New Blackfriars

A Monthly Review October 1971 25p

Liturgy & Impersonality
Fergus Kerr, O.P.

Priesthood and the Synod

1. Edward Quinn

2. Owen Hardwicke

Priest and Socialism in Chile
Maruja Echegoyen

Shaftesbury and the 'Papal Aggression'
Ronald Pearsall

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In this issue

Fergus Kerr, O.P.

quotes a study of Scottish ballad-singing: 'Harry sang . . . as if sure of understanding and sympathy from his audience. There was no need for personal invitation. . . Consequently, he himself faded out of the song as he sang it. The ballad needed only to sing itself. Sandy, on the other hand, sang as if unsure of his audience. He had to invite people to listen, to cajole them by deprecation, to nudge at their attention.' He makes this the starting point for a critique of some of the assumptions we have come to make about 'personal response' in the liturgy, and he goes on to explore the role of symbolism in human living.

Priesthood

This month the Synod of bishops meets in Rome to consider, amongst other things, the role of the priest. The Synod's preliminary 'working paper' has already been criticized throughout the world. We offer two English assessments:

Fr Edward Quinn

finds the appeal to eschatology in the document shallow and unhelpful: 'Celibacy is said to provide an "eschatological witness" not so much because the priest is intent on the breaking in of the kingdom on the world as because he is regarded as a kind of visitant from another world.'

Fr Owen Hardwicke

writing as a 'worker priest', argues that we have moved disastrously from the idea of ordination to the Christian ministry to the idea of incorporation into a clerical caste.

Maruja Echegoyen

a Uruguayan journalist, provides a different perspective on priesthood from Latin America. She reports on a conference of priests concerned with the task of building socialism in Chile.

Ronald Pearsall

reminds us how easily an irrational anti-Catholicism can warp the political judgement of the best-intentioned Englishmen—an article especially recommended to readers of the liberal press.

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Henry Wansbrough: The New Testament Christological Hymn.

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