

## REMARKS, ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

### ANNAPOLIS

November 29, 1964

I suspect that most of you here from time to time have shared with me the feeling of being overwhelmed by the bustle, the tensions, the anxieties and the worldly distractions of one kind or another which are so characteristic of the way we live today. And so, I am always pleased to have an opportunity such as you have afforded me today, to meet with my brethren of the faith, to meditate upon our spiritual qualities and our spiritual responsibilities, to worship and commune with our Creator.

This is the day of Saint Andrew, and it is appropriate that we reflect upon the career of this fisherman who, with his brother, Peter, at Christ's bidding, became a fisher of men. We recall that it was Andrew who first brought his brother Peter to Christ and who was one of the first to proclaim: "We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ."

We remember that it was Andrew who, upon Christ's admonition, "Come ye after me," forsook his nets, followed Christ through his preachings, his performance of miracles, his passion and resurrection and continued his ministry until he himself was crucified. In the troubled times in which we are living, it is solacing and inspiring to recall the words of the Savior to Andrew, to Peter, to James and to John: "Be ye not troubled." Jesus was forewarning his disciples of the events yet to come—with "wars and rumors of wars," with nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, with earthquakes and with famines, with sorrowful times. And he asked them not to be troubled, and promised them that "he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." We who live in a troubled age, beset by wars and rumors of wars, are consoled by these words, and we are grateful that we live in a nation which, as it is written elsewhere in the scriptures (Psalm 33:12) is a "nation whose God is the Lord."

As the chief executive of one of the states of our union, I am often asked the question whether religion is, and ought to be, a part of politics and government. The doctrine of the separation of church and state, a fundamental principle in the basic laws of our country, has disturbed many people. It is my conviction that, while we cling to the principle of separation, no doctrine of American life ever has, or ever will, minimize the presence, the power and the influence of religion