

## From the Editor's Desk

Shalom! Much water has flown down the Ganges after our national festival - the elections! For once, the Indian Voter has proved that he/she has come of age and he/she cannot be fooled around all the time! Gone are the days when money, muscle power and machinations reigned supreme in the election gambles. Bullets have finally been replaced by ballots, thanks to the irrepressible, and now, the Magasasay awardee Mr. Seshan! It is a lesson indeed for politicians that in a democracy people are ultimately the *Rajas*; and it is they who decide the destiny of the nation!

Now, You voters, vigilance is the price people have to pay to assure that this hard-won victory does not remain at the level of a pipe-dream. The sagacity and maturity which you exhibited during the time of the elections must not be allowed to be extinguished, but be enkindled through your constant and critical watchfulness.

And you, politicians, beware of people power. Let the hard lessons learnt in the elections from the people serve you as constant pricks in your conscience. Let nepotism, high-handedness and corruption be far from you. Let the welfare of the people be uppermost in your minds. Let them be your masters whom you have covenanted to serve. Else, the vety ballots we used to bring you to the place of service, may prove to be the bullets to fell you down. Remember, to serve is to reign. Will you do what we expect you to do, or will you go the way of your forebears? May your watch-word in season and out of season be: "For where you (my people) go I will go, and where you will lodge I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God! where you die I will die" (Ru. 1: 16-17).

Now, dear Readers, this third issue of Vaihara brings out 3 articles each of a different vintage. The first one is a thorough study and incisive criticism of Arun Shourie's Book : "Missionaries in India : Continuities, Changes, Dilemmas", New Delhi, ASA Publications, 1994, by Dr. J.R. Narchison (450 Hillside Layout, Whitefield, Bangalore-560 066), wherein he points out the strengths and weaknesses of Shourie's thesis and comes to the conclusion that Shourie is not merely not able to enter into the mind and soul of the Indian Christians, but also at the same time he is playing to the Galleries of rightwing political and religious reactionaries among his readers.

The second article by Dr. S. Devaraj (TNBCLC; Tindivanam; VPR Dt. 604 002) probes into the meaning of "New Evangelization" a term coined by the Pope, and explains it in terms of a new method, a new expression and a new fervour in Christian commitment as well as an authentic witness in the creation of a new world order.

The last article by Fr. R. J. Raja, S. J. (St. Paul's Seminary, P. B. No. 36, Tiruchi 620 001) is an exegetico-theological study of the Creation Narratives with a view to enkindle an ecological sensitivity in the reader. Right through the article the author highlights that option for life is an absolute must and concludes with a call that we become 'masters', brothers / sisters and servants of all creation! Shalom!

**R. J. Raja, S. J.**

Editor