

THE FRIAR'S BOOK-SHELF

Why I Am a Catholic. By John McGinness. J. J. McVey, Philadelphia. Pp. 27. Price, five cents.

Suppose some sincere Protestant came up to you and said, "Why are you a Catholic?" What would you reply? No doubt you would say, "Because the Catholic Church is the true Church." Such a reply were indeed proper and most certainly accurate; but why is it the true Church? Can you quote Scripture to prove it? Are you prepared to give reasons for believing it?

Can you convince outsiders that your religion is with you a matter of conviction and not of birth? Can you, in a word, "give an account of the Faith that is in you"?

If you cannot do all these things easily and readily, you should read John McGinness' "Why I Am a Catholic." Every one of its twenty-seven pages is interesting and rich with reasons why you belong to the Catholic Church. It is well worth having. M. McM.

St. Paul, the Apostle of the Holy Name. By Clement M. Thuente, O. P. Ecclesiastical Rev., Jan. 1918.

After reading this beautiful pen-picture of St. Paul we exclaim with St.. Chrysostom, "The heart of St. Paul was the heart of Jesus Christ." The great Apostle was preeminently a preacher of the Holy Name. It was his singular privilege to grasp the meaning of the "Wonderful Name"; and so profound was his knowledge of it that he eagerly endeavored to carry it to all the nations. Neither perils of land and sea nor false brethren could dampen his ardor in preaching the sweet Name of Jesus.

It is not given us to see St. Paul in the flesh, but Fr. Thuente has helped us to know much of the inner life of the great Apostle of the Gentiles by his illuminating article. In it, quotations have been culled judiciously from the writings of St. Paul to support Fr. Thuente's thesis, while the latter's conclusions are well drawn and most practical. Would that this portrait of St. Paul could reach every Catholic in the country. For although the special object of the Holy Name Societies is to discourage profanity and to honor Christ by frequent Communion, yet after a fashion all share in the apostolate of St. Paul to make the Name of Jesus more widely known and better loved. Hence we hope that Fr. Thuente's article will appear in brochure form so as to reach a larger circle of readers. V. F. K.

The Catholic's Work in the World. By Reverend Jos. Husslein, S. J. Benziger Bros., New York. Pp. 286. \$1.00 net.

The chief attraction of this book is the fact that it is practical in purpose and remarkably pleasing in style.

Catholics have duties and strict obligations beyond frequenting the sacraments and hearing Mass. What some of these duties are, how they can and should be performed, the great need of attending to them, what we can learn from Protestant social workers—all such questions and many others are discussed in a practical manner and in pleasing, compelling language by the able Fr. Husslein.

Here are a few chapter-titles that are no more striking than the subject-matter they introduce: Three World-Conquests for Christ; Rainbow Chasing; A Lion in the Way; Making Men See Red; The

Unknown God. The sections that treat of spiritual preparedness and of devotion to Our Lady will be of especially keen interest to all who love God, to all who think and hope.

The entire work exhibits the author's deep humanitarian sympathies. He aims at bringing the world to Christ. Believing that the children of today are the nations of tomorrow, he would have Catholics labor more unitedly and more systematically to save the child, and hence the world for God and His holy Church. "The Catholic's Work in the World" is truly a "Book of world-conquest for Christ," and should be read by priest and people, by old and young. We predict and wish for it a large sale.

M. McM.

The Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Assumption. Mere Maria de Jesus. Adapted from the French. Longmans, Green & Company, New York. Pp. 184. Price, \$1.10 net.

This neat little volume lays bare the life story of a noble-souled woman who by consecrating herself to the service of God, achieved wonderful results in a great apostolate among poverty-stricken poor. She ministered to their wants, nursed them back to health and revitalized in their lives the ideal of Christian living which had lost its meaning and grip.

In a charming style and interesting manner, we are told of the tiny beginnings of the community founded by this "Lady servant of the sick poor" to succor suffering humanity. The development of the institute and the trials and consolations of its members are vividly portrayed, and the story of the expulsion from the land of the community's birth—France is sympathetically narrated. Its spread to England, Ireland and both Americas is also traced and tales of the great good done for God and religion and man abound throughout the book.

It carries a strong appeal to all interested and engaged in such work and the perusal of its pages will be heartening and inspiring especially to members of struggling American communities dedicated to the same Christ-like mission.

E. H.

Divine Faith. By Father Peter Finlay, S. J. Longmans, Green and Company, New York. Pp. 239. Price, \$1.50 net.

Man by his own efforts can never elicit an act of faith. From its very nature faith makes him dependent on some exterior force. It is an assent of his intellect to the testimony of another. Like every other gratuity, he is free to accept or reject it. Now, since the perfection and ideal of man's intellect consists in the knowledge and acquisition of truth, the more certain and reliable is the source, the more perfect and secure will be the truth to which he gives assent.

In human faith, he places credence in the fallible testimony of his fellow man, but in divine faith he contemplates the infinite wisdom of God which admits no error, that perfect veracity that can teach no falsity.

In a work small and unpretentious, embodying a series of lectures delivered before "Dublin College" of the National University of Ireland, Fr. Finlay offers for our consideration a subject-matter of no little interest. In language so clear and lucid, that all may grasp the import of his theme, he points out in logical detail just what we are to understand by the nature of faith, its motive, its object and numerous other phases that go to make up a complete study of an act of divine faith. A well prepared index shows that the author has made an extensive study of his subject. Clergy and laity will read the work with interest and profit.

R. C.