



The Furrow  
MAYNOOTH, IRELAND

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Review

Reviewed Work(s): *On Being Catholics* by Charles Connolly

Review by: Eugene Duffy

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#### NEW BOOKS

considerations involved in setting up a Bible group. He then goes on to outline twenty-two group sessions. Knowledgeable, interesting, practical. Going into the Bible world is like going into a strange country. Going through the book I felt like an itinerant, following the author's signposts. He starts with Jonah and stops at good places. Sometimes on big roads, sometimes on by-roads. Places of light, of shelter, of water. Skirmishes with sickness, trouble and tragedy. Stories of shame, scandal, failure. Patches of hope, glory, resurrection.

Each session is brilliantly outlined. The author is a scholar and a teacher. An excellent book.

EDWARD CROSBY

*Galway*

**On Being Catholics.** Ed. Charles Connolly. Dublin: Four Courts Press; Houston: Lumen Christi Press. 1983. Pp. 96. Price £3.50.

This book proposes three 'right reasons' for becoming or remaining a Catholic. The reasons are the Catholic teaching on the Eucharist, the primacy and infallibility of the pope and the Assumption of Mary. The opening chapter by Michael Adams is so arrogantly and defensively written that it will scare away the most curious enquirers. One sample will suffice to illustrate the point: 'But the Catholic Church teaches dogmatically that Jesus of Nazareth is the metaphysical Son of God and is made present in the Eucharist (where he is liable to be mistreated by neglect and even abuse in churches of all kinds from adobe to marble, with spires piercing the clouds, like Cologne's, to churches underground in the modern catacombs)' (p. 15). Charles Connolly gives a very rigid scholastic presentation of eucharistic doctrine but makes only one statement about the social implications of participating in the sacrament: 'We ought to be at peace with and sincerely love our neighbour' (p. 46). He then rushes off to discuss the obligation of confessing mortal sin before receiving holy communion. The remaining two essays on the papacy and the Assumption are a slight improvement on those just mentioned.

Overall it is a very unfortunate publication in an age when there is a hunger for good Catholic writing at a popular level. This book will not satisfy such a need. One could highlight so many deficiencies in it that to do so would occupy several pages of this journal consequently giving the book a prominence it does not deserve.

EUGENE DUFFY

*Dunboyne House, Maynooth*