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BOOK REVIEWS

Jared Wicks, *Investigating Vatican II: Its Theologians, Ecumenical Turn, and Biblical Commitment*, Washington DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2018. Paperback, Pages: vii + 289. ISBN 9780813230474

Catholic University of America Press has done great service in collecting together ten articles and lectures by Jared Wicks – which have appeared in various publications or were delivered as lectures since 2009 – on the personalities and interpretation of Vatican II (1962-5). Jesuit from North America, Wicks is a very learned and thoughtful scholar who lived through the council as a young priest. So the present volume is precious, representing his mature thoughts on matters that have long been central to his scholarly life.

The book's ten chapters are divided into two 'Parts'. The first, entitled "Major Figures and Aims of the Vatican II Renewal and Reform" contains five chapters with the following titles: "Tridentine Motivations of Pope John XXIII before and during Vatican II"; "Theologians at Vatican II: The Ways and Means of Their Contribution to the Council"; "Vatican II on Revelation: Behind the Scenes"; "Cardinal Bea's Unity Secretariat: Engine of Renewal and Reform at Vatican II"; and "Vatican II's Turn to Ecumenism: The Foundations Laid in 1962-64". The second part, entitled "The Council in Session (1962-65): Outcomes and Global Traits," also has five chapters, four of which are devoted to individual years of the council: "Vatican II in 1962: Taking Hold of Pope John's Council Goals"; "Vatican II in 1963: Renewing Ecclesiology and Turning to Ecumenical Engagement"; "Vatican II in 1964: Doctrinal Assessment Paired with Tensions over Facing the Modern World"; "Vatican II in 1965: Renewed Doctrine and Directives of Service"; and "Global Traits of Vatican II in Chapter VI of *Dei Verbum*".

As suggested by these titles, the distinctiveness and originality of Wicks's work, even quirkiness at times, as well as the extent and depth of his scholarship, shine through the volume. Readers can be grateful for his clear and direct style and his 'Introduction' (pp. 1-8) which outlines the

contents of the ten chapters. Extensive footnotes, seventeen pages of 'Selected Bibliography' and an excellent 'Index' covering subjects as well as persons – with helpful sub-headings within individual entries where appropriate – show the thoughtful care for the reader on the part of both author and publisher. Appreciation for the book is expressed by various distinguished writers – including John O'Malley and Edward Hahnenberg – on the back-cover. Readers will be grateful, too, that the book is available as a sturdy and readable paperback, as well as an e-book, at a sensible price.

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