

(continued from front flap)

cially on the natural law, are echoed by some of today's theologians.

The Flowering of Sex, the second part of the book, extolls—in original and, at times, rapturous words—the wonder and mystery of sexual love. As the author phrases it, "Sexual love seeks God through personal contact with a creature; mystical love seeks him in himself." Thus, sex when properly performed is a virtuous act, a wonderfully ecstatic way of drawing closer to the Author of all life. The role of sex in the arts is also discussed to demonstrate its influence on the philosophy of love.

Drawing on a rich background of Western thought and his own pleasurable observations on life, Baron de Vinck offers challenging opinions on marriage preparation, the natural goodness of the sex act, the proper limits of sexuality, problems of fertility and birth control, the abuses of sex and how to avoid them, and ways of increasing the joys of mutual love in husbands and wives.

THE VIRTUE OF SEX combines a provocative theme with a deeply reverent feeling for life. It is one of the few available books that recognize the need for reappraisal of the Christian attitude toward sexual love and it is highly recommended for college students, engaged and married couples, and for spiritual advisers of all faiths.

(For a biographical sketch of the author see the last page of this book.)

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THE VIRTUE OF SEX

José de Vinck

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THE VIRTUE OF SEX

José de Vinck



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THE VIRTUE OF SEX

by José de Vinck

"Sensual pleasure in the game of love was planned by God not for the gratification of sinners but for the holy fun of the children of light."

Thus does the author of this eloquent and controversial book defend and exalt the love of husband and wife as one of God's most beautiful gifts to man. THE VIRTUE OF SEX is the work of Baron José de Vinck, a distinguished Catholic layman from Belgium who has long resided in the United States. His frankness may shock the timid, but his positive approach will inform—and delight—readers of all faiths.

The Emergence of Sex, the first part of the book, offers a stimulating survey of Western man's attitudes toward sex from the Greeks to the present. The author points out how two false trends have plagued man throughout the ages: hedonism, based on materialistic values; and the negative view (particularly on the part of Church spokesmen) of the body and sex. Baron de Vinck attacks this negativism, for he feels that it has hindered the legitimate pleasures intended by God for man's full enjoyment.

To prove his points, the author cites the harsh opinions on marriage, women, celibacy and asceticism which Christian spokesmen like Augustine, Jerome and Thomas Aquinas have *incorrectly* presented as the opinion of the Church, and he shows how their narrow views, espe-