

## *Commentary on the Four Gospels - 4 vols.*



Fr. Cornelius a Lapide S. J.

Sewn Hardcover — 375 Pages — \$199.00

Sal Ciresi - Book Review

from *St. Jerome Biblical Guild.org.*, 2011

**T**he Great Commentary of Cornelius a Lapide: Vols. I-IV, trans. by Thomas W. Mossman, revised and completed by Michael J. Miller (Fitzwilliam, NH : Loreto, 2008)  
603 pp., 767 pp., 741 pp., 820 pp.

A noteworthy publishing project has been undertaken by Loreto Publications: the extraordinary works of Biblical scholarship by the learned Jesuit — Cornelius a Lapide (1567-1637). This loyal “Companion of Jesus” produced commentaries on the whole Bible (except Job and Psalms), found in over thirty scarce Latin volumes. Loreto plans to reissue all the tomes in English. We have, to date, the Gospels.

The first volume, reviewed here, lays a foundation for the set. There is an instructive foreword by Mr. Charles Coulombe, and the preface by Lapide that follows is informative enough to be sold as separate pamphlet. Here is a typical excerpt: “The dignity, usefulness, and majesty of sacred scripture are so great that it surpasses the books of all philosophers and theologians,

among both the Hebrews and the Greek and Latin authors, as much as divine wisdom surpasses all human wisdom. For Sacred Scripture is the word of God. It is the very utterance and speech of God, by means of which God enunciates His wisdom to us, and shows us the way to vir-tue, salvation, and eternal happiness” (p. xix). This outlook is worthy of imitation.

Space precludes naming all the ancillary sections placed before the actual commentary on St. Matthew; here is a sam-pling: “Chronology of the Life and Work of Christ,” “Canons of Interpretation,” “Evangelical Counsels,” “The Miracles of Christ,” “Christ’s Oracles and Prophecies,” and “The Seven Sacraments.”

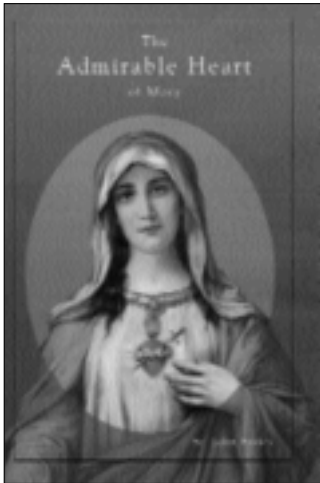
Lapide was a master linguist, who fills out his exegesis with the Church Fathers and other notable commentators. This is sound theological method. As well, Lapide’s sanctity is obvious; his Biblical insights reflect a deep interior union with the Savior. Consider the remarks on Matthew 4:17: “Christ, then, called men away from the world and from worldly desires, which are base, paltry, and fleeting, to heaven, so that they might reign in it as kings with God and the angels, completely happy and glorious for all eternity. For this is true wisdom, this our end, our goal, our good, our happiness.”

The hardback set is about \$200.

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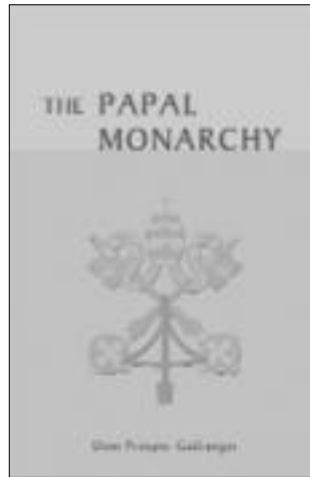


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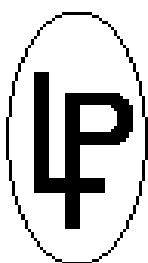
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