

# philippine studies

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## **Perspectives in Pauline Theology: A Brief Sketch**

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acceptable, and effective population policies can be implemented in the Philippines.

A very carefully elaborated projection of school enrollments in the Philippines by William Pratt concludes to an elementary school enrollment in the year 2,000 of between 8.7 and 18.5 million children! This 200 to more than 400 per cent increase over the 1960 enrollment of 4.3 million students points up the challenge of the 32-odd years which lie between the present time and the end of the century. Wilfredo Reyes' presentation of the difficulties in maintaining and up-grading the national health services in the face of population growth acquires increased urgency in this context.

The main directions of internal migration between 1948 and 1960 are revealed by the work of Elvira Pascual to have been Manilawards and to areas where opportunities abound for employment in logging, mining, or related enterprises, or where new lands have been opened for agriculture. Questions upon employment, labor, capital, and output are examined from the standpoint of the economist and agricultural economist by Gerardo Sicat, Rosa Linda Tidalgo, and Raymundo Fonollera.

It is hard for the present reviewer to see how any adequate library concerned with the Philippines can afford to be without this valuable work.

FRANCIS C. MADIGAN, S.J.

## PERSPECTIVES IN PAULINE THEOLOGY

PAULINE THEOLOGY: A BRIEF SKETCH, by Joseph A. Fitzmyer, S.J. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1967. viii, 88 pp.

This paperback booklet is an extract from a two-volume work not yet published, *Jerome Biblical Commentary*, edited by R. E. Brown, S.S., R. E. Murphy, O. Carm, and J. A. Fitzmyer, S.J. As described in the preface, this is one of the general articles from the larger work, "intended to treat synthetically those subjects that the ordinary analytical comments on the verses cannot adequately cover.... It sets forth in compact form the dominant perspectives of Pauline theology as these are understood today." In the opinion of this reviewer, Fr. Fitzmyer admirably achieves the stated purpose of the sketch, which should prove very helpful, especially to teachers of both high-school and college theology courses.

Noting that a valid sketch of Pauline theology must ascertain first of all what Paul meant and in this sense must be a descriptive presentation, the author intends his work to be also a normative theological presentation. His brief but balanced discussion of the autonomy and limitations of "normative biblical theology" clarifies the complementary roles of the biblical and the dogmatic theologian. Again, his insistence that "demythologization must be interpretative, not subtractive" should exorcize the fear of admitting the presence of the mythical in Paul on the one hand, and on the other the unhappy conclusion that what is mythical is therefore to be simply rejected.

By far the longest part of the sketch, some seventy pages, treats "Dominant Perspectives." The great virtue of this section is the brief, clear and textually documented presentation of the Pauline concepts which are to be qualified and delimited by being viewed in a broader perspective. As Fr. Fitzmyer notes, "Paul's theology is Christocentric. True, it is a soteriology, but his captivation with Christ makes it clear that it is a Christocentric soteriology." This Christocentric character of Paul's theology is spelled out under four headings: Pre-existent Son; Kyrios; Passion, Death and Resurrection; and The Lord and the Spirit. While Paul's treatment of Christ's death as an expiatory sacrifice involves juridical terminology, it is necessary to realize that Paul does not offer theories about the mystery of redemption. In the words of Alan Richardson, he "offers to us not theories but vivid metaphors.... [It is] an unfortunate kind of sophistication which believes that the only thing to do with metaphors is to turn them into theories." The important distinctions are lucidly presented in the treatment of justification as a metaphor derived from judicial procedure and applied to salvation. Necessarily brief but very stimulating for an appreciation of Paul's thought are the discussions of his very negative view of the Law, of the phrase "in Christ," of the quite distinct head and body themes, and of the "growth of Paul's awareness of what 'the Church' really meant for man."

Every subdivision of the sketch is followed by a brief list of references to the pertinent specialized studies in books and periodicals.

The reviewer would suggest to the publishers that they might imitate those who indicate the price on the cover of paperbacks. In one Manila bookstore this booklet is priced at ₱8, while in another the buyer is asked to part with ₱14.10.