

From the Editor

We have, in this issue of MST Review, four articles and one research notes that will, for sure, serve to further inform practices in the churches.

Thomas Mooren's research, "No Change in God's Creation! Reflections on the Concept of 'Nature' in Dialogue with Qur'ān, Sūrah 30,30", deals with Sūrah 30,30, one of the more famous Sūrates. He discusses the heart of the Islamic monotheistic faith, including the mystery of creation (*fitrah*), which could bring our attention to the creation story of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Although one gains this association of Sūrah 30,30 with the Christian narrative, a further engagement with the text leads us to this Islamic interpretation: that the original faith of humankind is the Islamic faith. Mooren's study tries to clarify this assertion and we hope that he could assist us in our conversations with Muslims.

The next article by Michael Layugan, "On the Collaboration Between Bishop Constant Jurgens, cism, of the Diocese of Tuguegarao and the Divine Word Missionaries," delves into the role of Bishop Jurgens in the establishment of the first SVD mission seminary in the Philippines and in the inauguration of SVD missionary engagement in the northern Cagayan parishes. The author makes use of various archival sources in recreating the communication between the Bishop and the SVD missionaries. These served to unravel the reasons for the SVDs taking over parishes in northern Cagayan and why the Bishop supported the establishment of Christ the King Mission Seminary in New Manila.

Alvenio G. Mozol, Jr.'s study, "Noise of Violent Human Speech and the Restraint of Contemplative Silence," covers a vital aspect of "contemplative

silence”: as context and as an end; one that “is not a mere absence of words, a type of passive protest, or a state of unspeakable suffering, but the spacious, fertile, and transfiguring ground of human speech because it is the boundless yet contingent ‘temple of divine presence’.” “Contemplative silence”, marked as a *praxis*, could also bring back the idea of a practice that is an end in itself, even if most of us would be disposed to expect utilitarian results from silence.

Marisol Navidad’s work, “The Prophetic Function of the Paraclete in our Ecclesial Life,” explores the Paraclete sayings (John 14: 17, 26; 15:26; 16: 13), and shows how the Paraclete continues to reveal to the churches the message of salvation by Jesus. As he prophesied during his earthly ministry, Jesus will continue to do so through the Paraclete who dwells in his disciples. The article argues that the Paraclete discloses the “things to come,” providing direction for ecclesial life.

With her research notes, Nicole Tilman takes up the issue of salvation for the religious ‘other’ and the salvific role of his or her religion by: 1) showing how cultural and religious pluralism brought about by globalization and migration have made this issue a pressing one; 2) reviewing the evolution of the Roman Catholic Church’s teachings concerning other religions and salvation; and 3) surveying various alternative theological positions.

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