

## EDITORIAL

**T**HE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT has just entered its fourteenth year of separate life, since it ceased to be simply a supplement to BLACKFRIARS; it is of an age at which some assessment of its purpose is in order. It began as a journal concerned with mystical and ascetic theology, and the religious life, but while it has never ceased to be interested in these matters, it has necessarily somewhat widened its scope down the years, to include theology in the widest sense. This means the understanding of that faith which every Catholic shares, and especially as it is expressed in scripture, the liturgy, and the Fathers. The need for such a treatment is beyond question. Humanly speaking, the survival of the Church in the modern world depends on a real and living appreciation of these things by every one of her members, by lay people as much as by priests and religious, and this in turn means that theologians must be ready to express their ideas in a language that all can understand, yet without any loss of precision, any over-simplification of content, any 'talking-down' to people. These are the lines along which we hope the review will continue to develop.

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 CHURCH AND COUNCIL

HENRY ST JOHN, O.P.

**A**S yet we know nothing in detail of the agenda, doctrinal and disciplinary, for the deliberations of the Vatican Council to be convoked in the near future by Pope John XXIII. These no doubt will be made known to us as the Commissions go forward during this year with their preparatory work. We can however take the coming Council as a symbol, as all its predecessors have been, of the historical development of the Church's life and teaching. It is a symbol of what may be called the *togetherness*, in doctrine and life, of all the parts of which the Mystical Body of Christ in the world is made up. Another word for this might be the *conciliarity* of the Church; both of these are clumsy words for what they are here used to express, namely