

Review

Reviewed Work(s): *The Meaning and the Mission of Religious Life in the Local Church* by

Review by: Eugene Duffy

Source: *The Furrow*, Vol. 34, No. 6 (Jun., 1983), pp. 392-393

Published by: The Furrow

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27677670>

Accessed: 14-12-2018 12:15 UTC

---

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

*The Furrow* is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Furrow*

science involves a number of related disciplines including historical, literary, form, and redaction criticism, and more recently rhetorical and structural exegesis. If we wish to know what the biblical author meant when he wrote we will have to apply some or all of these methods to what he wrote.

Brown is at pains to point out, however, that the interpretation of the Bible concerns not only what the author *meant* but also what his work *means* today. Not that the meaning of a text for today can ever be totally detached from what it meant when it was first written but neither can it be deduced by repeating parrot fashion the interpretations of the past. There will often be a tension between the two and this tension is sometimes reflected in the tension between scripture scholars (whom Brown sees as primarily responsible for discovering what the text *meant*) and the magisterium (whose role is more concerned with what it *means*).

Later chapters take up more practical problems like the implications of a critical understanding of the Bible for priesthood, ecumenism, and episcopacy. From start to finish Brown is, as always, a delight to read. His writing is clear and concise and he invariably has the apt illustration or example to hand. What impresses most, perhaps, is the apparent ease with which he can combine an intelligent orthodoxy with a 'passionate conviction that critical biblical scholarship is not an option but a necessity, and that its results are critical for Christians, the Church, and the Churches' (Preface).

LEO O'REILLY

*Bailieborough, Co. Cavan*

**The Meaning and the Mission of Religious Life in the Local Church.** Canadian Religious Conference, Donum Dei Series, No. 26. Ottawa, 1980. Pp. 207.

This is a collection of papers, reports and reflections from the General Assembly of Canadian Religious, held in May 1980. The theme of the Assembly was: 'The Meaning and Mission of Religious Life in the Local Church'. The Assembly followed a pattern now familiar to many religious and diocesan priests. It began with an evaluation of 'Our Blessed History' (pp. 21-60), followed by an admission of 'Our Sin History' (pp. 61-82), with one final session dedicated to 'Our Hopes for the Future' (pp. 83-103). If you haven't the energy to read through the selected reports of the forty or more workshops then you will find a neat summary of their deliberations on pages 107-115. Here you will find the remark, 'We found more weariness and fatigue in continuing to count our blessings on Saturday afternoon!' The final section of the book contains the various addresses and homilies given at the conclusion of the Assembly, as well as two addresses given by Pope John Paul II to the sisters and male religious in Brazil.

It may be a document of some interest to those who have been through the Assembly 'experience' and who want to compare notes; it could also serve as a glimpse of what is to be expected by those preparing for an Assembly; and, finally, it may be useful as an indicator for some future

researcher of the renewal efforts made by religious in the aftermath of Vatican II. However, it will not fully satisfy any of these categories. The presentation of the material is poor and useful background information is totally lacking. You will, for example, have to read to p. 119 to discover that this Assembly was held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Canadian Religious Conference; you are not told where it was held; nor is there any indication of the selection of the representatives attending.

*Dunboyne House, Maynooth*

EUGENE DUFFY

## HOLY YEAR

Helpful reading in this Holy Year of our Redemption,  
25 March 1983 – Easter Sunday 1984

### WRITINGS OF THE CARMELITE SAINTS

in booklet and leaflet form, available from  
Carmelite Publications, Glenvale, Newry, Co. Down.

## DAMIAN DORR

ECCLESIASTICAL SUPPLIER

MOHILL, CO. LEITRIM

Telephone: Mohill 3

Suppliers of Altar and all classes of Church Candles

Altar Wine, Sanctuary Oil

Vestments, Clerical Stocks, Albs, Surplices & Altar Linens, Chalices,  
Ciboria and Oil Stocks, Cruets, Finger Bowls and All Glassware, Church  
Furniture, Coffin Trolleys.

Full range of Registers and Certificates always stocked

**FAST FREE DELIVERY – KEENEST PRICES**