

## FRIENDS AND ROMANS

Some saints who hold God's Word with zeal  
Call Roman faithfuls damned and lost.  
To both I make this soft appeal:  
Take care in what is held or tossed.

My Roman friend, be very sure  
To humbly own the tragic shame  
That history tells of popes impure  
Who desecrated Jesus' name.

Bewail the blood of innocents  
That ever blots the Church's name.  
Be wary of your confidence,  
And test with Truth what bishops claim.

But we who proudly hold our stand  
As evangelical and right,  
Have often missed, in every land,  
To match our faith with works of light.

We bless with sermons and with songs  
And praise the latest Christian book,  
But often lag where deed belongs  
And walk without our Savior's look.

Let all who say the common Creed  
Be holy catholic, wholly true.  
Allow the Word of God to lead  
Both faith and what our faith must do.

— *David L. Hatton, 1/17/2007*