

Editorial

This issue of the Journal also deals with Asia. The process, problems and prospects and the present state of affairs of inter-religious dialogue in some Asian countries are treated here.

Journal of Dharma completes twenty-five years of service to world religions and to world at large this year. Making good use this opportunity we organized an International Seminar on "Religion and Politics in Asia Today" from 30 June to 03 July 2000. In many Asian countries religions have got entangled with party politics and political parties use religions for the advancement of their own ideologies and political gains. The relationship between religion and politics has become rather murky and amorphous. An analysis and appraisal of this unhealthy situation at the beginning of the third millennium is definitely useful. The Seminar was indeed a great success. The papers were all well studied and researched and the discussion very lively. Some of the papers presented at the Seminar are printed in this issue.

Journal of Dharma also organized an essay competition for university students and for students of theology-philosophy faculties of India. The theme was "Religion and National Integration". The prizes to the three winners were awarded at the inaugural session of the International Seminar mentioned above. The winner of the first prize of this competition is K.C. Francis of Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. His essay is also included in this issue.

The theme announced for the next issue is "Churches in Asia: Challenges of the Third Millennium". We are postponing the treatment of this theme to a later occasion. And the next issue of the Journal will carry some essays on ***Religion and Politics in Asia Today***. I am sure the readers of the Journal would find these essays extremely interesting and useful. On a later occasion, we also intend to publish all the papers presented at the International Seminar on this theme in book form.

Augustine Thottakara,cmi
Chief Editor