

# philippine studies

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## **Sunday Epistles: That We May Have Hope by William A. Donaghy, S.J.**

Review Author: J. J. Kavanagh

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After World War II" by Karl Thieme; "Catholicism and the German Public" by Otto B. Roegele; "The Catholic Church in England" by M. A. Fitzsimons; "The Church in Latin America" by Peter Masten Dunne, S.J.

The editors protest that they have not tried to compose a reference work. Nevertheless they have certainly made available information and principles on a great variety of topics, which the index will help the student of contemporary Catholicism to utilize quickly.

LEO A. CULLUM

## SUNDAY EPISTLES

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THAT WE MAY HAVE HOPE. By William A. Donaghy, S.J. The America Press, New York. 1954. Pp. 205. \$3.50.

The fourth chapter of the work here reviewed concludes with the following paragraphs:

In his *Book of Miracles*, Saint Gregory of Tours has a charming story suited by its simplicity to the season. There is a well, he says, at Bethlehem, where Our Lady drew water; and if the faithful gather round it, a linen cloth over their heads, "to such as are clean of heart, the same star appears that was seen by the Magi." Many may look, but only the worthy see.

Deep as a well is the human heart; and if you look into your own with the cloth, signifying that recollection which shuts out the glamor and clamor of the world, over your head, you may see in the deeps the star which only the worthy behold, the star which leads to Jesus and Mary.

Since Gregory is a saint, and Father Donaghy, if not a saint, (since we do not wish to anticipate the judgment of the Church), is at least a borrower himself, we may reasonably hope for ready pardon if we borrow a bit of their imagery. It is quite apposite. For "deep as a well," and often quite as dark, are the epistles of the Sunday Masses, with which this book is concerned. Their rich content is all too frequently out of sight and out of reach of the ordinary reader. One needs assistance to see the star shining in their depths; help to draw from them their revitalizing message. It is just such aid that Father Donaghy provides in these pages.

The book bears the sub-title, "Reflections on the Epistles for the Sunday Masses and Some of the Feasts." It contains fifty-eight inspirational essays. Each averages three pages in length, and either elaborates on the general meaning of the epistle, or points a practical lesson based on a pregnant phrase from the text.

It is not a book to be read through in one sitting. Its pace is a chapter a week. The Catholic layman, who before or after Sunday Mass, with missal open near him, reads the pertinent chapter each week, will invariably find a thought to ponder over for the good of his soul, and will have his understanding of the day's epistle deepened and enriched. The busy priest faced with the inexorably recurring Sunday sermon may discover just the kind of priming needed now and then to start the fountains of his own eloquence flowing free.

The author was recently appointed Rector of the Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts. But it is not the Rector's hand that appears in these pages. It is rather that of the spiritual director and the English scholar. Before his appointment as Rector, Father Donaghy had been director of retreats in New England, professor of English at Holy Cross, and contributor to the Catholic weekly, *America*. Frequent and familiar contact with souls has enabled him to pack much spiritual fruit into very brief compass, and through a truly remarkable command of English he can propose that fruit in most palatable form. His clear, flowing colorful prose is a delight to read,

Although any and every class of reader can profit much from reading this book, the language and allusions of the author are such that only readers with the equivalent of a college education will appreciate it fully.

J. J. KAVANAGH

## JESUIT FOUNDER

OBRAS COMPLETAS DE SAN IGNACIO DE LOYOLA. Edición manual. Transcripción, introducciones y notas del P. Ignacio Iparra-guirre, S.J., con la *Autobiografía de San Ignacio*, editada y anotada por el P. Cándido de Dalmases, S.J. — Madrid, Biblioteca de autores cristianos, La Editorial Católica. 1952. Pp. 1075. 85 pesetas.

In reviewing this book in *Revue d'Ascétique et de Mystique*, (29:1952, pp. 70-72) the late Ferdinand Cavallera of Toulouse, the well-known authority on the history and theology of spirituality, remarked that he did not think that "there has been until now a volume of this kind on St. Ignatius and his writings, nor has there been one presented with equal masterliness." Anyone who takes up this manual will realize what riches it makes available to those interested in the person and teaching of Ignatius of Loyola. There is no excuse now for not knowing the founder of the Society of Jesus; in these 1075 pages we have "the essential Ignatius."