

RECENSIONES

J. FOX, O.P., *The personal Prelature of the Second Vatican Council: an Historical Canonical Study*. Dissertatio ad Lauream in Fac. Iuris Canonici apud Pont. Univers. S. Thomae in Urbe: vol. I (233 pp.); vol. II, Appendix: *A documentary History of the Personal Prelature*, pp. 158, Rom 1987.

J. MARTINEZ-TORRON, *La configuración Jurídica de la Prelaturas Personales en el Concilio Vaticano II*, ed. Eunsa, Pamplona 1986 (344 pp.).

Two recent works on Personal Prelatures. Each is marked by a careful study of the official documents which let to the creation of Personal Prelatures and their insertion into the pastoral organization that the Church keeps developing in fulfilment of its mission. Their particular value as reference works lies in their bringing together the documentary sources which no proper study of the subject can afford to ignore.

Martinez-Torron centres on the Council, with a brief summary of the postconciliar developments. After a first part in which he describes the pastoral organization of the Church as reflected in the 1917 Code and the post-1917 developments (pp. 29-83), he devotes detailed study to an aspect he considers fundamental for a proper understanding of these Prelatures: the proposals made by Bishops and Prelates of the whole Catholic world, regarding the specific apostolic work that can correspond to these Prelatures (pp. 87-157). Then he systematically follows the conciliar "iter", devoting a commentary to each document and placing it in proper context.

Fox has preferred to separate commentary and documents. His work is divided into two parts. In the first (231 pp.), he sets forth his personal research and considerations. The second (158 pp.) gives all the pertinent documents in due order, from the antepreparatory phase of the Council to the 1983 Code and the erection of the first Personal Prelature.

This second part contains a lot of material that will prove of special interest to the research worker, particularly the oral and written observations made by the conciliar fathers on the various drafts of what was eventually to take form in *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, n. 10. This covers the ante-preparatory stage (pp. 14ff), the several "schemata", and also the documents related to the drafting of the 1983 Code.

The two authors, on the basis of their research and the current legislation, present a clear figure of the Personal Prelatures as forming part of the pastoral organization of the Church, within its hierarchical structure, for carrying out of particular pastoral tasks.

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