

## OPEN WINDOWS

### Thorns and Roses

I don't miss to read or at least skim over documentary, casuistic and newsy sections and the book reviews of the BOLETIN. But I often skip the homilies, because there are no such stuff as standard or all-purpose or any-audience talks. The authors of the homilies should make better use of their effort, time and space by writing articles or pastoral topics such as — Catechetics, Methods of Conversion, The Priest vis-a-vis superstition, to speak or not to speak of Canon 1098 in Remote Barrios; and the like *ad infinitum*.

Your book reviews read often like the blurbs on the books' flap themselves. From the standpoint of your readers, the best way of reviewing any book is to make an objective condensation, though giving it a plug in stride. And you can't egg us on with such stale bromides as: "No library should fail to acquire this book"; or: "The priest should be ashamed of himself for not having read this book." Only the catechism deserves such fullsome compliments.

After this little fault-finding, may I extend kudos with orchids to the BOLETIN, for treading the safe middle way between ultra-conservatism and avant-gardism.

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### Critique "Sing To the Lord"

May a footnote be added to the Critique "Sing To The Lord" (April 1969)?

Since the pipe organ and harmonium should be held in high esteem because they are traditional church instruments, surely in the Philippines the guitar is to be held in even higher esteem for the same reason. The vast majority of churches in the country are in barrios where, for centuries, the guitar and other string instruments have been the only music available for liturgical functions.

Only in the exceptional areas where pipe and reed instruments are common does the guitar seem to be an innovation. Throughout the greater part of the country it would be an innovation and a departure from tradition to downgrade the guitar, which is the traditional liturgical instrument. And, as Dr. Raymundo so well says, tradition has its permanent values which have to be preserved.

Personally, when I first heard the lively Spanish music of Aguinaldo Masses, rendered with guitars and other strings, tambourines, castanets and even cymbals, I considered it improper for the liturgy; but that was because I was unfamiliar with Filipino culture. Subsequent familiarity with the culture has taught me to appreciate the cultural heritage of the Philippines, strongly colored with

Spanish influence, in which the guitar and the liturgy have been closely associated for a long, long time.

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### **SPANISH AT LAST!**

Mis felicitaciones cordiales al BOLETIN ECLESIASTICO DE FILIPINAS" por la reaparición de la publicación del lenguaje Español en sus páginas! Y con razon. Pues, segun la misma constitucion nueva de la nacion: . . . Hasta que otra cosa sea

provista por ley, el Ingles y el Español continuarán lenguajes oficiales . . ." (Const. Filipina Cap. 14, Seccion 3.) En Ingles se dice: . . . "Until otherwise provided by law, English and Spanish shall continue as official languages." Donde y por quien o quienes? En Filipinas, y por los filipinos residentes en Filipinas, y por todos los servidores del Gobierno de toda Filipinas, segun la misma Constitucion.

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