

offers himself once again to the heavenly Father; there is a new offering, although it is not independent of the sacrifice of Calvary. In the opinion of Jungmann this explanation takes more account of the *ratio offerendi* than does the *Mysterium* theory of Casel. Further on he dismisses the destruction theory on the ground that the essence of the sacrifice is not destruction but the offering up made to the heavenly Father. Nevertheless, it seems to us that when the author considers the various theories, he does not adequately meet all the difficulties in his own explanation of the offering to the heavenly Father.

By and large, however, the author has done two valuable services: one to liturgical research by his competent handling and setting out of the available sources; the other to the preacher, for the author provides preachers with matter which can be of very great help to them in bringing home to the people the meaning and richness of the sacrifice of Christ and of the Church. The value of the work is not at all that it presents new truths, but that it presents old truths in a form which is very conscious of present-day needs and trends.

RUDIGER ORTMEYER, O.P.

WHITE SMOKE OVER THE VATICAN. By Don Sharkey. (Fallon; 8s.6d.)

The part played in recent years by the Church in international affairs has attracted the attention of the world towards Rome, the centre of its government, of which Mr Sharkey gives an interesting and informative account. Many facts are related incidentally in the course of the book which throw light on the personal life of the Pope as exemplifying the life of the Church as a whole. The last words of Pope Pius XI are said to have been a prayer for peace as also was the first public utterance of his successor. Mr Sharkey gives a brief account of the history of the Vatican and of the vast organisation by which the unity and universality of the Church are maintained. The chapters on St Peter's and the Papal Palace are illustrated; it is unfortunate that these photographs are so indifferently reproduced. The greater part of the book is devoted to the ceremonies surrounding the death of a pope and the election of his successor. The very interesting account of a conclave is not entirely accurate; the regulations quoted have in many instances been superseded by those of the Constitution, *Vacantis Apostolicae Sedis*, of 4th February, 1946. Thus the majority now required in a papal election is two-thirds *plus one*; the form of the ballot-paper illustrated in the Code has been replaced, and on it a Cardinal is required to give only the name of the candidate of his choice; his own signature is not required. These are but small corrections to be made in a book which is both interestingly written and well informed.

T. HARPER.