

the thirteen reproductions of ceremonials were rearranged so that each was within the sub-division, or at least at the beginning of the unit to which it is relevant.

This is a delightful prerequisite for tourists planning to visit the area. It should be an academic requirement for any instructor or student in any area of Native American studies. Native American history, religion, and humanitiies are so interwoven with the Indian ceremonials that these early Fergusson writings need to be read before any of the more recent publications.

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Ernesto Juan Fonfrias. *Five Women in the Life of Jesus.* (San Juan, PR: Esmaco Press, 1987) 85 pp, no price available.

Religious themes, especially the Marian, had an increasingly high number of publications last year all over the Christian World because 1987 was a Marian year. One of the most exciting and intriguing titles on this theme is this Puerto Rican poligraph.

Fonfrias's book is a collection of six interesting essays. The first one is entitled "Reasons and Motives" in which the author explains the genesis of this fascinating publication. He expresses the irrepressible urge that he has felt all his life for writing about the most significant moments in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Then, he goes on to narrate the personal incidents of his own peregrination through the same roads and paths that Jesus walked on his evangelical mission.

The next five chapters in the book pertain to the five women that in Fonfrias's opinion played a significant role in Jesus's evangelical mission. The second essay is the longest in the book, the best researched, and where he offers a great deal of additional information about Mary. The primary sources of investigation are the synoptic gospels and the most recent evangelical historical investigation on this inspirational topic.

Fonfrias describes in this essay one of the most significant moments in the history of Christianity, the moment when Gabriel, the angel of annunciation, appeared to Mary and informed her of the good news that she had been chosen to be the mother of the Son of God. In order to give to this biblical account the proper historical context he cites directly from the Scriptures, and then goes on to explain in a very artistic style and elevated tone the importance of this moment in the history of Christianity. He has documented his work with an inexhaustible number of sources written in different languages and by the most respected

scholars in the field. He covers the period of time since the apparition of the angel of annunciation until and after her death.

It is in this essay that Fonfrias's craftsmanship excels. For a long time he has been considered one of the greatest writers in Spanish, and once again he shows good command of the narrative techniques and a profound knowledge of the intricacies of the language.

The third essay is an account of Elizabeth, the wife of Zachary and mother of John the Baptist, as a participant in Jesus' evangelical mission. Once again Fonfrias shows his great ability to describe the different states of mind of his characters, especially the female, as he has so remarkably done in his works of fiction.

For the essay on Mary Magdalene, Fonfrias, besides getting all the information that could be gotten from the Holy Scriptures, documented himself with the famous Treaty on the conversion of Magdalene by Friar Peter Malon of Chaide. The essay is presented in four stages representing four important facets in Mary Madalene's life: innocence, sin, repentance and reconciliation with God.

The fifth essay is dedicated to that women from Samaria, who has been immortalized in the Gospels, the Samaritan. In Fonfrias's opinion she holds a place of preeminence in the Christian world because she was the first person who found out from Christ's own confession that he was the Messiah, the much expected deliverer of the Jewish people.

The sixth essay of the book is about an obscure character in that historical time. There is no direct mention of her name in the Bible, but there is an indirect reference to her. She is Claudia Procula, the wife of Pontius Pilate, who according to Fonfrias's investigations recognized Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and tried to convince her husband to do away with the decision of the members of the Council that condemned him. She felt that he should not be punished or suffer the degradation of Calvary.

Fonfrias has a profound knowledge of the Holy Scriptures; he has devoted years of study and research on this topic. He has always been concerned with the role that women played in the church and in Christ's evangelical mission. He feels that the contribution of women in religion has not been properly recognized. There are women who played a prominent role in religious matters in Christ's time; they helped to disseminate the Gospel, and they never abandoned him, not even in the last moment during his crucifixion and death.

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