

the Amish church and tradition are depicted with a candid yet sympathetic touch.

Paramount in the Amish charter are non-conformity to the world; adherence to the old and tried rather than the new in the total way of life; agrarian, rural pursuits and avoidance of urban involvement; a strong philosophy of work and thrift, involving not only the adult but the adolescent as well; accent on self-sufficiency and mutual aid with no assistance from Federal Government, and non-resistance to violence in any form.

The strongest weapon for keeping the Amish church and community intact is the practice of the ban (avoidance of shunning) of members who defect from the faith. This practice has been followed since 1693 when Jakob Ammann, the founder of the Amish group, broke away from the main stream of Swiss Brethren or Mennonites and obtained a following throughout Switzerland, Alsace, and Southern Germany.

The Amish live in approximately 60 geographic settlements in North America, with each settlement as well as each church district within the settlement differing from all the rest. By far the largest settlements are found in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana, with scattered communities westward.

The book includes a ten-page bibliography, an excellent set of photographs, a series of maps, charts, and tables, and an invaluable ten-page index. The sturdy-faced patriarch on the dust-jacket effectively sets the tone for a careful reading of this unique and objective work from the pen of a scholar who himself sprang from a long Amish lineage.

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The Holy See and the Nascent Church in the Middle Western United States 1826-1850. By ROBERT FREDERICK TRISCO. (Gregorian University Press, Piazza Della Pilotta, 4-Roma, 1962. xii, 488 pp. Bibliography. Index. \$5.80.)

The relationship of title to content in historical writing is a matter of interest and importance. Often selection of the topic or theme seems to precede the research. At the opposite extreme, the nature of the research and the data thereby accumulated seem to involve the

later finding of a suitable title. But whatever the relationship of title and content a reviewer has little reason for expecting much beyond the actual title of publication. Generally, as in this volume, the content is adequately indicated by title. Western Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh figure significantly in the story.

As, from its origin, one would naturally expect, this is a work of high scholarship. It is featured by an excellent Introduction (1-23), dealing respectively with "The Holy See," "The Middle West" and "The Nascent Church." Certainly the seven pages on the Middle West 1826-1850 could not well be improved in such a brief treatment.

Chapters I (Dioceses), II (Bishops), III (Clergy) and IV (Material Aid) are mainly institutional, possibly too much so for the non-Catholic general reader. But for all western historians they contain data and commentary of both universal and particular values.

The latter part of the volume is featured by what seems a digression. Almost one fourth of the volume is devoted to the elaboration of the story of the "Poor Clares" in America and the unfortunate career of Frederick Rese. Such attention and emphasis may seem highly injudicious to some people.

As the author has suggested there is, in this volume, conspicuous selection from a sea of material. The normal result is heavy omission of other items or features. Among them may be mentioned transportation and travel experience, the structure of religious buildings including not only churches but seminaries, schools, monasteries and convents and illustrative items of many kinds. These of course are related only indirectly to the Holy See even when the most comprehensive definition is given to that high office.

This volume has the merit of being both an excellent historical account and a valuable reference work. It is a paperbound publication, but it is well presented and well bound, worthy of a place in both public and private libraries.

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