

whole Church over all the faithful. He teaches without error in the sphere of faith and morals because it is his task to feed the flock of Christ with the pure word of God; he leads with supreme authority because the gates of hell cannot prevail.

Christ our Lord 'is the head of the body of the Church' (Col. 1, 18) in two senses. He is head in that all the grace that flows into the souls of men, through the sacraments and through the free mercy of God, comes from him. He is also head in that he rules the Church at all times, in all places, and for all eternity. The Bishop of Rome is but his delegate—the instrument he uses to guide the Church on earth, in that state which is subject to all the limitations of earthly existence. Hence the Pope is called the Vicar or representative of Christ in so far as direction of the Church on earth is concerned. All the vast complexity of ecclesiastical administration and law is for, and only is of value as intending, the salvation of souls and the teaching of truth. Every function the Church exercises is exercised in subordination to Christ.

CARAVAGGIO

An ill-lit stable and a sprawling groom,
 A gambler counting coins, an anxious peasant
 His brown feet grimy with the miles he'd come—
 This was the world Christ walked in, it was not pleasant.

A boy turned screaming from a murder. Whose?
 Some brothel-keeper in Trastevere.
 Slyly the customers slipped on their shoes,
 Made for the back door and got clean away.

Darkness crowded him. Still there was some light
 On David's shoulder naked against the night
 Falling, and falling on the arm which held

By a black knot of hair a severed head.
 Three years of flight, a fever and he was dead,
 And the long horror was at last dispelled.

BENET WEATHERHEAD