

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

The Brothers: Quartermasters For Christ

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Philippine Studies vol. 9, no. 1 (1961): 183

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Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

Book Reviews

THE BROTHERS

QUARTERMASTERS FOR CHRIST. The Life of the Jesuit Brothers. By Andrew F. Cervini, S.J. Manila: Sodality of Our Lady, 1960. 43 pp.

Whenever "vocations" becomes the subject of reflection, conversation or conference, usually two and only two divisions are mentioned—priests and sisters. All too often the brothers, the "quartermasters for Christ", are forgotten. They are forgotten because they are unknown; they are unknown because they lead, for the most part, lives that keep them in the background; and, because the brothers' life is unknown and hidden, it is unesteemed. The booklet under review shows what the life of a Jesuit brother is like and it is a warm tribute to the brothers who have served the Church with Father Cervini. When one puts this booklet aside one knows much more about brothers, and, of far greater importance, one envies them for the holy vocation that is theirs.

In the scope of forty-three pages we are told in lively and attractive style the training, the work, the duties of a Jesuit brother. We watch him enter the novitiate, learn to live the Jesuit life, take his vows. We follow him through his day from five in the morning until ten (or later) at night. We are introduced to three canonized saints among the brothers, and we meet several of the brothers who are now working for Christ our Lord here in the Philippines.

This booklet should find its way into the reading-room and pamphlet-racks of student counsellors' offices, school libraries and Catholic action organizations. It could inspire many a young man to say to himself, "Perhaps that is the vocation for me." It could help many a parent pray that his own son be called to such a holy way of life.

The cover is attractive, the illustrations well-chosen.

CHARLES E. WOLF