

Gilby has wisely brought St. Thomas himself onto the field to fight his own battle. D.M.N.

The Priest in Union with Christ. By R. P. Garrigou-Lagrange, O.P. Translated by G. W. Shelton, S.T.L. Cork, The Mercier Press Ltd., 1951. pp. xvi, 216. 18s. Westminster, Md., Newman Press, 1952. pp. xvi, 220. \$3.00.

Father Garrigou writes from a wealth of years of assiduous study and deep, loving contemplation. He has been in Rome, at the very heart of Christendom, for nearly a half a century, and it is completely foreign to him to approach a subject with any sort of provincial limitations or narrow-minded preoccupations. His present work is a splendid example of the breadth and profundity characteristic of an outlook rich in the treasures of Thomism and of the living faith within him.

There are three parts: The first lays the dogmatic foundations and consists in a portrayal of the eminent dignity of the Priesthood of Christ, participated also by all of His priests. Part Two describes the interior life of the priest and contains the real heart of the matter. The union of the priest with Christ, Priest and Victim, is beautifully treated in a series of studies and meditations, exalted in spirit and at the same time genuinely practical in import. The author has drawn skillfully on the golden wisdom of the great models of priestly life, with particular emphasis on priests who have labored under modern conditions and have understood and grappled with contemporary problems. Withal, it is the priest's own interior life which is truly "the one thing necessary," and from it alone will his external ministry to souls flow with supernatural force and efficacy. It is, however, the third and last part of the book which discusses in detail the priest's manifold ministry. In this section we are treated to an unusually comprehensive and accurate insight into the various elements which concur in the formation of a Christlike priestly apostolate: in every instance the primacy of grace is unequivocally asserted in the face of secularistic and naturalistic encroachments. Father Garrigou would not allow the sincere priest to be misled. The kingdom of God is man's first and foremost concern, and this kingdom is to be won by supernatural means—all else is to be subordinated to the final goal, which is eternal life.

An excellent bibliography of thoroughly reliable source and reference material is appended to the text. The author evidences a gratifying familiarity with the very best of recent theological and devotional literature on this ever timely and most exalted subject. To the fine contribution on the subject of the spiritual life of the priest and the

perfection required of him, by several French writers, we may add this thoroughly admirable treatise of our own Père Garrigou-Lagrange. The translator is a professor at Oscott College, in England, and deserves our commendation for an unexceptionable piece of translation. This is a book for every priest, for its outlook is universal.

J.P.R.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton. By Annabelle M. Melville. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1951. pp. 411. \$4.00.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was a remarkable woman. Such was the judgment of Archbishop John Carroll, Bishops Cheverus, Maréchal, Sibourd, Flaget, and the priests and laymen who formed the structure of the Church in early America. The reader of Annabelle Melville's life of Mother Seton must come to the same conclusion.

The author begins with a sketch of colonial New York a generation before Elizabeth Seton's own day and carefully traces the background, growth, and development of her eventful life. By a judicious use of reliable sources, particularly the abundant correspondence of Mrs. Seton and her friends, the narrative is unfolded without tedious historical interludes. The text reads smoothly, since historical sources are reserved for the large section of notes at the end of the book.

The events of Elizabeth Seton's life make a very moving story. She was a pious Protestant, a member of a socially prominent family in New York. Mother of five young children, Mrs. Seton faced and survived a terrible crisis when the death of her husband and her subsequent conversion to Catholicism left her destitute of the moral and financial support of her friends. For many years her life was a constant effort to strengthen her newly found faith and, at the same time, to provide for her children. With the help of an ever growing circle of Catholic friends, she was directed to a variety of undertakings before eventually founding the Sisters of Charity.

Elizabeth Bayley Seton was doubly a mother. Till her dying day she worked and planned for her children, at the same time directing and forming the character of her religious institute. It is remarkable that she could expend such energy in both rôles. However, it is as foundress of the Sisters of Charity that she is remembered and venerated to this day. For that work especially God directed her steps and made of her the great glory of the American Church that she is.

Miss Melville's biography of Elizabeth Bayley Seton is the result of serious and thorough historical research, and has all the merits of good history. It is a treat to read such a life without the distraction of multiple pious corollaries. The story is clear enough in itself to portray