

One especially likes the idea that cooking special Christmas food and eating it is a way of thanking God, and the reminder that if 'we go carol singing we should learn to do it really well so that people will enjoy listening to us'.

Obviously, every reader will find some of Mrs Haughton's themes less helpful than others, and will have his own idea as to what she has 'left out'. But I think no parent or teacher of small children could fail to find these books both useful and stimulating.

ROSEMARY SHEED

THE ROMAN MARTYROLOGY, an English Translation, edited by Canon J. B. O'Connell; Burns and Oates, 50s.

The Roman Martyrology is a liturgical book for choral recitation of the divine office, and is used each day for the public reading in choir of the names of the saints commemorated each day, before the office of Prime. As only a percentage of the names of saints can be mentioned, so great is their number, the daily recitation always closes with the words: *And elsewhere many other holy martyrs, confessors and virgins.* To which the choir responds: *Thanks be to God.*

The editor notes that only by the authority of the Sacred Congregation can a name be added to the Martyrology, and it must be the name of a saint, not a *Beatus*. He does not mention when this hard and fast rule came into being, but it may be noted that there are still a number of *Beati* retained, including Urban V and Eugene III inserted by Pius IX, and Urban II and Innocent V by Leo XIII, the last-named *Beatus* being entered as late as 1898.

The translation, excellently done, will prove a boon to many religious orders and institutes where the custom exists of reading it publicly in the vernacular. But surely many Catholic homes will also be eager to possess a copy. The printing and binding make the volume an exceedingly beautiful one.

WALTER GUMBLY, O.P.