

Book Reviews

REDEMPTION AND DIALOGUE: READING *REDEMPTORIS MISSIO* AND *DIALOGUE AND PROCLAMATION*. Edited by William R. Burrows. Maryknoll, N. Y.: Orbis Books, 1994. Pp. x + 244.

William Burrows has edited a timely and helpful volume. *Redemption and Dialogue* contains the full documents of *Redemptoris Missio* (RM) and *Dialogue and Proclamation* (DP), an extended commentary on each, as well as nine reaction pieces and a concluding reflection. These resources, gathered into one book, provide a valuable compendium for theologians, missiologists, and field missionaries.

Part One includes an outline and full text of RM. In addition, Marcello Zago, an expert on Buddhism and Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, presents a 35-page general commentary on RM. His analysis is conveniently divided into 10 thematic sections. Zago notes that an overall approach to RM should see its "positive attitude, which dominates the document and allows it to be understood correctly" (57).

Zago manifests a thorough knowledge of RM and highlights several of its key emphases: the new modern *areopagi*, the role of the Holy Spirit, an integral vision of mission, and the call to become a church that is entirely missionary everywhere. His commentary has several exceptional sections: RM within the context of John Paul II's Pontificate (60-62); Aims and Objectives of RM (66-74); and, Motivation for Universal Mission (81-86).

Part Two contains an outline and complete text of DP with a 40-page theological commentary by Jacques Dupuis, S.J. Known widely for his work in India and Rome and for his *Jesus Christ at the Encounter of World Religions*, Dupuis masterfully presents DP and its central theological-missiological questions.

Anyone wishing to follow the Church's recent thought (Vatican II and

beyond) on religions, dialogue, proclamation and evangelization will appreciate this commentary. These 40 compact pages alone are worth the price of the book; in the opinion of this reviewer, nothing better exists to date in English on the Catholic Church's approach to these crucial topics. DP in itself is a deep, sensitive, and creative document; Dupuis' commentary richly complements DP.

Part Three bears the heading: "Views from the Field." Seven men and two women (mostly academicians) offer diverse appraisals. Their commentaries focus mainly on RM; only three authors even mention DP. Their presentations could have been complemented by the voices of engaged field missionaries, and a wider panoramic evaluation would probably have emerged.

The nine reaction pieces are truly helpful in understanding various contexts and challenges of mission around the globe; Kanjamala (India) and Leung (China) present very enlightening pieces. However, most authors do not directly engage RM or DP. Key themes of the documents (Spirituality, World Religions, Holy Spirit, etc.) find little mention in their pieces. Some authors (Magesa, Gittins) appear to begin from an "anti-foreign mission" stance. These several factors weaken this section.

The last chapter is Burrows' brief piece: "Concluding Reflections"; it explores the timeliness of RM and DP, the need for a Church-Theologians dialogue, new modes and hermeneutics for mission. Important questions are raised in an engaging manner.

Redemption and Dialogue has fine qualities to recommend it to a wide audience. An index would have been greatly appreciated. It will long serve as a mission sourcebook. It is one of "Orbis' Best" for this year.

James H. Kroeger, M.M.

THE THOUGHT OF THOMAS AQUINAS. By Brian **Davies**. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993. Pp. 391.

Some students of theology and even some professors seem unaware of the continuing interest in Thomas Aquinas that prevails in universities throughout the world. Brian Davies, an English Dominican, has authored a book that deserves the attention of professional theologians and philosophers and medievalists. Even more important: Davies' book has been written in such a way that the serious general reader can learn from it.

Davies gives a short sketch of the life and times of Aquinas, and