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INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE. By Alan Paton. New York: Seabury Press, 1968. Pp. 124. \$3.50.

The twenty-one short reflections on the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi, "Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace," contain some insights that could only come from often and meaningfully praying it. It is Paton's impression, for instance, that Francis does not say he does not wish to be consoled, understood, and loved (thus depriving another of a chance for giving), but that he is asking for a spirituality that thoroughly enjoys consoling, understanding, and loving.

Some observations would seem only piously appropriate if it were not for the author's background in reform movements in South Africa. Frequent allusions to himself at the end of the book are certainly forgivable, since obviously the apartheid condition of his country has occasioned his desire to "do some work of peace," the predominant idea of each chapter. It is a bit unbalanced in that the personal references come chiefly at the end curtailing the reflections paraphrasing the prayer. It is an honest book that mentions the author's difficulties with organized religion and gives a realistic interpretation of Christian joy and generally of the underside view of many Christian virtues. The prayers that end the chapters give further insights. A small book for such a high price.—*Sister M. Anita Green, C.D.P.; Ascension Convent; Normandy, Missouri 63121.*

Review for Religious

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