

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Acta Ecclesiastica Sloveniae*, 1. *Miscellanea*. Ljubljana: Teološka fakulteta v Ljubljani, Inštitut za zgodovino Cerkve, 1979. 188 pp.

Maksimilijan Jezernik, *Friderik Baraga. Zbirka rimskih dokumentov* (= *Acta Ecclesiastica Sloveniae*, 2). Ljubljana: Teološka fakulteta v Ljubljani, Inštitut za zgodovino Cerkve, 1980. 231 pp.

The comments which Dr. France M. Dolinar, as principal editor, believes should be made in introducing this new Slovene journal for church history are nothing else but appropriate, refreshingly candid, and most commendable. Slovene historiography, he confesses, has suffered for a long time from "the absence of systematic research into the church history of Slovenia."

This is not to imply that writing the church history of Slovenia has been completely ignored. Historical studies of dioceses, individual churches and monastic institutions, and of ecclesiastical art and architecture have been made. In addition, historians such as J. Mal, M. Kos, and J. Gruden have provided substantial syntheses of Slovene national history by interweaving ecclesiastical history in their accounts of Slovene political and cultural development, sometimes at the price of sacrificing the details of economic development. Some more recent historical studies, which twist Slovene history to fit Marxist economic theory, inflict a similar treatment on Slovene church history. The gaps in Slovene church history, furthermore, are not a few, considering there are no biographies of the influential Reformation and post-Reformation bishops of Ljubljana, Urban Texter, Janez Tavčar, Tomaž Hren. Accordingly, Dr. Dolinar protests, the lack of interest in history on the part of the Slovenes is hardly worth noticing: "it is only an excuse."

To fill up this glaring deficiency in Slovene historiography, a special Institute for Church History (Inštitut za zgodovino Cerkve, IZC) was established by the Faculty of Theology in Ljubljana. Its principal objective is "a systematic study of sources for all phases of Slovene church history at home and abroad," so that the Church, "one of the most important factors" in the formation of Slovene national consciousness, may be duly acknowledged and reclaimed for history as an integral part of Slovene national feeling. Whereas these

expectations are most worthy and fully consistent with the demands of historical truth, in present circumstances just plowing the field by publishing the sources of Slovene church history may well turn out to be its greatest and most fruitful service.

The first two issues of the Institute's *Acta* already show what Dr. Dolinar fondly believes subsequent issues will continue to reveal, "the richness of Slovene church history." The first volume, entitled *Miscellanea*, includes the very important document Pope Clement VII published in 1595 on conditions in the church in Styria, Carinthia, and Carniola and the steps to be taken for renewing the faith in these provinces. A related article by Ivan Škafar examines documents summarizing the missionary efforts of the Jesuits in Prekmurje, Zagreb, Graz and Varaždin from 1609 to 1730. Dr. Dolinar contributes an article high-lighting the theological differences behind the correspondence between Bishop of Herbertstein of Ljubljana and the papacy, which almost caused a schism in the Austrian church during the age of Josephinism. A fourth historical study by Bogo Grafenauer details the difficulties encountered by Bishop Slomšek in trying to re-arrange the boundaries of the diocese of Maribor (Lavant) along linguistic lines.

Volume two of the *Acta*, a research gem by itself, is devoted entirely to that saintly pioneer of the American church, Frederick Baraga. In 1968 Maksimilijan Jezernik, also an editor of the new journal, published his portrait of Baraga based on the archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith and other sources. In this monographic treatment in the *Acta*, Jezernik supplies all 84 documents which he researched, together with a bibliography of Baraga's works in the Indian languages. Besides being a companion volume to the biography, this collection of basic documents in Latin, French, English, Italian, is an invaluable handbook of source material for the missionary phase of the church in the Mid-West.

For paper quality, typography, and general appearance the first issues of the *Acta* are indeed handsome. Noteworthy features are the following: the introduction, tables of contents (appearing in front), and the summaries following each article in Slovene, German, Italian, and English. At the back of volume two there are descriptive library-type catalog cards for each article to date, both in Slovene and English, which give the respective authors' professional status and a short summary of the article, and which may be clipped for filing. Prominently displayed on the title page and on the steel-blue cover there is a Christian monogram from fourth century Emona.

*Rudolph Flanik, O. Carm, Pittsburgh, PA.*