

Editorial

As I write this editorial on the day of voting (15-7-1997) for the election of the President of India, it is almost certain that Mr. K. R. Narayanan our present Vice-president will be chosen to make his home for 5 years, if not more, the palace on the Raisina Hill.

It is not a credit either to our Motherland or to Mr. K. R. N. himself to overplay the Dalit-card in the latter's ascendancy to the presidency. Symbolism apart in his being a Dalit, Mr. K. R. N. richly deserves this highest honour solely on his own merit. His being born a Dalit was merely an incident! But his nomination to the august post of being the President of India is due to the undaunted efforts he has made to overcome the inherent handicaps attached to the despicable system of castes.

Mr. K. R. N's credentials make him uniquely suitable for the highest constitutional position in India. His brilliant achievements in academics, his astute performance in diplomatic assignments, his remarkable sagacity in dealing with sensitive issues, his soft and suave nature-all these go to make him a more than fit candidate for Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mr. K. R. N. is in the present circumstances the right choice to become the First Citizen of India, thanks to his hard work, determination and confidence which he has displayed all through his distinguished career. In this sense he becomes the symbol of hope and aspirations for many of us in this Golden Jubilee year of our Independence. In the case of Mr. K. R. N. one is reminded of the Words of the Bible; "Well done, my good and faithful servant: you were faithful in small matters. I will give you great responsibilities" (Mt. 25:21 NAB).

We wish Mr. K. R. N. all God's choice blessings in guiding the destiny of the nation as it is passing through a

sensitive and volatile period from many fronts. May he bring lusture and grace to the position of service which he will be holding in the coming years.

Coming to the Issue

In the feverish promotion of Mission at the close of the millennium, the author (Fr. Paul Dominic, S.J., Satyodayam, 12-5-33 S. Lallaguda, Secunderabad) argues, one should discern one's ambition in Mission (riveting it on God), boldly reversing the historical prevarication, and design a new vision based on the ambition of folly, the very last lesson in Mission taught by Jesus.

The article "Ecumenism for Everyone" by Dr. J. Rosario Narchison (Rajakkamangalam, Eathamozhi 629 501; Tamil Nadu) is a presentation in summary form of the 4 lectures given at a Workshop on Ecumenism organised by the Christian Conference of Asia in Phnom Penh, Combodia in Apr-May this year. The author deals with some of the important dimensions such as Integrity of creation, Social commitment, Grass root level involvement etc, which should characterise today's ecumenical endeavours.

Fr. P. Peter Raj (Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee Chennai 600 056) analyzes the politico-religious dimensions of the Padroado-Propaganda conflict in Tamil Nadu and draws conclusions for today's Church in Tamil Nadu.

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Editor