

it, and advanced toward the quivering victim. The scene was then interrupted by a woman who shoved her way through the crowd.

"Stop it! Stop it!" she cried. "Has not enough blood been shed this day?"

The man with the knife stopped and, shaking her off his arm, said, "Look, lady, this guy has run down this little boy. Do you want him to get away with it? What if that boy was *your* little boy?"

The woman looked at the crowd.

"That dead boy," she said, "is my son."

Then turning from the crowd she walked to the lifeless body of the boy. Slowly the crowd dispersed, and the arrival a few minutes later of a police car brought order to the tragic scene.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Freedom

Richard Clutter

**F**REEDOM! A word that is used many times a day by many people but which is not just a word at all. It is a cause—a cause for which our forefathers fought and died. It is an ideal—an ideal of every righteous being that has lived upon this earth. It is a reward—a reward for those who believe that every man is created equal. It is a grace—a grace of God that is given, not through justice alone, but through His mercy. Lastly, it is a way of life—a way of life that can result in peace among enemies as well as among neighbors.

Do all of us who live in this nation deserve the freedom that we have? Do we always show that it should be ours by loving our neighbors and believing that they are all our equals? The answer for many of us is no. If we do not then deserve freedom, why are we blessed with this divine gift? Many people accredit it to the justice of God, but can it be justice? Justice can only be obtained if one is thought to deserve it. I believe that this freedom, this grace of God, is, like all of His gifts, given through his mercy. Since this grace is given through mercy instead of justice, we must not take it for granted, but must strive to pay the debt that we owe to God by granting to others the same freedom that God has granted to us.

We are told to love our enemies as well as our neighbors. This is a very difficult thing for man to do, especially if he is a slave to his enemy. As his enemies rule over him longer and longer, his dislike for their actions grows and grows, until he eventually hates his enemies, instead of merely hating their actions. I do not believe that freedom among men will automatically develop love among enemies, for that requires much more than mere freedom. But I do believe that freedom and what it stands for tend to lessen the hatred among enemies—hatred that develops from a feeling of inferiority.