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little book, somewhat in the manner of the mediæval mystery play, teaches the great Truth by means of words and pictures that present simultaneously several realms of reality. In all there are over thirty illustrations by Joseph Speybrouck. Each one depicts some part of the Mass, while the upper portion of the illustrations gives a picture symbolizing the doctrinal or scriptural significance of the particular liturgical act. A small insert on each of these illustrations serves to elucidate such rubrics as the washing of hands, the kissing of the altar, filling the chalice, the fraction, and the various blessings.

The illustrations find a fitting complement in the simple and direct text of Dom Gasper Lefebure, who is already well known in this country as an authority in liturgical matters.

Though this book is simple enough to serve as a child's textbook, it is rich in matter drawn from the Church's treasure-house of knowledge, and the reader, whether young or old, is instructed by the Scriptures, the Councils, and the more general experience of the Church Militant, as exemplified in the Saints. He becomes acquainted with Dogma, Church History, the Fathers and Doctors, together with Liturgical origins and developments. The inner connection between all these factors is ably demonstrated in such a way, that the Liturgy is seen in the light of its true significance in the Divine Plan for the Christian's life.

There is no English book having the same scope. A translation would widen the range of this excellent manual's very good influence.

P. TOWNS.

BIOGRAPHY

BLESSED JULIE BILLIART. By Sister Frances de Chantal, S.N.D.
(Longmans; 7s. 6d.)

An extremely capable biography of the foundress of the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Julie occupies a very interesting place in history of human sanctity, for rarely has a life of contemplation been a life of such intense action in Catholic apostolate. Her genius can best be measured by the immense and lasting effect of the work she laid down as the task of her institute. Like all great souls she won her success through much tribulation. Suffering of all kind was her lifelong portion. Her happy childhood was turned into one of sorrow by the loss of nearly all worldly goods by the robbery of her father's shop, a robbery which rendered the family almost destitute, so that Julie had to find work in the fields at harvest time, and after that she travelled the district to

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sell portions of her father's remaining shop goods. She also found time to work at embroidery for the Church, and her skill in this was due in no small measure to the lessons she received from her friends the Carmelite nuns of Compiègne, who were soon to become the most celebrated martyrs of the French Revolution. Julie herself only just escaped this fate. But God had reserved her for another work. When in the quiet years of 1770 she was busy sewing in this holy company, how little did either she or they think that many years later in the same week in May, 1906, they would be raised to the altars of the Church, Julie as a virgin and foundress, they as virgins and martyrs. In 1774 Julie's second great cross was laid on her shoulders, that of long years of terrible physical sufferings. This illness began with over-work and physical strain, but was brought to a crisis by the attempted murder of her father one evening in the winter of that year. She was seated at his side sewing when the murderer fired through the window which he had first broken by hurling through it a great stone. The shock of this attack brought on slowly but inexorably an almost complete paralysis of her limbs. It was in this condition that she first planned her institution, gathered her first companions, and in the same paralysed state she was carried to safety in a rough farm cart, covered over with some dirty straw.

By a miracle, health was suddenly restored to her on June 2nd, 1804, the fifth day of a novena in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus which the Abbé Enfantin had inaugurated. "In the evening" we are told, "Julie was sitting alone in the garden when Père Enfantin came up to her: 'Mother,' he said, 'If you have any faith, take one step in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.' Julie lacked neither faith nor obedience. At the word of her confessor she instantly put her foot to the ground. 'Take another,' said Père Enfantin. Julie obeyed. 'A third. That will do. Sit down.' Julie was cured. The infirmities of twenty-two years slipped from her at the word of obedience."

Julie, however, was soon to find, like other saints, that contradictions, misunderstandings and the treason of friends made up a greater and heavier cross than all the sickness in the world; and probably, if she had been asked, she would have replied that her severest trial came from the misunderstanding that developed between her and the Bishop of Amiens, Monseigneur Demandolx. This prelate, trusting to the advice and guidance of the impetuous and unbalanced Abbé Sambucy expelled Julie from her own house at Amiens and substituted another superior in her place. Julie, he said, was in need of a lesson in humility. Julie was visiting a new foundation when she received this letter, and

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humbly submitted. The Bishop of Namur thereupon invited her to establish her mother house in his cathedral city, and this has remained the headquarters to this day. In later years the Bishop of Amiens bitterly lamented his harsh treatment of the saint, and his blindness in trusting his imprudent adviser.

To this interesting biography the author has added valuable chapters on the increase of the Order and its spread into the various principal countries of the world.

WALTER GUMBLEY, O.P.

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XI. By Monsignor R. Fontenelle. (Methuen; ios. 6d.)

This is a pleasing study of the Holy Father written in an enthusiastic style by one who has been in close contact with the Pope, and who is obviously inspired by deep and filial love for the subject of his biography. It is a study of Pius XI not as a private individual, but as the Father of all Christendom. The author takes his readers through all the historic events of the Holy Father's epoch-making reign, and in his pages they live again through the Holy Years, and see re-enacted the canonizations of St. Teresa of Lisieux, the Curé d'Ars, St. Thomas More and the other saints raised to the altars during this pontificate. The descriptions, tinged with emotion, are dazzling; and those who have never enjoyed the privilege of visiting Rome will learn something of its atmosphere from reading them. Indeed such persons may be a little overwhelmed by the richness of the pageantry set out in these pages, for the cloaks of the cardinals, the gorgeous uniforms of the Papal Guards, the myriad lights of St. Peter's, the golden copes and "the call of bells, the sound of hymns and the swinging of censers" trail their clouds of glory through almost every chapter of the book.

Yet underlying all this splendour is Pope Pius XI, the indefatigable worker, watching with anxious care over a torn and troubled world. What he has done as Father of the Church ought to be known and admired by all his children, for he is the Vicar of Christ, and his works are, for Catholics, works of Christ within the world. Catholic Action; a tremendous missionary impetus; really constructive work towards reunion with the East: trenchant, powerful social teaching; the Lateran Treaty; the combatting of Communism and neo-paganism, and many other works too numerous to mention, have originated or developed with our present Pope; and with all of them Monsignor Fontenelle deals in his biography.

It is a book that all should read, that all may know how much they are indebted to their common Father.

JORDAN PEARSON, O.P.