

BOOK REVIEWS

PAPAL TEACHINGS on THE STATES OF PERFECTIONS, selected and arranged by the Benedictine Monks of Solesmes and translated

by Mother E. O'Gorman, R.S.C.J., St. Paul Publications
Pasay City, Philippines, 1967, pp. 736.

The "States of Perfection" is a compilation of papal teachings regarding the religious life as viewed from its multiple aspects: its nature, institution was of life, government and activities, its relationship with the Church and society, its reasons for existing and its unhampered growth explained through the centuries.

The present volume covers the pontificates starting from Benedict XIV (1740-1758) up to John XXIII (1958-1963). Even if the papal mind prior to the 18th century were set aside, the 223-years of solicitous care for Religious Orders and Institutes which the Roman Pontiffs have shown, other defence against erroneous opinions casting unfavorable shadow to religious entities plus their continuing praise for the service of religious men and women on behalf of the Church, prove, once and for all, the permanency of the church's magisterium concerning the practice of the evangelical counsel.

The life of religious congregations in the Catholic Church has survived not without criticisms and oftentimes insulting remarks from other sectarian or atheistic quarters. In their turn, Popes have not only defended it but continued to extol the dignity of superiority of religious States above the rest. This attitude stems from the fact that religious Orders and Congregations aim at the very same mission of the Church, i.e. to lead men to sanctity. Obviously the history of the Church register in its pages the fidelity with which Religious harnessed the full strength of their resources at the service of the Church. The Popes in this collection have voiced out the veracity of this identical purpose with the seal of their teaching authority.

One notable feature of this volume is the analytical Index which facilitates the reader to locate the subject matter that best interests him. It consists of three pages preceded by an introduction dealing on the Church and Religious Life.

Part I concerns the nature and forms of Religious Life revealing the beauty and charm of a life aimed at Christian perfection through the practice of evangelical counsels. Such beauty and charm do not fade in the face of

forms because all religious congregations are fundamentally unified by the ends and by the same inspiration of the Holy Spirit in their Founder which is the manifest acts of Divine Providence. The diversity and unity of religious congregations are at the time a convincing sign of the Church's vitality capable of responding to the needs of the times and souls.

Part II, is much shorter than the preceding part, yet it is the most important section as far as the persons of the religious is concerned. The main stream of ideas here is the identical mission with the Church, he should begin to appreciate the value of his state, making its dream of self-sanctification a reality in order to communicate more effectively such sanctity to the modern world.

St. Paul Publications should be congratulated for undertaking to have this precious work accessible in an adequately clear and handy printing. Every religious library should have this work, and every religious should not fail to read it.

● FR. L.Z. LEGASPI, O.P.

BOOKS RECEIVED

DICTIONNAIRE DE SPIRITUALITÉ Ascétique et Mystique, Doctrine et Histoire, Fascicules XLII-XLIII (Grecque (Église)-(Guzman). Fondé par M. Viller, F. Cavallera, J. De. Guibert, S.J., continué par André Rayez et Charles Baumgartner, S.J., assistés de Michel Olphe-Galliard, S.J. avec le concours d'un grand nombres de collaborateurs." Beauchesne, Paris, 1967, Pp. 814 & 1350.

FUNDAMENTO Y FINALIDAD DE LA PENA ECLESIASTICA SEGUN ANGEL AMOR RUIBAL, dissertation "ad lauream" in the Faculty of Canon Law, Gregorian Pontifical University by JESU GOMEZ SOBRINO. Salamanca, 1969, Pp. i-v, 63.

DINÁMICA JURÍDICA POSTCONCILIAR, obra en colaboracion de varios especialistas, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas Instituto San Raimundo de Peñafort, Salamanca, 1969. Pp. 335.