

# philippine studies

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## **The Story of the “Romance” by William E. Rively, S.J.**

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THE STORY OF THE "ROMANCE". By William E. Rively, S.J. Rinehart and Co., Inc., New York. 1953. Pp. 241. \$3.50.

This is the story of a conversion—not of a soul, but of a boat. It is the true story of how a forty-five foot pleasure yacht was converted and put into the service of Christ and the Church in Micronesia. Father Rively is a missionary in the Caroline-Marshall Mission of the Society of Jesus. After several narrow escapes in the open sea in outrigger canoes, he and his Superior thought it was time to try to secure a seaworthy vessel for parish work among these tiny islands. *The Story of the "Romance"* is the account of how Father Rively purchased a ship, outfitted it, assembled a crew and sailed back to his island parish in the Pacific.

There is no heavy reading in this book. There is a lot of faith, courage and adventure packed in its pages. Father Rively tells us of the six days he spent in an outrigger canoe: three days of raging typhoon and three more of searching for land. "I had a copy of *The Following of Christ* by Thomas á Kempis", he tells us. "I derived great spiritual comfort from reading this classic, and also succeeded for a time in taking my mind off the present predicament."

Shortly after the encounter with the typhoon we find Father Rively in New York with permission to obtain a ship, but with no money. However he prayed and the prayer was answered. Then came the search for a safe ship—a search which ended in California: "The three of us stood in silent wonder before her . . . . In my mind I was picturing her weathering a typhoon in Micronesia, bearing truth and grace to the isolated peoples who have been waiting so long." That was the "Romance", a brigantine, the pleasure craft of a retired skipper. It was then that Father Rively learned that it would not be a simple task to gather a crew and equip the "Romance" for the long voyage across the Pacific. The trip from San Francisco has its share of storms, accidents (mostly from inexperience) and light-hearted moments, and the log of these two and a half months of sailing is the most interesting part of the book.

This book is ideal for an evening or so of pleasant, instructive reading. The style flows along easily and one is struck by the author's modesty throughout. Unfortunately we will hear no more of the "Stella Maris", the new name of the "Romance", for she is hopelessly stranded on a coral reef being pounded to pieces by the waves. However, one would like to hear more from Father Rively, more of the people of Micronesia and their customs, more of the mis-

sionaries and their work. Of added interest to Filipino readers is the fact that Father Rively spent six years in the Philippines preparing for the priesthood. The one flaw that this reviewer noticed was that Father Rively seemed to criticize unnecessarily and at times unsympathetically the members of his crew. After all, they *were* inexperienced, and they were *not* dedicated priests as is Father Rively.

CHARLES E. WOLF

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PSYCHIATRY AND CATHOLICISM. By James H. VanderVeldt, O.F.M. and Robert P. Odenwald, M.D. McGraw-Hill, New York. 1952. Pp. ix-433. \$6.00.

FUNDAMENTAL PSYCHIATRY. By John B. Cavanagh, M.D. and James B. McGoldrick, S.J. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee. 1953. Pp. x-582. \$5.50.

The necessity for a better understanding of the human personality and its abnormal behavior must be felt by anyone who has the least insight into our modern world and its troubles, but more acutely by those whose profession brings them into contact with the personal troubles of a large number of people. That for the past half-century the reading public has bought up the vast flood of books and articles on Psychiatry, Mental Health and Psychology is sufficient indication of the urgency of these questions.

Parents, doctors, priests, lawyers, student-guides, social-workers and others who by reason of their office are confronted with "cases", turn to psychiatry for the help no other science seems to provide sufficiently. Yet if they read the works on psychiatry with minds sufficiently critical not to accept theories without reasonable proof nor to accept as fact what is put forward without sufficient evidence, they will be far from satisfied. There will arise in their own minds perplexity, even anxiety.

This perplexity regarding psychiatric theories and treatments is due to many questions which modern psychiatry raises but does not solve. Of these questions, the fundamental one is: What is personality? What ultimately is the human person? Psychiatry must take into account the whole human personality in order to correct its maladjustments and abnormalities. And yet, in order to have sufficient and sound knowledge of human personality and of the complex processes of its adjustment to reality, psychiatry must have much specialized information from many different fields of science, and it must coordinate all these elements into a balanced whole.