Two important Ignatian anniversaries are being celebrated in this centennial year (1990-1991): the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Ignatius Loyola (1491) and the 450th of the papal approval of the Society of Jesus by Paul III (1540). As a modest but heartfelt contribution to the celebration of the two anniversaries, the present issue of LANDAS features four articles which treat Ignatian themes.

In “Two Centennials, Diverse Charisms, Kindred Spirits,” Thomas H. Green does a comparative study of the spiritualities of John of the Cross (1991 happens also to be the fourth centennial of the death of St. John) and of Ignatius. He argues that John and Ignatius — despite the great diversity of their charisms and of the audiences for which they write — are truly kindred spirits in the Lord.

The Spiritual Exercises aims to dispose the person to make a decision for God in freedom of heart. The theology of freedom has undergone many significant changes, for instance, since Vatican II. In his article “Ignatian Decision-Making and Freedom in Today’s World,” Antonio B. Lambino investigates the possible impact of a contemporary theology of freedom on the Ignatian understanding of “election.”

Taking his cue from the special emphasis placed on catechesis by the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines, Joseph L. Roche, in his article “The Ignatian Vision and Philippine Catechesis,” first sketches the catechetical dimension of Ignatius’ own adult experience, and secondly, the place of the catechetical ministry in his vision as expressed in The Spiritual Exercises and The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus. Both the personal subjective conversion
process of the self-styled "pilgrim," and many of the outstanding traits of his objective "spirituality of service" — especially as enshrined in the Jesuit educational tradition — provide numerous insights and lessons for Philippine catechesis today.

In "Crisis and Discernment," a thought experiment is proposed by Vicente Marasigan to see how Ignatian discernment of spirits might be used to help discover responses to the present crisis of self-destructiveness insofar as this crisis results from economic dysfunctions.

Participants in the Christian-Muslim dialogue may find particularly useful Thomas J. O'Shaughnassy's "Christian Religious Specialists in the Qur'ān." The article examines the historical background of Qur'ānic texts where mention is made of Christian priests or monks, sometimes in praise, sometimes in criticism.

In Notes and Comments, Pedro S. de Achútegui presents "a brief account" of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines held at the beginning of 1991. The note offers a summary of the highlights of the Council with a historical background on the reasons for its convocation, the stages of preparation, the organizational set-up, the spectrum of participation, the chosen themes for deliberation, and general results of the Council.

In his brief note, "Discerning Apports: Paranormal?," V. Marasigan offers an interpretation of certain reported phenomena like the apparent materialization from thin air of flowers and petals.

A book by Michel Schooyans gives Gerald W. Healy the opportunity to offer in a review article "an update on abortion." Following the author of the book on the political implications of abortion, the reviewer forcefully unmask the deceptions of the promoters of abortion under its various aspects: motivational, financial, juridical, sociological, moral and religious, ending with a special reflection on abortion in the Philippines.

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