An abundant variety of articles comprises the 1994 first issue of Landas. It opens with a reflection of Bishop Cornelio de Wit on "The Role of the Religious in the Philippine Church and in the Nation," offering interesting insights on the situation and challenges the religious are confronted with, and which he can personally present as delegate to the Synod of Bishops in Rome this fall.

Miguel A. Bernad’s fascinating theologico-literary article, "A Theological Phenomenon," presents his comments and reflections on Hans Urs von Balthasar’s essay on the Jesuit English poet Gerard Manley Hopkins.

The Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (1991) is the subject of two articles. Renato A. Ocampo’s "Pastoral Implications of Basic Christian Communities: A Commentary on the PCP II Text" focuses his attention on, and indicates the new features of, the BECs, raising several pertinent questions that leave room for further investigation. Antonio F. Moreno’s "PCP II Ecclesiology: A Critical Evaluation" examines the objections raised by a writer against the ecclesiology of the Council, bringing out its strengths and limitations.


Vicente Marasigan has three contributions. In an article entitled "Atheism and Transcendent Knowledge," he shows how Lonergan links Pope Paul VI’s concept of intellectual atheism with biased
attempts of science to be empirical without being normative. — In a Note entitled "Olfactory Discernment of Spirits," he presents the reflections of Herbert Thurston, S.J., on reports of mystical perfumes in order to discern the difference between those associated with sanctity or the supernatural and those that are merely paranormal. — In a review article about two books, one by Ellul on anarchy and the other by O’Carroll on Medjugorje, he distills from them important insights that jointly illustrate Lonergan’s method of intentionality analysis.

As a participant in the Fifth World Conference on Faith and Order held in August 1993, Pedro C. Sevilla writes on "Ecumenism in Santiago de Compostela: How Far has It Come?" He indicates the ecumenical gains in the past decades together with what still remains to be done.

Pedro S. de Achutegui presents a comprehensive view of the principal data found in "The 1993 Catholic Directory of the Philippines" (1,415 pages plus various charts and maps) which he edited.

In his "A Note on Sorrow for Sin in the Qur’ân," Thomas J. O’Shaughnessy presents interesting and scholarly ideas on the various views on sin held both in Islam and in Christianity.

1 January 1994

Pedro C. Sevilla, S.J.