

exists between the preacher and the congregation that confides in him'. These are the opening words of the introduction. Mgr Guardini goes on to say that as a result his words appearing in print may very well lose some of their vital quality. I think that this is true, and that they inevitably do. To those who know Mgr Guardini well it may well appear obvious that it really is to them that he is talking, and they may feel that relationship truly present. Those who have read much of his writings will feel that they are being addressed by a familiar friend. Few, I fear, however, will feel that it is really to them or with them that he is speaking—this despite a beautiful freeness of manner and naturalness of expression.

The author does not set out to prove anything, but rather to leave behind an impression, one which should give the deep realization that God is not a history-book autocrat demanding a particular code of behaviour, but a living and loving God. He does this in a dozen addresses not following on one from another, but rather encircling and pervading his subject. With the reservation made above, he has done this very beautifully. The translation is not consistently satisfactory. Words are used sometimes in a way that is not really possible in English. The word 'Providence' is a striking example. Apart from this blemish, the translation is pleasant and easy.

In *The Rosary of Our Lady* the author would wish to lead his reader into 'a world filled with tranquil life, a world in which he would meet, serene and benevolent, the holy images of faith'. This, he admits, is beyond his power; 'so I have substituted my thoughts'. His thoughts are indeed filled with tranquil life, and may be able to help some of the less tranquil among his readers in their approach to this great prayer. Objectively, however, this section of this book is slight; but at any rate it helps bring up the number of pages to a publishable figure.

G.R.H.

THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD: Papal Documents from Pius X to Pius XII. (Gill and Son, Dublin; 35s.)

*Notre Sacerdoce* is a collection, in two volumes, of the teaching of the popes of the present century on the priesthood—the second volume being devoted entirely to Pius XII. Its compiler is Monsignor Pierre Veuillot, an official of the Vatican Secretariate of State, and Archbishop Montini, who at that time was in Rome, wrote a preface for it.

The collection of papal documents has been put into English by three Maynooth professors (Rev. John A. O'Flynn, in collaboration with Rev. P. Birch and Very Rev. G. Canon Mitchell) and published in one volume by Messrs Gill under the title of *The Catholic Priesthood*. One effect of the fact of the French being in two volumes is that the

numbering of the pages and paragraphs in the English version begins again at 1 where the second volume of the French begins. It might perhaps have been better not to have done this, but it cannot be denied that *The Catholic Priesthood* has been most carefully edited and arranged or that its price is quite reasonable for a book of nearly seven hundred pages.

One of the great merits of this book is that it has been excellently indexed, as all books of this kind should be. Besides a Scripture index, an index to canons of the Code and a chronological index of Pontifical documents (whether contained in the body of the text, quoted in the text or in the notes, or merely referred to), there is a most useful analytical index of more than forty pages. This last index adds greatly to the value of the book and will help readers to derive much more profit than they otherwise would from the documents quoted.

The analytical index is well balanced by Mgr Vuillot's introduction. This not only states the purpose of the book and the limits which the compiler set himself but also gives a brief synthesis of the teaching to be found in the documents. This synthesis is in the form of a summary of the teaching of individual Popes, with references to the documents, and an indication of what is the main characteristic of the teaching of each Pope. Many a reader will welcome this introduction as they will the thoughtful preface of Archbishop Montini.

'It was felt, however', says the compiler, 'that the primary task was not to undertake analysis or comment; one should not come between the reader and the words of the Vicar of Christ' (p. xxii). In accordance with this, the main part of the book gives without comment what the Popes of the twentieth century have said to men of the twentieth century about the priesthood. The papal teaching is presented in an excellent translation, in numbered paragraphs and with sufficient headings and sub-headings. Nothing interferes with the text—all extraneous comment and matter being consigned to the foot-notes. These notes are a mine of information and should be a great help to the student.

'We have been surprised', said Mgr Vuillot, 'by the abundance of the papal documents on the priesthood.' And anyone looking casually through this book will also be surprised, especially if he realizes that many quotations have been omitted because they were outside the scope of the book. The main traditional teaching of the Church on the nature, qualities and mission of the priesthood is contained here together with very many new applications of the essential teaching to the changed ways of life of the present age and to its new and complex problems. That the priesthood is one of the main preoccupations of the papacy of the present time is to be seen not only from the number of times that the Popes talk or write about the priesthood but also

from the many different occasions they use for that purpose. Thus in 1947, the year of the *Mediator Dei*, Pius XII had something to say about the priesthood in an exhortation to the clergy on the occasion of the canonization of St Joseph Cafasso and again in a discourse for the canonization of St Louis-Marie Grignon as well as in a radio message to the Eucharistic Congress at Nantes. Again, in 1951, the discourse to the parish priests and Lenten preachers of Rome, the Encyclical *Evangelii praecones*, discourses to the Carmelite Order and to the first world congress of the lay apostolate have valuable teaching on the priesthood. In season and out of season, the modern Popes have explained what the priesthood is and exhorted priests, those who wish to be priests and those who choose and train the priests to be, to live up to this teaching.

Canon Masur's *The Diocesan Priest*, recently reviewed in THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT, is, of its nature, a book written about the priesthood from one angle (though it also contains much of universal application). Other books of recent years have dealt with the same subject in a more universal way, but without the authority that inevitably belongs to any written or spoken statement of the Popes. Here, in *The Catholic Priesthood*, is to be found the loving care and watchfulness of successive Vicars of Christ for the priests under their charge. It is to be found, thanks to the compiler and translators, in a most manageable form and it is to be hoped that the book is given the welcome and the study that it deserves.

J. CONNELLY

FISHERS OF MEN. By Maxence van der Meersch. (Geoffrey Chapman, 5s. 6d.)

*Fishers of Men* has now been produced in a cheap edition. It is a novel about the struggling establishment of the Jocist movement as seen through the eyes of Peter Mardyck, a young worker in Roubeaux in the north of France, near the Belgian border.

It is described as a tribute to the Young Christian Worker movement. From the last chapter it appears also that the hero is to be seen almost as an exemplar to the movement, an ideal figure.

The novel describes graphically the typical industrial malaise which existed before World War II. It describes well the sufferings and trials of a young worker trying to be guided by Christ and set in the middle of gross physical industrial dirt and gross moral industrial depravity. The evils of employers and workers, and the ineffectiveness of a moribund Christianity in face of them, are well portrayed. They parallel to a great extent the conditions in England and the conditions which explain, as a background, much of modern industrial strife. They are the things which are looked back to and which are salient even to the minds of workers who are too young to have experienced