

have nothing excluded from the kingdom of Heaven, not even cats. Paradoxically enough one is edified by the strength she gave to others, but this is because we believe the grace of God may work outside ordinary channels.

GERARD MEATH, O.P.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SAINT: *Thérèse of Lisieux*. Translated by Ronald Knox. (The Harvill Press; 21s.)

The content of this volume has become a spiritual classic and hardly needs any comment, but it was written in French by a simple French girl. It is virtually impossible to catch the exact mood of the French in a translation, just as the language of Shakespeare cannot be translated into any other language. Mgr Knox has got as near as seems possible to the impossible. Nevertheless there are moments when inevitably he has failed. The mentality and mode of expression of this young but nevertheless great saint is so much her own and so French that it can only be captured in the original. We must, however, be very grateful to Mgr Knox for this excellent effort, especially as it gives us the full text of the original. All who are in any way interested should have this volume.

DOMINIC SIRE, O.P.

LE PÈRE JACQUES. By Michel Carrouges. (Editions du Seuil.)

The days are over when the biography of a holy person must of necessity be a chain of piously interpreted events. Here is the story of a very forceful character of our own times told with directness. Everybody did not like him—and why should they? Perhaps the characteristic of this man was his uncompromising nature and yet his essential charity in his dealings with other men. The latter part of his life was utterly selfless and surely brings home to us that sanctity is not a thing of the past and can be attained even in the most adverse circumstances: in fact was perhaps helped by the very adversity he met. As a straightforward narrative of an undoubtedly holy priest and religious it is interesting reading, especially when set in present-day or almost present-day conditions.

DOMINIC SIRE, O.P.

THE CONQUEST OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. By John of the Angels, O.F.M., tr. by Cornelius J. Crowley. (Cross and Crown; \$3.95; Herders; 32s.)

This series of dialogues between a Franciscan religious and his spiritual director, written in the early sixteenth century, would form an excellent basis for retreat subjects, or it would be suitable for use as a meditation book for those who have put themselves in the path of

perfection. The first dialogue deals with the precept of love, and the disciple opens it by stating that, if the desire to be perfect were perfection, he would be most perfect in every kind of virtue, because he had spent all his life in good desires and intentions. Here is the common ground: but, whereas it is the exception rather than the rule for us to meet a disciple pursuing, with the same or progressive standards of integrity, the counsels of perfection until the end, here we are gripped by the possibilities of the way for those who will not give in. There is sound reading in Fray John's approach to the four entrances to the kingdom (through the passage of amendment of life), humility, self-abnegation, suffering, and the passion and death of Christ. The master takes the disciple through the inescapable paths to perfection, using simple language and simple example; a soul who wishes to find *all* must leave *all*: sound doctrine set out in the first chapters. And we are taken through to the end, where the disciple finds himself in the kingdom of God while still in the flesh, as if he had said he had so arranged the affairs of his kingdom that, although he had many cares and obligations, they did not take his attention and intention from God, who was always in his soul. A solidly helpful book.

K. J. BARTLETT

EVE AND MARY. By Peter Thomas Dehau, O.P. (Herder; 30s.)

Deeply Thomistic and highly original, this long meditation on our Lady, quaintly expressed, indifferently translated, scintillates with memorable flashes of insight. Its theme is annunciation—angels' visits, decisive and crucial, linking the chapters of the story of heaven and earth.

The fallen angel brings death to Eve, and through her to all; the angel Gabriel brings life to Mary, and through her to all. The meaning, implication, lessons, of this parallel are brought out and developed. Other annunciations, including the temptation of Christ by Satan and the (non-angelic) annunciation of sorrow to Mary at the first dolour are considered, but the Eve-Mary parallel is the main theme and makes the book almost a necessity for those who seek an adequate understanding of this great patristic principle. But the book is a theological meditation rather than a thesis. Casual, conversational, sometimes rambling presentation of a hundred and one reflections, all connected with the theme, gives originality and character to what might have been a mere didactic treatment of a well-worn subject.

The place of women in the divine economy is repeatedly stressed and may be thought by some readers to be too heavily traditional and even unimaginative.