

Bristol Cleric Warns About "Doing Good"

In his Sunday sermon Rev. Richard T. Nolan of Trinity Episcopal Church, Bristol, sounded a note of caution to those who see their Christian duty exclusively as being good or in being of service to the community.

"Although the Christian is called upon to love, which includes at its heart concern for all persons in all situations," Fr. Nolan warned, "the Churches are facing the dangerous path of interpreting humanitarian concerns as their one and only mission." He noted the current involvement of churches, in social concerns as good, but said there might be a pre-occupation with these issues as a way of being relevant to the world.

Remarking that the uniqueness of Christianity is not an ethic of humanitarian love and social concern (which can be found in non-Christian religions, philosophies and psychologies), the Episcopal clergyman said, "While we must love our neighbor, we must also not forget to love and worship God and open our hearts to his love. I am concerned that the latter is being forgotten, if not being given a back seat; if it is, we as Christians have lost our distinctiveness and unique contribution to humanitarian concerns."