

# BLACKFRIARS

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### FOREWORD

THE news that the English Dominican monthly BLACKFRIARS intends to devote a number specially to Germany and its problems has given me great joy. After 12 years of severe trials under the persecution of the National Socialists and amidst the untold difficulties of the post-war period German Catholicism is ever more turning its gaze towards other lands in order to share in the aspirations of Catholics abroad, to learn from the experiences of other nations, and to bind itself ever more closely with them in the spirit of Christ's Universal Church. To save the world at a time when atheistic communism is threatening to overrun Europe and the rest of the world, it is absolutely necessary for all Catholics to be of one mind and to work as a community in the spirit of Jesus Christ. I hope sincerely that this special number of your periodical will help to increase this brotherly love amongst the Catholics of different nations.

I thank the editors for their deeply charitable concern for the manifold spiritual and material needs of the German people. It also provides me with a most welcome opportunity to send my warmest thanks to the English Catholics for all the help which they have given to us and to our people. We wish to express our faith in our unity of prayer, in our common love for our holy mother, the Church, and in our undivided loyalty to our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII.

Münster, 11 May 1949.

✠MICHAEL, *Bishop of Münster.*