

THE PRIEST OF THE FATHERS. By Edward L. Heston, C.S.C.
(Bruce; pp. 171; \$2.50.)

This book is divided into three sections. In the first the priest is considered in his relations with God. The second is concerned with the priest and the people, the third with the priest's duty to himself. Father Heston's own reflections are well worth attention, but the great merit of his book is its extensive quotation from St John Chrysostom's work on the priesthood, St Gregory's *Regula Pastoralis*, and St Bernard's *De Consideratione*. These provide the bulk of the patristic matter and should lead readers to the sources themselves. As a work in patristics the book is very slight. Several passages, for example a weak apology for the Fathers in the author's Preface, suggest a lack of background. There are surprising omissions; a chapter on learning has nothing to say about Scripture, which was for all the Fathers what St Ambrose called the *liber sacerdotalis*. There is a manipulation of the text of a letter of St Cyprian (Ep. 63) in one place, which is regrettable. But although the book is unimportant as a contribution to patristics, as a contribution to writing on the priesthood by a priest who is aware of modern problems, it is certainly welcome.

A. R.

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