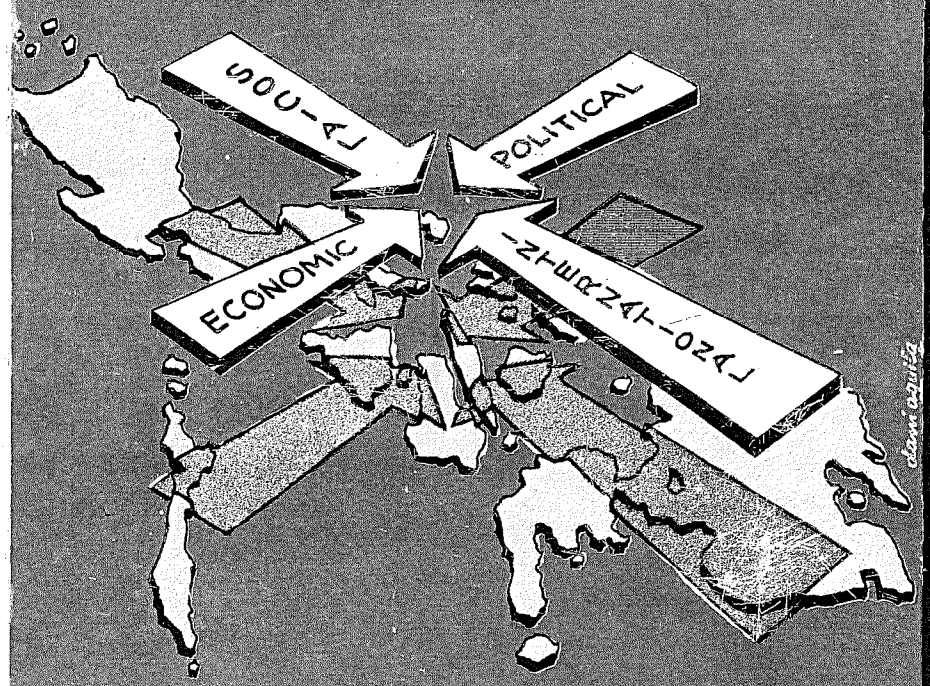


PHILIPPINE SOCIAL ISSUES FROM A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE



Edited by Richard P. Poethig

Richard Poethig

PHILIPPINE SOCIAL ISSUES

from a
CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Edited by
RICHARD P. POETHIG

for the
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP EDUCATION
PROGRAM

of the
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CONTRIBUTORS

BERNARD O. BROWN — formerly Protestant Chaplain of the Church of the Risen Lord on the campus of the University of the Philippines

PAUL T. LAUBY — Dean of the Silliman College of Theology, Silliman University

ELIEZER D. MAPANAO — Pastor of the Ellinwood-Malate Church, Manila

VALENTIN G. MONTES — late Secretary of the Department of Public Welfare, The United Church of Christ in the Philippines

JACOB S. QUIAMBAO — Professor of Social Ethics at the Union Theological Seminary, Dasmariñas, Cavite

RICHARD P. POETHIG — Director of Industrial Life and Vocations, The United Church of Christ in the Philippines

CIRILO A. RIGOS — Pastor of the Cosmopolitan Church, Manila

EDITOR'S PREFACE

For sometime now there has been a demand for a book treating on the social issues of Philippine life in the light of Christian Ethics. The Department of Christian Education of the United Church of Christ requested that such a book be chosen to meet the needs of its Christian Leadership Education program. In reviewing Ethics texts for the C.L.E. course it was discovered that the available texts were written from within a Western context without direct relation to the problems of Asia. It was then decided to prepare a text specifically for Philippine use. The present text is the outcome of this attempt to speak to the issues of contemporary Philippine society from within a Protestant understanding of Christian Ethics.

This book, however, is not a text on the foundations of Christian Ethics. This task is still to be performed by someone on the Philippine scene. The major concern of this book is to point up contemporary social issues and to provide guide lines for action on these issues from within a Christian perspective. With this in mind we have divided the book into four areas of concern: social order, economic order, political order, and international order. In each of these areas we have chosen those issues which have immediate concern for the Philippines. A generation or even a decade hence the problems emphasized here may not be the preva-

lent ones. Nevertheless, it is the task of this text to alert Christians in this generation to their responsibility for relating their Christian faith to the times and situations in which God has placed them.

In preparing this book we have called upon people from different denominations and backgrounds. The social concern which the various chapters express is not limited to any one group of Christians. God calls every Christian to obedience to Him in the life of the world. No matter what our place in the church, no matter what our denomination, our Christian call involves each of us in living our faith in both the routine tasks and decisive moments of daily life. The call to Christian obedience involves not only our family relationships but extends to the life we live on our job, to our relationships within our community and to the political responsibility we have for the life of the nation and the world.

In the preparation of this book we wish to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Jacob S. Quiambao, the Rev. Eliezer D. Mapanao, Dr. Paul T. Lauby, the Rev. Cirilo A. Rigos, the late Atty. Valentin G. Montes and the Rev. Bernard O. Brown. Special thanks go to Mrs. Mary Marquis and Mrs. Eleanor V. Vigilia for organizing and preparing the book in its initial stages.

Richard P. Poethig

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