

Review by Br Austin SSF¹

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When this book was launched at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury at a very well attended meeting it was obvious that Eric Doyle (died in 1984, aged 48) had been a well respected friar: one who was a profound thinker and a very good communicator. Those of us who were lucky enough to be present were shown video clips and excerpts from a number of TV discussion programmes in which Eric featured.

This volume is much more than just the theological writings of a well loved brother, - it is of course that - on Bonaventure, Duns Scotus, Teilhard de Chardin, Franciscan Themes, on 'Various Themes' with most of them in short accessible essay format. It is also interspersed with appreciations and photos and even two CDs of talks by Eric; the CDs in particular - 'Saint Francis - Saint Clare and Spiritual Motherhood' and 'Universal Call to Holiness' give greater value to the book because we can experience his humour and even his prophetic thinking.

In some ways he was a man in advance of his times, advocating optional celibacy for parochial clergy and the possibility of temporary vows for religious. It was a tragedy that his life was cut short. Who knows what directions his thinking might have taken? I think this volume of over 600

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pages, together with a bibliography of his works, is very good value for any Franciscan, and I particularly include Anglican Franciscans. For here we have a modern Franciscan communicating Franciscan subjects to our age and to us all in a way that is informative, attractive and enjoyable.

The Franciscan International Study Centre is to be congratulated for making Eric Doyle available to us today.