

comprehensive knowledge of the Catholic faith which would go far to bring conviction.

*Thoughts At Mass* is the second part of Fr Edward Quinn's reflections for each Sunday and Holy Day. A pocket sized book containing outsize thoughts based on a verse or two taken from the introit, epistle and gospel of the mass. It is not a 'devotional manual' to be read during mass but the three reflections are short enough to suit a few minutes before mass begins, though the ideal would be a thoughtful reading during the week.

*La Vie Sacramentelle* is a very systematic course of short concise meditations on the sacraments, related to appropriate groups of Sundays. The author has a flair for highlighting the obvious and giving the reader a salutary come-uppance when he thinks he is sailing along comfortably enough in well-charted waters. Well worth the trouble of translating even by the semi-proficient linguist.

In *Seasons of Grace* Fr Parsch gives us a collection of a year's sermons preached on the theme of sanctifying grace. They are as easy to read as they must have been heart-warming to hear, as we move Sunday by Sunday round the liturgical cycle with the preacher bringing forth new things and old from the vast storehouse of his liturgical knowledge, love of scripture and intense pastoral zeal.

The lay-reader in this country may be a little surprised to read such a sentence as, 'We are the brides of God,' applied to all the faithful, when he thought perhaps that such a prerogative belonged only to nuns. And since Mr Evelyn Waugh referred to the 'priesthood of the laity' as a cant phrase, Fr Parsch's insistence that grace is a sharing in Christ's high-priesthood may be another stumbling block. Even so there are in these sermons such hosts of fresh ideas and new angles of thought that these small embarrassments to British inhibition will be crowded out. Throughout the sixty-four sermons the note struck is the same as that in the books already mentioned, one of hope, of sustained confidence in God and in Jesus Christ the source of grace, who became man to draw us all into the transcendent principle of all unity—the life of the Trinity.

SR FELICITY, P. C. C.

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES, by C. K. Barrett; Clarendon Press, 12s. 6d.

Here is the first of a new non-Catholic series of concise Bible commentaries—the *New Clarendon Bible*, based on the text of the New English Bible—which is intended gradually to replace the older *Clarendon Bible* series based on the Revised Version. It is aimed at candidates taking G.C.E. 'A' level, and other serious students as well as the general public. The present volume is a competent commentary on the Pastoral Epistles (i.e. those to Timothy and Titus), which should prove useful to all apart from advanced scholars. Though based on the New English Bible text, it offers sound textual criticism, but without going into what for most people would be wearisome detail. The main emphasis, however, lies on interpretation, as the blurb justifiably points out. In addition to the

commentary itself, there is an introduction dealing with the usual problems of date, authorship, etc., and with the theology underlying the epistles. Professor Barrett finds it 'difficult to think that the Pastoral Epistles were put into the shape in which we read them by Paul himself'. He accepts certain passages as probably the apostle's own, but Barrett, in common with many others, believes these to have been incorporated about the end of the first century into the pseudonymous letters known to us. Although he confesses that 'the Pastorals cannot be said to be one of the more exciting parts of the New Testament', he rejects the frequent Protestant tendency to treat them merely as 'Church tracts'. Instead he insists that they are 'part of the scriptural conversation between the Holy Spirit and the Church'. Physically, this book is outstanding value at 12s. 6d., and a credit to the publishers. It is a well laid-out commentary, in which printing, paper, and cover are all of high quality, and there are a few well chosen photographs. Other publishers please note!

ROBERT SHARP, O.P.