

interprets Paul VI's *Evangelii Nuntiandi* and John Paul II's *Redemptoris Missio*, or reports on the religious situation of Asia, or explores the need to enter deeply into popular religiosity for explaining the faith, or interprets the nuanced relationship between dialogue and proclamation, or repeats the truth "that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the Paschal mystery." He believes and declares, with John Paul II and Paul VI, that evangelization is "basically a matter of faith," and that "the Church exists in order to evangelize."

Fr. Kroeger possesses the experience of twenty years of actual service in the Philippines and Bangladesh. He earned a doctorate in Missiology at the Gregorian University in Rome, and a few years ago was elected Asia-Pacific Area Assistant on the Maryknoll General Council, which position now brings him into close contact with many Asian countries.

He writes clearly, specializing in shorter rather than longer paragraphs and connecting ideas with easily understood syntheses. His two chapters on the Holy Spirit in evangelization, namely, "Awakening to the Spirit" and "Led by the Spirit into the Paschal Mystery" are especially forceful.

Since the book is a compilation of the author's articles, a certain duplication is inevitable. If that fact is accepted from the start, the repetitions are not annoying and helpfully emphasize certain truths repeated.

The drive of this book will not appeal, of course, to some theologians who today reject evangelization as a kind of imperialistic cultural imposition in Asia, and explore other diverse paths. Yet even they must admit that enthusiasm for making Christ known in the world is not linked only to the European period in Asia which our age has discredited, but is rooted in Matthew's gospel (28:18-20) and in the multi-lingual and multi-cultural event of Pentecost itself.

The fact that Orbis Books in the United States and Claretian Publications in the Philippines are publishing the book simultaneously is a recommendation of its worth.

*Francis X. Clark, S.J.*

VASSULA OF THE SACRED HEART'S PASSION. By Michael O'Carroll, C.S.Sp. Belfast, N. Ireland: J. M. J. Publications, 1993. Pp. ix + 188.

THE THUNDER OF JUSTICE. By Ted and Maureen Flynn. Sterling, Va.: MaxKol Communications, 1993. Pp. 428.

Vassula's mysterious writings and locutionary experiences have led

O'Carroll to a diligent search into Catholic sources of revelation and to a joyful discovery of several important themes included in the writings, of which the four main themes are: the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Blessed Trinity and Christian Unity. This fourth theme is Vassula's recurrent reference to the urgent need for the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christians to be united as one flock under one shepherd. Vassula herself is a member of the Greek Orthodox church.

A fifth theme is a speculation about the "New Heavens and New Earth" mentioned in Revelation (21:1). O'Carroll believes that this new earth will begin when the whole world will be converted as a result of the unification of the Churches and when Russia "will lead other nations into piety and holiness."

O'Carroll stresses the need for discernment into Vassula's experiences and the meanings they may be revealing. He clarifies his own position by saying: "The truly discerning will have very considerable distrust of their own judgement; they will know that theoretical knowledge, no matter how massive, is not the key. Nor can those with massive theological learning, and insight in proportion, be ruled out."

The Flynnns are rightly concerned about the urgent need for prayer and penance mentioned in biblical sources and recalled in visionary phenomena as reported in many places all over the world from Akita to Zeitoun. In 23 scary chapters, they present a scenario of frightful chastisements, but not always with careful discernment. For example, discernment is not very noticeable in chapter 15 entitled "Satan's 100 Years: Antichurch, Antipope, Antichrist." By the innuendo on p. 248, anyone promoting the New Order of Mass (as approved by Pope Paul VI with the support of the majority of bishops at the Second Vatican Council) instead of the Tridentine Mass is claimed to be antichurch, antipope, antichrist and pro-Satan, and this claim is supposedly based on the episcopal authority of the dissenting minority and the unequivocal endorsement of Fr. Malachi Martin. There are many good things in the Tridentine Mass. Still, a decision has been made by Pope Paul VI. Does this surrender the Church to Satan as hinted in the title of chapter 15?

In his Foreword, Martin says that the Flynnns' presentation is "most accurate," "as complete as possible," "non-partisan," "clearly on the side of the angels," "solid." Perceptive readers will know how to exercise their own discernment about Martin's reliability. They may wonder whether the zeal of Marian devotees like the Flynnns is being used as a sugar coating for some carefully hidden agenda of Martin.