

From the Editor's Pen

The fourth and the last issue of *Vaiharai* for 1996, the year of its inception, carries a medley of timely articles.

Ecofeminism is a relevant topic of concern for us in India today. Sr. Corona Mary O. S. M., recently elected Mother General of the Congregation of the Servite Sisters (Servite Generalate, Cantonment, Trichy-620 001), in her article on "Ecology and Women", analyzes systematically the various concepts prevalent in Greek and Indian mythologies, in the culture of the Hebrews, the Tamils and the countries of the West, with regard to women who are necessarily connected to nature and shows that in the dichotomy of Development or Destruction, and in the "Use and throw culture" of today's consumeristic society women and nature have become partners in distress. The author's challenge for a paradigm shift in our attitude towards women and nature based on the model of Jesus is well timed as the world is moving fast towards "eco-cide" and consequently also "gyne-cide"!

The next article, "Understanding the Anatomy of the Fundamentalist Reading of the Bible" by Fr. A. Maria Arul Raja, S. J. (Arul Kadal, 98 Santhome High Road, Madras-620 028) is an erudite exposition on the background and the essential elements of a fundamentalist reading of the bible. The author dwells upon the basic ambiguities and contradictions in such a biased reading of the bible, points out the dangers of such a reading for a balanced understanding of the bible and calls for an unprejudiced and sincere attempt to vibrate with the heart-beat of the biblical God who reveals himself as the God of "hesed" and "rehem" more than of laws and dogmas, of threats and damnations!

The contribution of Dr. M. Amaladoss, (Vidya Jyothi, 23 Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi-110 054) "The Kingdom of God as the Goal of Mission", originally published in French, is an exploration into the meaning of the term Kingdom of God

and its relationship to the church as well as other religions. Amaladoss argues convincingly from Vat II as well as other Papal (John Paul II) and episcopal documents (FABC) that the Kingdom is God's own ongoing salvific action; it includes every one; it is experienced in every historical movement where there is a reaching out to the poor and the marginalized. In reality where there is freedom, fellowship and justice, there is the Kingdom. In this salvific mission of God contemplation of the mystery and plan of God must lead one to listening to the beliefs and experiences of others in dialogue, thus marching on to a life of prophetic action in favour of a community as willed by God himself.

In his article on "Biblical Interpretation and Homily" Dr. S. J. Anthonysamy (Professor, University of Madras; C/O St. Thomas Minor Seminary, Santhome, Madras 600 004) pleads that the homilists of today go back to Jesus and the early church for models for preaching a relevant homily. The *ETHOS* element which implies a personal commitment to God, the *LOGOS* element which gives primacy to the Kingdom and the *PATHOS* element which places a heavy premium on the day today needs and conditions of the people - these which were part and parcel of the teachings of Jesus and of the early church - must go to form the texture of all homilies and must be their inalienable components.

The editor, besides being grateful to the contributors to and the subscribers of *VAIHARAI*, would like you to renew your subscription for 1997 and introduce this "Rising Sun" to the circle of your friends and acquaintances and thus make them experience and enjoy the pleasant warmth of "the Dawn", and the "Shalom" which *VAIHARAI* brings.

Thank you

R. J. Raja, S.J.

Editor