

From the Editor's Desk

The Spirit as opposed to matter is out-going, not in-drawn; he is ec-batic, not ecstatic; he is ex-ient, not ex-sistent: he is active, not passive: he is growth, not stunted-ness; he is awakening, not dormant: he is disturbing, not quiet; he is daring, not afraid; he is wholistic, not anato-mistic: he is joyful, not masochistic: he is communitarian, not individualistic; he is open, not closed: he is fullness, not emptiness; he is grace, not works; he is gift, not merit. He is "the PERSON love" (TMA 44). He is the spiritual force who makes us transcend ourselves and go out of our self-centredness to the "outer city", to a new way of life which, according to Paul, is the FRUIT of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). "Because we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit" (Gal 5:25).

Mary, the one who was a LISTENER to the word (Lk 1:38), a PONDERER of the word (Lk 2:19) and a DOER of the word (Lk 1:39-56) is the best model for us to follow as we are preparing ourselves for the Great Jubilee. May her docility to the promptings of the Spirit (Lk 1:35) be an invitation and a challenge to all of us in our preparation to welcome the THIRD MILLENNIUM (TMA 48).

The Church cannot prepare for the new millennium "in any other way than in the Holy Spirit. What was accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit 'in the fullness of time' can only through the Spirit's power now emerge from the memory of the Church" (TMA 44). May this Holy Spirit lead us gently in this year of grace 1998.

In this Issue

This first issue of Vaiharai for 1998 carries 3 articles on the Spirit since this year is dedicated to the Holy Spirit by the Pope in our preparation for the Great Jubilee Year

2000. The first article : "Birthing and the Holy Spirit in the writings of Luke" (Fr. R. J. Raja S. J., St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy - 620 001) analyses the role of the Spirit in the birthing of the Baptist, Jesus and the early christian community and invites the readers to participate in the prophetic task of John, the messianic role of Jesus and the witnessing function proper to the new people of God.

The second article : "En Pneumati" (in Spirit) : An experience of Newness in Revelation" (by Dr. A. Peter Abir, Director, St. Paul's Bible Institute, Chennai - 600 056) probes in to the 4 uses of the phrase "in Spirit" in the book of Revelation (1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10) and shows that the 4 stages of the revelation in which the author had the "in Spirit" experience must also be realized in every individual christian; namely the beginning of our life in the Spirit (1:10), the realization of His powerful presence in the good (4:2) as well as the evil situation (17:3) which confront us, to the culmination of the New Jerusalem (21:20) which is the goal of our christian witness.

The last article "The universal Spirit and an indigenous leader" by Dr. A. Pushparajan (Pushpangel, (PL Nr. 100-101; Sivagami Nagar, Athikulam, Madurai-625 007) examines Gandhi's life and comes to the conclusion that the "Soul-Force" behind the basic life option of Gandhi is the universal Spirit, "the immortal spirit who is in all things (Wis 12:1).

The Editors wish all of you a Spirit filled 1998.

R. J. Raja S. J.
Editor