

FOREWORD

In looking up data for a topic and later on writing about it, one could have been faddish by starting with a theme such as, "philosophy in the age of information technology" or "philosophy for global competitiveness." Philosophy, however, must transcend the volatile moods and vagaries of the present times; it ought to deal with fundamental questions and go down to the principles that ground reality. Thus, this particular discipline richly and rightly deserves the title of "philosophia perennis."

The articles we are presenting in this issue demonstrate a fairly wide range of concerns in the minds of their respective authors. Dr. Manuel B. Dy, Jr. shows a keen interest on how the Chinese philosopher Mencius thought of the basic explanations of history. Dr. Rainier A. Ibane invites the readers to explore the nature and implications of existence on society. Fr. Leonardo R. Estioko, SVD guides us into the intimate realm of conscience where one encounters, communicates with and answers to a personal God. Bro. Romualdo E. Abulad, SVD challenges the readers with the contention that the ideas of Kant, as the chief representative of postmodernism, possess continuing relevance even to our days. Finally, we have an attempt to explore once again and have a different view on the seemingly perennial conflict between faith and reason, between religion and science, in the article "Truth in Science and Truth in Religion." The author of the last article in this issue urges the readers to see the roots of the conflict and, at the same time, contemplate various ways of reconciling the two truths. For while the truth in science and truth of faith seemingly oppose each other, actually they can be assumed into a higher plane of looking at, understanding and, finally, interpreting reality.

The readers are most welcome to accompany the writers' journey along the paths of their thinking, to dialogue with them, to argue wherever possible, and suggest newer and more creative ways of thinking and expressing reality. As they journey together along the path towards knowledge and wisdom, may the readers and writers-the intellectual partners-be mutually enriched as they approach or, what would even be better, reach their destinations.

Fr. Florencio L. Lagura, SVD