

the profoundly Christian and genuinely feminine character of Mother Seton.  
W.P.H.

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**The Fatherhood of St. Joseph.** By Joseph Mueller, S.J. Translated by Athanasius Dengler, O.S.B. St. Louis, Mo., B. Herder Book Co., 1952. pp. vii, 238. \$3.50.

The opinion that St. Joseph is the greatest of the saints after Our Lady is becoming daily more commonly held in the Church. The vocation Joseph was called upon to fulfill, like Mary's, was given to him by God Himself through the message of an angel. Following the principle that an exceptional divine mission calls for a corresponding degree of grace, how else can the Church conclude than by promoting the pre-eminence of St. Joseph, chaste spouse of Mary, as the virginal father of Jesus? But the great Saint has not reached this favored place without a struggle. It is in the defense of these great blessings of St. Joseph that Father Mueller has compiled his scholarly and effective theses in *The Fatherhood of St. Joseph*.

In his quest for the truth of the matter, Father Mueller has wisely brought forth the authority and the witness of Holy Scripture. For after all, whatever knowledge we have of St. Joseph's life here on earth, we owe to the inspired accounts. But with regard to the interpretation of these few texts, he relies upon the authority and the experience of tradition in the words of the great Fathers and Doctors of the Church. He devotes considerable space to the doctrines of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Albert, and St. Bonaventure. When the author himself does advance his own opinion, he always follows the common teaching of the Church. On the whole, his exposition and defense should effectively convince the doubtful reader of the truth of the prerogatives under discussion.

Father Mueller in his preface expresses the hope that "the work, originally intended for theologians and therefore couched in somewhat technical theological language, may yet be of interest to other educated men and women interested in theological questions." The later chapters of the work, devoted to the cult of St. Joseph, give promise that the author's hope will not be in vain.  
E.G.F.

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**Science and Christian Apologetic.** By E. F. Caldin. London, Blackfriars Publications, 1951. pp. 44. 2/6. (No. 17).

**The Meaning of Existentialism.** By D. J. B. Hawkins, D.D. London, Blackfriars Publications, 1951. pp. 18. 1/6. (No. 18).

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