

pagan civilizations and their consequent effect on the representation of the "evil one," the evolution of the portrayal of the devil in art is traced from the angelic devil of early Christianity to the modern abstractions such as Dali's "Temptation of Saint Anthony."

A galaxy of experts in their respective fields has made this book an outstanding one. It is spiritual in tone, scholarly in research, and with the exception of a few unduly technical articles, fascinating in presentation.

A.J.D.

St. Benedict Joseph Labre. By Agnes De La Gorce. Translated by Rosemary Sheed. New York, Sheed & Ward, 1952. pp. 213. \$3.00.

In the eighteenth century Europe was swarming with beggars. They travelled in little bands, rude, ungrateful, sometimes mischievous to say the least. In those days the words of Christ, "the poor you always have with you" were well understood; though frequently understanding was tinged with bitterness in the minds of those who were badgered by these mendicant bands. They were "tramps . . . lazy good for nothings" who refused to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow and so lived off the rich and poor, city and country folk alike.

Yet often in these little bands, although he sometimes travelled alone, there was one who was different from the rest. He was among them but was not one of them. He was a beggar, but more than that—he was a beggar-pilgrim! To cover the length and breadth of Europe visiting shrines and begging for food along the way may seem a pointless, vagabond existence. But to Benedict Joseph Labre it was a singular vocation, yet as real as that of the priest, the lawyer, the farmer. God was asking him to leave a humble yet comfortable home, to forget marriage, any kind of worldly success, friendship, pleasure, peace; to dress raggedly, be eaten by vermin, constantly on the road, experiencing hunger. To many it seemed a lot of nonsense. Even in our own day it is hard to take.

But to be a saint is not to be ordinary, and Benedict Joseph Labre was not an ordinary man. His was a life of constant humiliation. "Poor, begging, lost to the world" is the author's description of him. His life story is vivid, moving, and compelling. It loses none of its vitality in Rosemary Sheed's capable translation from the original French edition.

J.F.

Christ in the Liturgy. By Dom Illtyd Trethowan. New York, Sheed & Ward, 1952. pp. x, 150. \$2.50.

At some future date when Sheed & Ward decide to publish an