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Review of *Worship: Praying the Sacraments* by Peter
E. Fink

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BOOKS

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and the recollection of arguments among early Anglicans helps to remind us that the Episcopal Church's current squabbles aren't so new after all. A particularly noteworthy chapter provides a thorough look at the "Great Awakening" of the 18th century, led by George Whitefield.

For all its strengths in the treatment of the colonial period, the book falls short in examining recent trends. The rise of cathedrals in the American church receives one paragraph, the ordination of women gets 2 1/2 pages, and charismatic renewal is covered in about 1 1/2 pages. Amid those cursory looks is an effective section covering the change in Books of Common Prayer.

Readers who appreciate historical anecdotes ought to enjoy such gems as the church's first bishop, Samuel Seabury, signing his name as the "Bishop of All America" (p. 89), Bishop Joseph Talbot referring to himself as the "Bishop of All Outdoors" (p. 161), and fundamentalists appearing as early as the World War I era.

The book is timely, with such personalities as Stan White, Barbara Harris and Robert Williams appearing in concluding chapters.

All in all, it is a book which should be enjoyed by students of history and Episcopalians looking for their "roots." Mr. Prichard's smooth writing is easy to understand, yet comprehensive.

DAVID KALVELAGE, editor

Context and Content

WORSHIP: Praying the Sacraments. By Peter E. Fink. Pastoral. Pp. x and 220. \$12.95 paper.

The essays in this collection were originally published over a 17-year period, and they reflect Fr. Fink's desire "to weave together not only sacramental doctrine and liturgical action, but the dimension of Christian spirituality as well" (p. viii), opening up "what the church does" liturgically to greater participation and deeper understanding by all.

Fr. Fink displays vision and clarity in his drawing together of sacramental meaning, purpose and practice. His synthesis occurs most effectively when he discusses the depth of meaning in ordinary events of life (including worship). For example, he notes that the contemporary liturgical renewal

among Christians "might well be called the rediscovery of the role of the meal in Christianity, and indeed the recovery of the Eucharist as a meal" (p. 74).

He urges that the priest is not a "quasi-divinity" but a representative of the church assembled in which Christ is sacramentally present.

Fr. Fink writes from a Roman Catholic perspective. He frequently cites Roman Catholic consiliar documents on sacraments and liturgy. Nevertheless, his essays reach far beyond the limits of denominational perspective or concern.

The essays point us toward a spirituality that is more than self-fascination. The author calls for liturgy that will keep the language of spirituality public and honest, as he calls for spirituality that will keep liturgy humble and true (p. 162).

He urges that "the public life and action of Jesus was always the context of his inward journey, and his journey inward became the content of all that he said and did" (p. 171). And, in many different ways throughout this collection of essays, he commends that same balance to us.

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Anglican Corrective

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER: Jeremy Taylor and Christian Ethics Today. By David A. Scott. Latimer Studies 38. Latimer House. Pp. 62. £ 1.75.

This is an admirable little book. Dr. Scott, a professor at the Virginia Seminary in Alexandria, writes succinctly, clearly and logically. He introduces the reader to the concept of ethics of character as developed by Stanley Hauerwas and some other contemporary writers, and he explores the strengths and weaknesses of this generally helpful approach to moral questions.

He argues that Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667) provides an important Anglican corrective and enrichment, relating ethics and moral development to human reason, to Nicene trinitarianism, to the incarnation, and to the corporate and sacramental life of the church. One does not need to be specially interested in the contemporary ethics of character school in order to find this study illuminating and helpful.

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