

Scott HAHN, *Ordinary Work, Extraordinary Grace. My Spiritual Journey in Opus Dei*, New York, Doubleday, 2006, 155 pp.

Spiritual journeys as literary genre have become popular in recent years, especially in North American religious literature. The present book shows the reality of the Prelature of Opus Dei from the living experience of a convert, now supernumerary member of Opus Dei, whose professional work before and after being received into the Catholic Church is the study and teaching of the Bible.

The book is not a biographical testimony about the author's path from Calvinism to Opus Dei. Albeit brief references to the author's spiritual journey, Hahn's study is rather a personal reflection on his being a member of Opus Dei. Simultaneously, as a result of the reflection, the book becomes an essay about Opus Dei, from the perspective of biblical theology and biblical spirituality.

The literary style of the book is lively and vibrant. In brief chapters, the reader finds materialized in the life of a professional biblical scholar the main features of the spirit and life of Opus Dei. These are divine filiation, work, family life, apostolate, secularity, etc. Of special interest is the way of approaching each aspect from the Scriptures. It enhances the deep biblical roots of St. Josemaría's teachings, something which still needs to be further studied. An essay previously published by the author in the bulletin of the Prelature Opus Dei, *Romana*, and some prayers of St. Josemaría complete the book as appendices.

The biblical grounds of the study help to understand how the specific vocation to Opus Dei is a unifying force of the spiritual, professional and social life of an ordinary person in the middle of the world. As S. Hahn writes, St. Josemaría, in continuity with the teaching of biblical revelation, "saw creation as a great cosmic liturgy, offered to the Father by those «other Christs» in union with the Christ the high priest" (p. 9). The perception of divine filiation as the basis of the life and spirituality of Opus Dei allows for this "cosmic liturgy" and unifies the life of the faithful who share this particular vocation. That is why divine filiation is the thread which also unifies the book.

For those who already know about Opus Dei but perhaps are not particularly acquainted with the Bible, the book will prove to be very enlightening. For those who have more expertise on the Scriptures, it will be most enjoyable. For every reader it

will be a way of seeing how grace and nature work together in the living experience of a Christian.

Juan Chapa