

Reformed bodies would offer a confession that objected to the demands of totalitarianism. This represented, however, a very small part of the church. From it came the identity of the group known as the "Confessing Church"..a band that professed values more important than the state. Dietrich Bonhoeffer (martyred in 1945) was in fellowship with this loosely knit body.

The Catholic church accepted the National Socialism even more easily than did the protestants. There was some dissent but it was minimal although we do not deprecate it for its size. But for the most part the thought of a sovereign Germany, respected and titled in the world, dominated thinking and the Fascists had the support of the overwhelming proportion of the ecclesiastical institutions.

Paul Johnson, A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY, notes that the only "Christian" (my quotes) group that consistently stood against Hitler was the Jehovah's Witnesses. He estimates that more than 90% of them suffered strong persecution from the Nazis but that the group on the whole showed no capitulation to the new politics.

#### A note on Italy

Italy did not have all of the emotional trauma that plagued the Germans...the nation was less consolidated in the first place and less committed to the idea of being Italian. The papacy had long been wrangled for it had lost its temporal power in the days of Victor Immanuel I and Garibaldi. The guardianship of the Italian government was shaky and many social areas of life were difficult, the economy was poor, and the prospects for international success not great...and Italy was having trouble managing its African colonies...one of which was Ethiopia. In 1922 the Fascists marched on Rome and soon thereafter Benito Mussolini (Il Duce) took power as the master of Italy. In 1929 he signed a concordat with the Vatican and while he did not return any temporal powers he did recognize the independency of the Vatican See and the inviolability of the Vatican properties. The intensity of his administration corrected some of the Italian problems and