

Shorter Notices 1017

As a brief and yet scholarly and challenging set of essays, this book will help in understanding and promotion of Pope Francis's impact—potential and hopeful—on the mission of the US Catholic Church.

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Connected toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age. By Daniella Zsupan-Jerome. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical, 2014. Pp. xv + 139. \$17.95.

In 1963 when Vatican II released its pastoral instruction on the "means of social communication," Inter Mirifica, secular and church media professionals in radio, TV, and film were among its target audiences. A 1971 pastoral instruction on social communications, Communio et Progressio, called for these professionals to take as their model the Perfect Communicator, Christ (CP 11). It called for all ministers-in-training to receive formation in the production of social communication, so that they could skillfully use communication to foster communion. Too few did. Fast forward to today's participatory culture of the twenty-first century when anyone with a smart phone can create photographs, video, and text and then instantly share it via social media. Today the communication of the Good News rests in the hands and digital devices—not only those of professional communicators, but also of ordinary people, the baptized. Zsupan-Jerome, a professor at Loyola University New Orleans, addresses this massive shift in her excellent award-winning book. Chapter by chapter, she gives readers an introduction to and a summary of key Roman Catholic teachings on social communications. Having provided this foundation, she then pivots to laying out the ecclesial challenges and opportunities of evangelization in today's Internet-connected digital culture. She points to how the church's theology of social communication has evolved and is relevant for today's conversations about communications, regardless of the medium. Unfortunately, in its evangelization efforts, the church at the local level has hardly tapped the potential of today's participatory culture. Because this book so engagingly deals with the complex matrix of communication in our digital age, this very accessible book should be required reading for all of today's ministers-in-training and pastoral leaders.

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Vying for Allah's Vote: Understanding Islamic Parties, Political Violence, and Extremism in Pakistan. By Haroon K. Ullah. Washington: Georgetown University, 2014. Pp. xiii + 251. \$27.95.

Since its creation in 1947, Pakistan has embodied the intertwined nature of religion and politics. Great Britain had developed the concept of a partitioned subcontinent in