

# philippine studies

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

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## **The Church in Biblical Perspective: L'Eglise De Dieu Parmi Les Hommes**

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*Philippine Studies* vol. 14, no. 4 (1968): 706–707

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Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

There are a few typographical errors which should be corrected in a future edition; for example, a line from the previous page is repeated and at least one line has fallen from the last six on page 67. Christianity is misspelled in note 31 on page 112. The jinn and the angels seem to be identified on page 41, though they are generally regarded as distinct by Muslim theologians.

The book is required reading in any study of the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra aetate*) of Vatican II. It is highly recommended to all who are interested in ecumenical and inter-cultural problems.

THOMAS J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, S.J.

## THE CHURCH IN BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

L'EGLISE DE DIEU PARMIL LES HOMMES. LE SENS SPIRITUEL DE VATICAN II. By M. M. Philipon, O.P., Paris: Desclee de Brouwer, 1964. 240 pp.

P. Philipon, a *peritus* at Vatican II, is a specialist in the field of the theology of the spiritual life, well-known for his studies on St. Therese of Lisieux, Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity and Dom Mar-mion. In this work he gives us an essay on the ecclesiology of Vatican II. Its subtitle, *le sens spirituel de Vatican II*, indicates the perspective the author takes. He has tried, he says in his preface, to trace the major themes of the interventions made during the Council, and to give us a synthetic orientation, at once doctrinal and spiritual.

The book's point of departure is the central idea in the splendid address with which Paul VI opened the second session of the Council: the church desires a deeper understanding of herself, a renewed realization of her life and her mission. Vatican II was not a council convened to formulate dogmatic definitions or to pronounce anathemata; it was a Council with an overriding pastoral intent: doctrine was to be given as the word of life. Hence the Council's stress on the Church as the great biblical images present her—as God's rule and kingdom, as God's family, His only people, as Christ's body; on the Church seen within a full biblical perspective, a perspective fully integrating the contributions of the liturgical, patristic, theological and ecumenical renewals of the last few decades, as well as a renewed appreciation of the riches of the theological traditions of the Eastern Churches; on an ecclesiology with thoroughly trinitarian, christocentric and eucharistic dimensions.

P. Philipon touches on all the major topics of *Lumen Gentium*: the Church as mystery, as the implantation of the trinitarian life in mankind; the Church as God's people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood; the hierarchy within the total ecclesial framework; the lay christian as son of God and sharer in Christ's threefold mission; the call to holiness which is the vocation of each christian, and the meaning of the religious life in its fivefold aspect (theocentric, christiform, apostolic, ecclesial and eschatological); ecumenism; Mary in the Church.—The chapter on the hierarchy, the most developed one in the book (pp. 91-165), treats of Christ's invisible presence in the Church, the primacy, the sacramentality of episcopal consecration and the collegiality of the episcopate, the priesthood and the diaconate: it is an excellent commentary on Chapter III of *Lumen Gentium*. Of this particular chapter one reviewer has noted: "It is a perfect commentary: everything that needs to be pointed out in the chapter is pointed out, and there is always an admirable sureness of doctrine."

The publishers tell us that P. Philipon was a member of the commission which worked on the text of *Lumen Gentium*. This should serve as an additional recommendation for a book which merits translation into other languages. Those who have read the author's *The Sacraments in the Christian Life* will want to read this new work also. For all who desire a better understanding of *Lumen Gentium*, this book will be of real value.

C. G. ARÉVALO, S.J.

## WHAT IS THE PRIESTHOOD?

THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD ACCORDING TO THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH. BOOK II: PAPAL DOCUMENTS OF PIUS XII. Edited by Monsignor Pierre Veuillot. Translated by John A. O'Flynn. Westminster, Md.: Newman Press, 1964, 302 pp.

Thirty-seven documents of Pope Pius XII make up the contents of this volume, Book II of the English translation of *Notre Sacerdoce*. The first two volumes of the original French edition were published in 1954; the present work takes up where the first book of the English edition leaves off, and gives us texts of Pius XII from 13 April 1954 (a letter from Monsignor Montini, then pro-Secretary of State, to the national congress of the Union of Catholic Works of France, on preaching) till 19 October 1958 (a discourse prepared by the pope for the 50th. anniversary of the seminary of Apulia, but which death prevented him from delivering).