

Pentecostal Catholics: Power, Charisma, and Order in a Religious Movement.

By MEREDITH B. MCGUIRE. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982. ix + 270 pp. \$22.50.

Pentecostal Catholics is not a history of the charismatic movement among American Catholics but a study in the sociology of religion. Unlike Fichter's 1975 study of Catholic charismatics, which sampled the beliefs of the leadership at a fixed moment in the movement's development, McGuire has studied nine prayer groups over a period of six years (1971-1977). She has not only taken account of the theology and exegesis current in the groups, among both leaders and participants, but she has looked at the dynamics of the groups' prayer meetings as well. This constitutes both the strength of her work and its contribution to the study of the charismatic movement. Her endnotes are a good guide to research in the social sciences on the movement.

McGuire addresses herself to the question of whether movements like Catholic Pentecostalism point to a resacralization of society. She concludes that in this case the movement probably will not be a force for social change because of its strong voluntaristic bent and its consequent emphasis on personal sanctification as well as the ideal of civil obedience which is extolled among its constituency. She also sees it as stressing "revolution by tradition," that is, change back to an earlier model in pre-Vatican II Catholicism.

One wishes that the author had identified her nine groups and told us about their history and how they relate to one another and to the national charismatic movement. The impression is that all nine were in northern New Jersey, a regional rather than a national sample. What continues to be lacking in the study of the charismatic movement is a history of the movement.

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