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Christ and Lard

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Christ and Lord

by KILIAN McDONNELL, O.S.B.

Over the past decade the bishops of the country have stressed in their yearly pronouncements the evils of materialism. Once a year is by no means too often to be reminded of the evils of materialism. Of all the sins materialism is the slayer. Seldom does it show its true face. No, it has a thousand masks, all seemingly pleasant virtues. Sometimes it is the mask of humanism, sometimes the mask of patriotism, and, God help us, sometimes it is the mask of religion. An honest enemy will meet you in open battle. But how do you recognize, let alone fight, an enemy who fights with the best of us, carries the flag aloft, and speaks fine words about the freedom and the rights of the people? For all the world he looks like a bosom friend. Of all such we need frequent warning.

Chesterton once said that the only thing worse than the purely material is the purely spiritual. Materialism is difficult to detect because of its disguises. It is ashamed to show its unadorned face. Not so spiritualism. It is without shame. It needs no mask. The purely spiritual has no need to blush nor hide.

Ches...