

From the Editor's Desk

"Culture, Religion and Politics in India : Rise of Hindu Cultural Nationalism" by Dr. S.M. Michael SVD (Institute of Indian Culture, Mahakali Road, Andheri East, Mumbai 400 093) is a timely one and perhaps a prophetic prognosis as Atal Behari Vajpayee of the BJP has just sat on the saddle as India's 13th Prime Minister. The author delineates the emergence of Hindu Fundamentalism from Multiculturalism and linguistic diversity which were the unifying forces of Indian civilization and the corresponding rise, growth and politicization of Islamic movements on the basis of religion. The radical movements such as the RSS, VHP, Jan Sangh, Shiv Sena, Bajrangdal which owe their origin to Hindu revivalism of the late 19th c, and sure enough, the events of Dec 6, 1992 and after, only confirm that the saffron brigade will be dictating the politics and defining the limits within which only the BJP can manoeuvre. We wish the PM all success as he will be wading through two extremist currents.

The article *"Towards a Theology of Prayer"* by Fr. A. Paul Dominic SJ (Satyodayam, 12-5-33 S. Lallaguda, Secunderabad 500 017) explores the various aspects of prayer and comes to the conclusion that prayer is an experience in which divine presence or *sannidanam* of God is realized through attention, attraction and absorption resulting in concentration, contemplation and comprehension in all the physical, mental and spiritual realms. The author supports his thesis from the various religious traditions, namely, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Christianity. Real prayer, concludes the author, is identification of oneself with the divine milieu embracing the spiritual, social and cosmic levels of existence.

Finally, Fr. Sandanasamy M. Jerome (Good Shepherd Seminary, Myleripalayam Post via, Othakal Mandapam, Coimbatore 641 032) in line with the programme of 1998, the year of

the Holy Spirit (cf. Vol. 3: No. 1) examines in his article "*The Holy Spirit and the Holy Eucharist*" the role played by the Spirit in the Eucharist. The article is an attempt at reconciliation between the pneumatological focussing of the Oriental churches and the christological underpinnings of the Western churches with regard to the Eucharist. The author argues convincingly for the role of the Holy Spirit in the Eucharistic action as well as the eucharistic presence. In the Eucharist, Christ gives himself totally as a gift and is at the same time fully present in the gift, thanks to the Holy Spirit.

The editorial team wishes the readers a "Galilean experience", for the risen Lord "is going before us to Galilee" (Mt 28:7; Mk 16:7). It is in the Gentile world, the slums and shanties of the down-trodden, the habitations of the lowly, lonely and the lost, in "the outer city", in the Galilee of our times and places "we will see him". Shall we? To one and all a very happy and purposeful experience of the Risen Lord.

R.J. Raja, S.J.
Editor