Dear Janey,

This morning, Sunday, I had a novel experience. I went to the Sacred Heart Convent for Mass. They have a lovely Chapel there. Most of the parishioners are Japanese, young and their devoutness at services is most touching.

The Japanese women are especially devout. I hardly could get over the Japanese hymns. While there are Japanese priests, this particular Mass was said by a German Jesuit. He preached the Gospel in Japanese, and spoke it perfectly. I am not yet able to understand spoken Japanese with any accuracy.
But I followed him fairly well. It was a novel, unique and most interesting experience.

I met the Mother Superior and gave her a 1000 yen. She is from New York and seemed to enjoy talking to me. Half of the convent was destroyed by fire during the bombing. The fire stopped in front of the human-size crucifix.

The reason I went there is also interesting. I have a new employee in my office. A Japanese girl, 24, who recently came back from Taiwan in Manchuria. She is a Catholic and was educated at the Sacred Heart. She asked me to go there to see her church. Of course she speaks English, but strange as it seems to you, she chose to converse in Japanese with me. As I said before, this is highly complimentary.
Sorry, I can't help but feel there is only one true religion in this world—not Catholicism but faith in a supernatural being. That each of us choose a particular religion of worship is immaterial. The ultimate is that all forms of faith recognize a "kami-sama" or God. I'm sorry I cannot accept your deownturn and be comforted as you are. Mom & I, in our moments of confidence, shared this view I have expressed. So do not criticize me too severely for my apparently non-Christian views. Embraced within the Ten Commandments is all the law needed to rule the world in peace and happiness. But this is not necessarily limited to Christians alone. The interpretations...
of Christ and his followers are
inadequate. I wish therefore I accept
but the man-made rules. The Catholic Church is tainted with
totalitarianism not in keeping
with teachings of Christ as a
gentle and forgiving savior.
Teaching says God with a
threatening climax of eternal hellfire to be one hand is
hardly conducive to a mental
condition of complete voluntary
love of the Supreme Maker.

Well, I see. don't I? But
not without crime. I can cite
your example after example of
what I mean - to have and
come unhappiness caused
by the tyrannical dictates of un-
believing rulers of the Catholic Church.
But enough.

John
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