I found this book fascinating. It provides the first English translation of the funeral oration given by Henri de Maupas du Tour two months after Vincent de Paul’s death. The oration has a special importance in Vincentian studies since, as the author notes, it was “the first public presentation of Monsieur Vincent’s life and works.” As he contextualizes the oration, Rev. Udovic also presents an enormous amount of original research about Henri de Maupas du Tour himself, the literary form of funeral orations, their sometimes political goals, the canonization process of St. Vincent, and about the Jansenist controversy that raged in the background. I recommend this book highly to those who love Vincent de Paul and are eager to know more about this extraordinary period of history.

—Robert P. Maloney, C.M.

An English translation of the celebrated funeral oration delivered by the Bishop of Le Puy on the death of Vincent de Paul has been long overdue. In this excellent edition, Rev. Udovic offers both a translation and textual commentary, the accuracy and detail of which render it a trustworthy and informative resource for specialist scholars and students alike. Together, they reconstruct the world of the orator and of his subject, and set out the values by which sainthood was constructed and judged in the heyday of French Catholic reform.

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