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Philippine Population

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one that can be used universally in any part of the English-speaking world. Hence, there are no local examples or references in the book. In this age of indigenization or the inculturation of Christianity "within the culture," there is certainly a need for a 'Moral Theology within a Filipino Context' based on an indigenous Christian model. Fr. P is wise in leaving this continuing task to native Filipino theologians. As a matter of fact one of his confreres in the Society of the Divine Word has already pioneered in writing two books – *Elements of Filipino Philosophy* and *Elements of Filipino Theology*. Had Fr. P's book come out earlier, this reviewer would have profited much in popularizing Vatican II moral theology in his *The New Christian Morality and the Filipino*.

Those who will benefit from Fr. P's *Christian Ethics* are eagerly awaiting his forthcoming Special Moral Theology, which will be a more difficult book to do.

Vitaliano R. Gorospe

PHILIPPINE POPULATION: Implications, Program and Policies. By Ana Maria Rotor Peralta and Marlene C. Ligan. Manila: University of the East Press, 1975. 148 pages.

Since the Department of Education and Culture initiated its Population Education Program (PEP) to be implemented in the elementary, secondary, and tertiary levels, there has suddenly arisen an urgent need for textbooks on population education written for the Philippine context. In November 1975 the Communication Foundation for Asia applied for funding to the Commission on Population to develop a standard textbook on population education for junior and senior high school as well as for college students. This textbook is still in the process of preparation. The University of the East can be justly proud that two of its faculty members of the College of Arts and Sciences, after a year of hard work have published the first Philippine textbook on population education for college students. The Department of Education and Culture will also be happy to know that this textbook was written in accordance with the four major aims of PEP (what is expected of the students) and its content covers the five major areas chosen by PEP (chapter 1.)

This primer on population education, for that is what it really is, is mainly informational. Although the chapters on Human Sexuality and Methods of Contraception are nothing new to college students, the co-authors have done a service by putting together in one volume information scattered in books, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, interview-write-ups, charts, and tables, to which students have difficult access. The presentation and style of the book is clear, concise, and systematic. The sources on the whole are well documented, except in a few instances primary sources are not properly acknowledged, e.g., Frank Lynch's "The Catholic Church: Philippines' Silent Partner in

in Population Control" (p. 102). The book also contains an appendix of Martial Law documents related to population for easy reference, and an index.

The book is divided into two main parts. Part One describes the population phenomenon as an aggregate and identifies the Philippine population in terms of location, size, composition, territorial distribution, etc. It explains the Population Education Program; analyses population theories; assesses the implications of world, and then Philippine, population; and indicates the solution taken by Philippine population policy and program. Part Two contains an introduction to human sexuality and the human reproductive system with a brief discussion of fertility control as a demographic process of population limitation, the history of family planning in the Philippines, methods of contraception, and sociocultural factors affecting the acceptance of family planning.

Since this textbook was intended for use in private non-sectarian, and possibly public, schools, the co-authors tried to present population education in as an objective and scientific manner as possible and avoided any value judgments or critical comments of their own. This reviewer's own strictures about the book will be limited to two remarks. First, the Philippine population problem must not be presented to the students as *the* problem of problems, because the population problem is not only a problem of numbers but, more relevant to the Philippine context, a problem of justice involving a more equitable distribution of the nation's wealth and resources. The population problem must be taken within the larger context of total and integral human development, which include a moral and religious dimension. Second, a textbook that tries to be "value-free" and neutral with regard to morality and religion in a matter like population control, which involves basic human rights and values, may by its silence or neutrality be teaching the Filipino people that morality and religion are not that important. Presumably the co-authors had no such considerations in trying to present population education in as objective a manner as possible without being open to the charge of moralism or bias in favor of one religion rather than another. This reviewer merely wishes to point out that in the context of Philippine culture, pure 'objectivity' may have a counter-effect on the attitudes and values of our people. These remarks are intended for future editions and revisions of the book. Notwithstanding, until a better textbook on population education appears, this primer will serve its purpose for a long time to come, especially since this paperback and newsprint edition is within the financial reach of most college students.

Vitaliano R. Gorospe

ETHNIC GROUPS OF INSULAR SOUTHEAST ASIA. Volume 1: Indonesia, Andaman Islands, and Madagascar. Edited and compiled by Frank M. LeBar. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files Press, 1972. viii, 236 pages. Cloth \$15.