MARY: SHADOW OF GRACE
By Megan McKenna
Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books
Reviewed by Teodulo P. Gonzales

Mary has always been an ideal Christian to many. In extolling
her, however, her human side sometimes fades or is rendered
inaccessible. Megan McKenna, in this book *Mary, Shadow of Grace*,
makes Mary more reachable to people because of the image of
compassion that comes out of the stories. McKenna paints a picture
of Mary who can be a stranger to some people, yet be one who also
gazes upon the cross of Jesus and embraces the pain of humanity.
Mary is sensitive to the needs of others. She is like someone who
binds the wound and welcomes with warmth and hospitality those
who feel isolated and distant. Her intuition ushers in deeds of
compassion.

McKenna proposes to readers an idea of virginity rooted in
the word "*vir*" and "*virtues.*" Virtues can lead to excellence, especially
in the area of listening to God's will and sensitivity to the needs of
people.

The author deepens the idea of what it is to be feminine
without being offensive to men, or hostile, as a result of emotional
baggage. McKenna also presents a Joseph who decides to take the
higher road for Mary's sake. He could have allowed Mary to take the
full consequence of the law. Instead, like the Old Testament Joseph,
this New Testament Joseph understood dreams, the forgotten language
of God.

McKenna presents a range of human stories that reflect the
humanity of Mary: the Juggler, the Native American who went to
look for healing and who gave his water away, the "touched" old
lady, the spider woman, and many others. The stories are truly
refreshing with unexpected endings.
Why should the book be read? Because it inspires and allows readers to possess an insight of Mary. Through the stories, McKenna allows you to enter the heart of Mary, her compassion, her sensitivity to human needs. And as you do so, you hardly notice that you have also entered the heart of Jesus. Truly, Mary is a shadow of grace.

CHRISTIANITY WITH AN ASIAN FACE: ASIAN AMERICAN THEOLOGY IN THE MAKING
By Peter C. Phan
Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books
Reviewed by Aristotle C. Dy

This fascinating volume is a significant contribution by Peter Phan to the building up of a Church of Asia as opposed to a Church that is simply in Asia. This is a basic distinction that recurs in Phan’s essays as he describes how the Church has tended to simply exist in Asia without becoming a fully Asian Church.

Composed of eleven essays, Christianity with an Asian Face is organized into two parts. The first part, containing three essays, deals with methodological issues. Chapter One, “The Experience of Migration as Source of Intercultural Theology in the United States,” makes the key assertion that theology must be “inter-multicultural” in the context of recent immigrants. There are close to twelve million Asians in the United States, and they are less inclined to blend fully into American society. This reality makes the task of developing a contextualized theology even more urgent.

The second chapter expounds upon the socio-analytical, hermeneutical, and practical mediations that are necessary in this theology, while the third chapter is a dialogue with John Paul II’s Fides et Ratio as it impacts upon the philosophical heritage of Asia. The latter is very illuminating as Phan exposes the inadequacy of