

the Council of Trent until the present day. Mention, of course, is duly made of the part the Society played in propagating the devotion. The book is rounded off by a number of papal documents (thoughtfully translated) relevant to St Joseph, by a comprehensive enumeration in chronological order of all papal documents from 1479, and by an accessible reference table and index. In this book Fr Filas makes a helpful contribution to the fuller appreciation of the foster father of our Lord. Data from many and different sources have been collated (on this score alone the book meets and fulfils a longfelt gap); altogether a highly acceptable account of devotion to St Joseph.

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THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP. By Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (S.C.M. Press; 9s.)

This book might be not unfairly described as an attempt to analyse the nature of the Christian life, in the light of certain essential texts in the Synoptic Gospels, and to seek the development in the Epistles of St Paul. It is significant that St John is left out of the account. The author, of whom an interesting Memoir is given at the beginning of the book, was executed at a Concentration Camp in Germany on 9 April 1945. He was one of a group of brave men who deemed it their duty to work for the defeat of their own country, who considered it less important that Germany should be defeated than that Christian civilisation should be destroyed. It was a terrible choice for a true patriot to make, but it was a choice entirely in harmony with the uncompromising Christianity displayed in these pages.

For a Catholic the main value of the work will lie in its genuine moral insight and its unmistakable sincerity. However remote such a distinction as that here made between 'cheap' and 'costly' grace may seem, from the methods of Catholic theology, we can recognise and accept the moral doctrine which arises out of it, even though our expression and our emphasis would be slightly different.

We are sorry however that this book should show so little understanding of the 'Catholic mind'. It is not true that the distinction between precept and counsel implies a 'double standard' *tout court*, and a small exercise of Christian patience is called for when we find Monasticism and a 'flight from the world' still being coupled together. Even more disturbing is the phrase 'The essence of Christian prayer is not the vague adoration of mysticism'. No doubt time would have eliminated these defects in a soul as sincere and truth-loving as Pastor Bonhoeffer; but time was denied him, and in his heroic death he has surely passed to the Vision in which all problems are resolved.

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