

EDITORIAL

This volume of the Bulletin presents the Ecumenical Association of Nigerian Theologians papers read at its Fifth Seminar at the Brother Roman Pastoral Centre, Ekpoma, Bendel State of Nigeria on May 7, 1988. The theme of the Seminar was *Church and Politics in Nigeria*, an issue considered quite *ad rem* to the spirit of the times in Nigeria when the minds of most Christian leaders need to be conscientized on their role in the political era soon dawning on us, Nigerians. Father Eugene Uzukwu, in a *Foreword* to this issue attempts to situate the *raison d'être* of the Association, its genesis and interests in the light of the Nigerian local situation. Dr. Manus' article sets the scene with a probe into the New Testament basis for Christian contribution and role in politics come 1992. Fr. Uzukwu discusses the interaction between the Church and the State in the *primitive* Church. From such background history, he excavates the root-causes of the crisis contemporary christian churches in Nigeria are confronted with in trying to define themselves. In *Ethics of Politics in Nigeria*, Rev. Dr. Ejizu explores the factors condemning politics as "a dirty game" before some well-meaning Nigerian christians. Indeed, a *theologumenon* on Nigerian politics becomes quite pertinent at this time. Rev. Canon Omoera attempts, however brief, to provide this reflection. Bishop John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Bishop of Ilorin, true to his type and to the aspirations of EANT, discusses and clarifies the secularity of the Nigerian nation, an issue that often evokes passionate acrimony between christians and muslims. Finally, Fr. Anthony Erhueh addresses himself to a methodological enquiry on *The Contribution of Christianity to Politics in Nigeria*. Among other things, the paper sketches some areas in which christianity has amply contributed to the quality of life in Nigeria.

This is the general overview of the articles in this volume. Their pertinency to the situation at hand in today's Nigeria calls for sober reflections on the part of committed christians. EANT is happy to feed your reading passion with the papers.

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