

## EDITOR'S PREFACE

This second number in the twelfth volume of *Landas* is marked by several new elements. First, it has a “new look,” a hopefully more pleasing and more “reader-friendly” design. Second, it is the first of our “thematic issues,” in which themes and questions of significance for the Philippine and Asian Churches will be addressed. Third, it is headed by a new editor. Fourth, it is uncharacteristically and embarrassingly late.

At the heart of the various articles and shorter pieces in this issue are three that offer reports on, and assessments of, the recently concluded Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for Asia. Jacques Dupuis analyzes closely both the presynodal and synodal documents, offering a preliminary evaluation of the Synodal event. James Kroeger’s article provides a helpful synthesis of mission themes that emerged during the course of the Synod, with a particularly informative appendix on the new Asian Mission Societies, referred to during the Synod as signs of “missionary hope” for Asia. Bishop Francisco Claver’s brief article is a thought-provoking reflection on the achievement of the Synod, from one “who was there.” In addition, three of our book reviews, all reviewed by

James Kroeger, are of recent works on interreligious dialogue, not surprisingly, one of the over-arching concerns of the Synod. Finally, in our *Documentation* section, *Landas* pays tribute to one of the pioneers of theology in Asia, whose influence on the Synod through his work for the FABC has been widely acknowledged, C.G. Arévalo. We reprint the citation read during the recent conferral on him of the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, by the Ateneo de Manila University, as well as his address on that occasion, his reflections on the “doing” of theology in the Philippine context.

Those who are concerned about the recent arrival of the Society of Pius X in the Philippines will find A.N. Dacanay’s comments and observations on their present canonical status useful.

Finally, this issue of *Landas* opens with a posthumous tribute to a former editor of *Landas*, who should rightly be regarded as its founder, since it was during his presidency of Loyola School of Theology and due to his persistent efforts, that *Landas* came into being. Miguel Bernad’s graceful obituary of Fr. Pedro de Achútegui, who went to the Lord last December 23, 1998, is a modest expression of the gratitude that the community of Loyola School of Theology and the editors of *Landas*, in particular, bear toward *Don* Pedro. That debt of gratitude we hope to repay, to some degree, by our continued commitment to making *Landas* a voice for, and a window into Catholic Christian theology in the Philippines and Asia; a vehicle by which, we hope, theology might better serve the Church’s redemptive, liberating mission in the Philippines and Asia.