

**CHRIST'S MASTERPIECE;
A STUDY OF THE ONE
TRUE CHURCH**

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Christ's masterpiece; a study of the one true church by William F. Robison

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WILLIAM F. ROBISON

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CHRIST'S MASTERPIECE



A Study of the One True Church

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BY

WILLIAM F. ROBISON, S.J.
Professor of Theology, St. Louis University

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TO
MY MOTHER

FOREWORD

For many years St. Francis Xavier (College) Church has been accustomed to help towards the sanctification of the Lenten season by a series of lectures on doctrinal subjects. Two years ago I decided, as the appointed lecturer, to enter the field of apologetics and to take up the study of the foundations of our Christian faith. The lack of clear-cut and definite knowledge of some of our Catholic people and the misty notions about religion so common outside of the Church were reasons enough for the choice of such a subject.

Accordingly in the series of two years ago I treated of *Christ's Masterpiece*, and studied Catholicity, as being Christianity in the concrete. Last year, going back a step, I examined the grounds of our faith in the divinity of Jesus Christ, which is really the tap-root of the fair tree of Christian reve-

FOREWORD

lation; and in the Lent just past I took up the reasons for the necessity of religion in general. The conclusion of this necessarily short, but fairly comprehensive view of apologetics seems a fitting time to yield to the advice and urgings of those whose opinion I value, and to publish the lectures with a view to wider and deeper good.

It is hardly needful for me to say that I make no claim to any striking originality in this presentment of Catholic truth. The saying, "novelty is the sign of error," might well warn any one from even the attempt to depart too much from the beaten path. The ordinary theological treatises have furnished the substratum of thought, and special works, like the *Dictionnaire Apologétique* of A. d'Ales, have been laid under contribution.

I have deemed it best to print the discourses just as they were given. Some advantage might have resulted from a recasting; but the process might also have taken away from the directness and force of the form of the spoken word. Besides, in the present shape the lectures have the ad-

FOREWORD

vantage of having been "tried out" with no little resultant good; and I have thought it unwise to forego a sure advantage for a problematical improvement.

In giving this work of zeal and love to the public I am convinced that the doctrine is true and solid; I hope that it is put forward with clearness and strength; and I pray that it may be of help both to those who are of the household of the faith, and to those earnest and sincere inquirers outside of her blessed fold, who are following after the "Kindly Light."

WILLIAM F. ROBISON, S.J.

St. Louis University,
Easter, 1918.

