

# philippine studies

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**His Heart in Our Work**

**Edited by Francis L. Filas, S.J.**

Review Author: Samuel R. Wiley

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Even those long familiar with the Chinese terms will often find it worrisome to decipher these strange readings into the equivalents they commonly know and use today. To remedy this inconvenience, the translator has added a valuable index containing the word-forms as they appear in the text along with their modern spelling. I am afraid, though, that not all will have the patience to turn back frequently to this appendix in search of the recognizable sounds. Is not the simpler solution to give us, in the body of the narrative itself, a current "romanization" that corresponds to the language of the book? All the more so in that, for place names, the official Postal Guide employs a standard English phonetization for international usage.

Of such superb excellence is this volume, however, that we can afford to overlook a small slip of this kind.

FRANCIS A. ROULEAU

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HIS HEART IN OUR WORK. Edited by Francis L. Filas, S. J.  
The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. 1954. Pp.  
x-192. \$2.75.

A fresh spotlight illuminating the changeless verities against the back-drop of modern living is ever a welcome and indeed necessary stimulus to spiritual growth. This is precisely the effect intended by Fr. Filas in editing this collection of spiritual essays. Taken from articles that appeared originally in the now-defunct quarterly bulletin of the League of Sacerdotal Sanctity, *Alter Christus*, these "reflections", otherwise disparate in content, find a unity in their common purpose, the sanctification of the priest.

While no particular logical order is followed, still there is hardly a facet of the priestly apostolate which is not touched upon. Topics range from the theological and devotional to the practical and pastoral. The title of the book is taken from the first essay, written by Fr. William F. Kelly, S. J. Scattered through the forty-five succeeding articles are such interest-arousing titles as: *The Priest and Little Children*; *Some Laymen Look at the Clergy*; *Christmas and the Priest*; *The Liturgical Apostolate Among One's Acolytes*; *Taking a Trip?*; etc. These alone should be sufficient to whet the interest of even the busiest *cura parroco*, were they not further buttressed by the renown of the contributors themselves, a veritable roster of Jesuit preachers and writers whose life work has been

dedicated to the intellectual and spiritual formation of the clergy. The names of T. Lincoln Bouscaren, Adam C. Ellis and Gerald Kelly are known throughout the English-speaking world for their contributions to Moral Theology and Canon Law. Fr. Francis X. McMenamy, for many years Instructor of Tertians in the Jesuit Provinces of the mid-west, was a moving spirit in the League of Sacerdotal Sanctity. Fr. James J. Daly, ever urbane and delightful, is particularly felicitous when addressing his fellow priests on the dignity of their calling. Seven essays in this collection are from his fertile pen, and they might well serve as models for conferences to the clergy.

Coming from authors so distinguished, it is not to be wondered at that their contributions are not only timely and stimulating but also theologically solid. This is especially characteristic of the well-developed article of Fr. O. M. Cloran, entitled, *Life Focused in the Mass*. From the same author comes an excellent Examination of Conscience for priests which forms an appendix to the essays. Indeed it is this inspiration drawn from theological realities basic to the faith and continually operative in his ministry that will appeal strongly to every priest. More than that, each topic is calculated to arouse him to a truly *effective* apostolate, if perchance he has let routine dim his vision of the wondrous potentialities of his priestly powers.

All this does not lead us to conclude that here we have discovered a great spiritual book. Nor in our opinion was it ever intended to be presented as such. A certain unevenness both in style and content has resulted almost inevitably, one might say, from the diversity of authorship. This fact would not escape even the casual reader. Nevertheless we would not hesitate to recommend this book to all who are engaged in the apostolate but especially to seminarians and priests; the latter will find it a spiritual concoction which can either be sipped with quiet savor during the leisure moments of the yearly retreat, or taken in occasional draughts as the spiritual "pause that refreshes" in the distracting round of parochial duties.

SAMUEL R. WILEY

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