TRUTH’ ABOUT MEXICO.”

THE NEW YORK TIMES
JUNE 9, 1927



“IT SEEMS PRETTY WELL ESTABLISHED THAT THE HOLY SEE HAS NEVER ABANDONED THE IDEA OF ITS RIGHT TO ABSOLVE CITIZENS OF THEIR OATH OF ALLEGIANCE, IN CERTAIN CASES AT LEAST.”

WILFRID PARSONS, SJ
MARCH 7, 1929



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- 3.New York Times. Topic File-Mexico. 1926-1938.

- 4.Nation. Topic File-Mexico. 1926-1938.
- 5.McCullagh, Francis. *Red Mexico: A Reign of Terror in America*. New York: Louis Carrier & Co, 1928.
- 6.Gruening, Ernest. *Mexico and Its Heritage*. 1st ed. New York: The Century Co., 1928.
- 7.Báez Camargo, Gonzalo. *Is There Religious Persecution in Mexico?*. August 1926.
- 8.Montavon et al. *Mexico*. New York, 1927.

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