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**The Priesthood Today:
L'Episcopat Dans L'Eglise
The Episcopate in the Church**

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Book Reviews

THE PRIESTHOOD TODAY

L'ÉPISCOPAT DANS L'ÉGLISE. *Réflexions sur le ministère sacerdotal.* By Paul Anciaux. Paris—Bruges: Desclée de Brouwer, 1963. 111 pp.

THE EPISCOPATE IN THE CHURCH. By Paul Anciaux. Tr. by Thomas F. Murray. Dublin: Gill & Son (Logos Books), 1965. 100 pp.

Three burning questions of the modern Church will find a good though brief solution in this book: (1) In this age of the layman, and of the psychiatrist and the lay counsellor, what is the proper role of the priest? (2) If the Church gives us the freedom of the sons of God, why must we subject ourselves to the authority of other men? (3) If the bishop is indeed the vicar of Christ in his diocese, in what way is he subject to the Pope—or should we say that there are two vicars of Christ?

Although written before the Second Vatican Council, the author's views harmonize so closely with those expressed in the Constitution on the Church and the Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office, that they can be taken as a commentary on the Council's documents. Anciaux presents the book as a mere introduction and an initial attempt at synthesizing the Church's doctrine on the apostolic function. He also proposes various articles and books covering each idea that he proposes. Alas, these are mostly French, German and Dutch. And even Thomas' translation has ferreted out only eight entries translated into English.

Anciaux's book is really a reprint of two articles (originally written in Dutch), and for the sake of clarity it is best to treat the articles separately.

The first, "The Church and the apostolic ministry in the mystery of God," (covering two chapters of the English translation) deals with

the proper role of the hierarchy. Like the Constitution on the Church, Anciaux's article treats the apostolic functions from the viewpoint of the Church as the mystery of God (in contrast to the post-Reformation emphasis on authority). In this context authority itself takes on a salvific aspect: it is needed so that each individual may give a free response and contribute his active cooperation to his own redemption.

The second article, "The episcopate as sacramental reality," studies the relationship between the episcopate and the Pope's primacy. This article is so full of interesting explanation and valid theological insights, that I would do it injustice to even attempt to summarize it. Suffice it to say that this is the more rewarding of the two articles in this book. It gives us a satisfying synthesis of the hierarchy's unity and its collegiality, of episcopate and primacy, of jurisdiction and orders, of obedience and freedom in the Church.

I regret to say that this article especially is mutilated in the English translation. Thomas' translation is a very free one. Throughout the book phrases and even entire sentences are dropped and others inserted with a view to a clearer and more interesting reading for the uninitiated. But this advantage is more than offset by the inaccuracies which have crept in, especially in the second article. Most of these inaccuracies manage to preserve the author's general message. But a few actually contradict the original meaning.

I call attention especially to page 52 (p. 56 in the French). The English translation reads: "The royal aspect of the ministry has caused so much controversy, because it seems to run counter to the aspect of obedience to authority." In fact, where this royal aspect is resented, the reason is precisely because it *contains* the aspect of obedience and authority and some people see only these aspects in it. As the French has it: "parce que trop souvent on n'y a vu que l'aspect d'autorité et corrélativement d'obéissance."

Two similarly important errors occur on page 59 (compare with page 63 of the French). But enough of mistakes. For in spite of all the mistranslations the author's general message comes through and the appeal of Anciaux's ecclesiology does not lose too much of its lustre.

THOMAS J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, S.J.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ST. THOMAS

AQUINAS' SEARCH FOR WISDOM. By Vernon J. Bourke. Milwaukee: The Bruce Publishing Company, 1965. x, 244 pp.

Author Vernon J. Bourke (who also wrote *Augustine's Quest for Wisdom*) tries in this book to introduce St. Thomas and Thomism