

Reviews

THE LIFE OF CATHERINE OF SIENA, by Raymond of Capua. Translated by Conleth Kearns O P. *Dominican Publications, Dublin. 1980. pp lxxxix + 388. £15.*

Since George Lamb's translation of Raymund's Life of Catherine went out of print some years ago, there has been no available edition, in English, of the major biographical source for the life of St Catherine of Siena, so it is a pleasure to welcome this new version by Fr Kearns. And the new version has several major advantages over its predecessor. In the first place, there is a long and impressive introduction on Raymund himself and his place in the development of the Dominican Order, and this fills a gap which had long been troublesome. Apart from his Life of Catherine, Raymund is an extremely important figure in his own right, and it was high time that a serious study was undertaken of him in English. Secondly, Kearns includes the whole text in his translation, not missing out the important First Prologue, as Lamb had done. Thirdly, Kearns gives the numbering of the paragraphs, according to the Latin text printed by the Bollandists, which makes for much easier reference.

What is a bit disappointing, though is that the actual translation is rather too free; at times it is more a paraphrase than a translation, and precise nuances are frequently lost in the process. Occasionally there is downright inaccuracy. For example, in s 92 Kearns follows Lamb's mis-translation of *quae cum omnibus sanctis Ephesios comprehendere optabat Paulus Apostolus*, evidently misreading *Ephesios* as *Ephesiis*, giving a puzzling sense, which is entirely ruled out by the reference to Eph. 3:16-19.

It is also a pity that Kearns did not see fit to identify scriptural references in the text, as the Bollandists did in their Latin edition.

But, in spite of these shortcomings, this new version of Raymund's Life is an impressive achievement, and a useful complement to the other volumes of *Catheriniana* produced in honour of her centenary.

SIMON TUGWELL O P

LE CONSOLATEUR: ESPRIT-SAINT ET VIE DE GRACE by Louis Bouyer. *Cerf, Paris, 1980. pp 470. n.p.*

Louis Bouyer has come a long way. Once a Protestant pastor he became an Oratorian and since the early heady days of the liturgical movement in Paris during the Occupation he has played a great part in articulating the enormous changes that have taken place in the Catholic Church in recent years. With his interest in Newman, and through translations of all his earlier books, his influence in English-speaking Catholicism twenty years ago is comparable with that of Hans Küng – a comparison that he might not appreciate unless his work were to be taken as the counterpoise and antidote! Bouyer is now

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in the forefront of those who say that there is no way of stopping the Catholic Church from collapsing into Protestantism except by reuniting it with the Orthodox Church immediately.

The volume under review is the fifth in a set of six. *Le Trône de la Sagesse*, on the Blessed Virgin Mary, appeared in 1957. The next volume, on the Church, did not appear until 1970. The third volume in the series, to be devoted to the world, is the volume still to come. In the meantime Bouyer turned to the doctrine of the Trinity, with *Le Fils éternel* (1973), *Le Père invisible* (1976), and now his essay on the