

BOOK REVIEWS

(A)

TITLE: The Sorrows of Eve : Gynaecological Disorders and Related Health Problems of women.
AUTHOR: Daniel P. Essien.
PUBLISHER: Desmac Medical Ltd, Abak, Akwa Ibom State 1999.
PAGES: 367.
REVIEWER: Emmanuel Osigwe.

The Sorrows of Eve is an interesting text dealing with the gynaecological disorders and other health related problems of women. It carries with it a method and language that is intelligible even to the lay. The text has three sections and each containing many chapters.

Section one deals with basic scientific considerations it exposes some basic scientific terms and deeply explains the human anatomy. The author here examines the nature and operation of hormones secreted in the ductless glands. Chapter four of this section deals on menstruation and conception, giving their basis, causes, cultural and religious views, with even citation from the scriptures. This chapter clarifies some baseless myths and taboos associated with menstruation and conception and also exposes the stages of human development.

The second section deals with common health disorders of women such as menstrual disorder, disorder due to early conception, the problem of miscarriage, vulva disorder, the tumours of the reproductive system and the problems resulting from sexually transmitted diseases. The author carefully underscores the causes of these problems and recommends consultation with a gynaecologist and chastity as best means of proffering solutions to these problems.

The third section of this masterpiece features topical issue on women's health. The author, here, considers abortion not just as the killing of a person, but also as a destruction of body tissues and organs. According to the author, there is an urgent need for effective sex education that would help adolescents have proper vision of value and knowledge of human development.

Married couples stand to benefit more from this last section, as it further exposes the problems and solutions associated with fertility. The author here, has scholarly outlined the different aspects which contribute to marital happiness and the well being of women.

Dr. Essien's work is of immense value especially in our contemporary society. The in depth academic insight of the author

owes much to his experience in the field of gynaecology. The book is highly recommended to women who desire to understand themselves better, students of bioethics and indeed all proliferers and those who desire authentic knowledge of life.

...the second Vatican Council... ethics... especially the... were not given a free hand to study the scriptures especially as regards... This was to forgetful the transcription of the bible... The... interpretation of scriptures was considered as an exchange... under the guidance of the magisterium... However, with the opening of the second Vatican Council, a new... revealed ourselves to the will of God has been... studying and... the bible is now the duty of every Christian under the guidance of the... One of the forms of such reflection is seen in Fr. Lubomir's Bible lessons... It is the... in the bible for the... in the... the meaning of selected bible passages and the lessons to be drawn from them... This book is made up of two parts, part one deals with... from the old testament, viz. the stories of Noah, and... part two... from the new testament, viz. the stories of... and... The second part contains selected passages from the new Testament... viz. the parable of the prodigal son, the parable of... and... The author also reflects on the... of Jesus by... Fr. Lubomir's book is... for... men and women... pastoral workers, indeed every Christian who desires to... from the... of the bible would find this book very useful... The book contains many bible lessons that can be applied today to many... especially in the... where... and... all who... through the pages of the Bible lessons in life will... the... and the need for... as shown in the... (p. 63)

(B)**TITLE :** Bible lessons for life.**AUTHOR:** Rev. Fr. Dr. Donatus Udoette.**PUBLISHER:** Cecta (Nig) Ltd, New Haven, Enugu. 1997**PAGES:** 117**REVIEWER:** Ifedigbo Charles .C.

Prior to the second Vatican council, Catholics, especially the laity were not given a free hand to study the scriptures especially as individuals. This was to forestall the misinterpretation of the bible. The reading and interpretation of scriptures was considered as an exclusive duty of the clergy under the guidance of the magisterium.

However, with the emergence of the second Vatican council, a new era of renewed attention to the word of God has dawn. Studying and reflecting on the bible is now the duty of every Christian under the guidance of the church. One of the fruits of such reflections is seen in Fr. Udoette's Bible lessons for life. It is the first volume in the bible for life series. In this work, the author explicates in simple and plain language, the meaning of selected bible passage and the lessons to be drawn from them.

This book is made up of two parts: part one deals with four stories from the old testament, viz; the stories of Naboth and Ahab, Naaman the leper, Samson and Jonah. It portrays in depth the essence of the stories and lessons that could be drawn from them.

The second part contains selected passages from the New Testament, viz; the parable of the prodigal son, the stories of Zacchaeus, Ananias and Sapphira, the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the calming of the storm . The author also, reflects on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

Fr. Udoette's book is timely. This work interestingly is a resource book for Pastors of souls, seminarians, Religious men and women, and Pastoral workers. Indeed every Christian who desire to benefit more from the treasures of the bible would find this book very useful. The book contains many bible lessons that can be applied today in many life situations, especially in the Nigerian context where bribery, corruption, avarice and other vices have turned many people into "Ahabs" (p.28), and "Delilahs" (p.39). All who therefore read through the pages of the Bible lessons for life, will not fail to grasp the meaning and the need for repentance as shown in the story of the prodigal son (p.65).

THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE 13TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF NACATHS

Preamble:

The National Association of Catholic Theology Students (NACATHS) is a body that unites all the Catholic Theology Students studying in all the major Seminaries in Nigeria. It has a strong concern for the state, growth and well being of the Church. As we enter the 21st Century, there becomes apparent the need to look ahead to the future of the Church in the face of insidious perspective and violent dispositions that seem to confront her in her relationships with other religions and the all threatening proliferation of Christian Churches which has reached the level of a scandal. Hence, the delegates from 10 Major Seminaries in Nigeria had a four-day convention at the SPIRITAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, ATTAKWU ENUGU, from 28th of March to 1st of April, 2001 to reflect on the theme: **THE CHALLENGES FOR THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY**. This has the purpose of delineating these challenges and to garner and proffer some ideas as to the way forward. The theological faculties represented were: SPIRIT INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, ATTAKWU, ENUGU.

ST AUGUSTINE'S MAJOR SEMINARY, JOS.

ST JOSEPH'S MAJOR SEMINARY, IKOT EKPENE.

BIGARD MEMORIAL SEMINARY, ENUGU.

SS PETER AND PAUL MAJOR SEMINARY, IBADAN.

SEAT OF WISDOM SEMINARY, OWERRI.

NATIONAL MISSIONARY SEMINARY OF ST PAUL, GWAGWALADA, ABUJA.

ALL SAINTS MAJOR SEMINARY, OHIELE, EKPOMA

BLESSED IWENE TANSI MAJOR SEMINARY, ONITSHA.

DOMINICAN INSTITUTE, SAMONDA, IBADAN.

THE SITUATION

Our deliberations revealed that the main challenges for the church in this era are in the areas of interreligious dialogue with other, religions, especially Islam in the Nigerian context in the face of the Sharia controversy, the ever increasing proliferation of Christian churches all tracing their roots to Christ who on the contrary prayed to the father ".... That they may all be one." (Jn. 17:22). These were also considered with the backdrop of the formation of the future leaders of the Church, the priests.

The body observed that there are some cultural traits that can abet the ecumenical endeavors among Christians in the African context, such as the

festive nature of African ceremonies, the hospitality of most African societies, the all-pervading of the sacred and the sacredness of the priesthood the concept of the family and the deep sense of the community. Hence for African Christian to continue the sustenance of the splintering on credal differences tend to negate their quiddity as True Africans who have all these cultural traits. Again, it is only when Christian can unite themselves and present a single front that they can have all the force and resources they need in interreligious dialogues.

OUR SUBMISSIONS:

Our main concern is the harmonious co-existence of all as a family despite religious and credal differences. Hence, the body has the following submission:

1. Islamization in Nigeria has some political as well as selfish motives. But for any meaningful dialogue to take place, both Christian and Muslims must rid themselves of their bias and make efforts to learn from other. Though there can be dialogue, not on the basis of faith, but on the basis of co-existence. This can be done through the education of the people in the religious tolerance.
2. In the spirit of the Vatican II document, Lumen Gentium, non-Catholic and even non-Christians also participate in the salvific merits of Christ. Problems and persecutions in the past helped the spread of Christianity. So with this problem of Sharia at hand, Christians are called to become stronger and firmer in their faith, to wake up from their slumber and lukewarmness to a full expression of their faith. It is an invitation to a serious effort at ecumenism.
3. Since the Sharia in Nigeria has a very strong political motive, Christians should be encouraged to go into politics as it has become crystal-clear that political power also influences religious freedom.
4. It is clear that Christians have many good things to learn from African Traditional Religion, which can help in the solving of some Christian problems. For instance, its unity in diversity, its inclusive and accommodative nature, all challenge the ever-splintering Christianity with its internal discriminative tendencies.
5. The proliferation of churches continues to be a scandal of the unity of Christ's body. The origin of this ugly situation can be traced to an 'economic' root and need for pastoral care. These all for active participation in the works of evangelization by both the clergy and the laity in the church.
6. While we cannot deny the fact that proliferation has helped in the spread of the word of God, the doubt still remains whether the converts are given authentic Christian spirituality in these new religious sects. This fact calls

for an urgent response from the church, who should see to the keeping of her flock and the furtherance of her ecumenical objectives.

7. The proliferation of churches has continued to keep the church on her toes thereby positively creating rooms for development within the church, nevertheless, the obvious search for miracles in the 'new era' churches and their 'gospel of prosperity' is of utmost concern to all well meaning sons and daughters of the church.

CONCLUSION

We are still committed to the church that is ready to extend hands of fellowship to other denominations and religions. Hence, Christian leaders should take up the task of getting all hands on deck to get around these challenges that face the church in this new Century.

Rev. Ayodele Ayeni, C.S.Sp
(National President)

Rev. Vitalis Anusionwu C.S.Sp
(National Secretary)