



Letter from the Editor

By MyLan Metzger

In this issue of *New Horizons*, the board invited graduate students from throughout the country to respond to the ever present violence in this world. When we originally released the call for papers, the war in Ukraine was ever present on many American's minds. Only a few weeks later, mass shooting after mass shooting, often racial motivated, were making headlines. A few weeks after our board deliberated to review the submitted papers, the Supreme Court of the United States finally reversed a violent and detrimental court decision, *Roe v. Wade*. The backlash against this decision demonstrates how violence permeates not only far away countries, but even our own society and even our own wombs. It is into this reality that our board and authors share with you this new issue of *New Horizons*. True to its mission of releasing contextual theology, *New Horizons* explores the many different facets of violence, but also the many of possible Christian responses.

Dhinakaran Savariyar, SJ examines caste discrimination in India and argues that despite how the Catholic Church is sometimes intertwined in the caste system, Christian peace-making is still a necessary response to the violence. Ellie Martin looks at the violence human beings have inflicted upon the environment, particularly the soil. She calls Christians to a new eco-spirituality grounded in Genesis 2. In our final paper, Brendan Barnicle takes a more therapeutic and healing approach, arguing that a theology of healing is necessary for a Church that touches the wounds of trauma.

We are also grateful to share two additional creative pieces in this issue. Short, beautiful, and to the point, Jess Navarette's poetry draws parallels from those who exploit and dominate in the Bible to those who exploit and dominate in our current economic and political system. Finally, harkening back to the original impetus for this issue, Vitaliy Osmolovskyy, SJ, a Ukrainian doctorate student at the Jesuit School of Theology, sits down with Barbara Kozee to discuss his move back to Ukraine in order to serve the refugees of his home country.

This issue expands the perhaps standard conceptions of violence but presents a great call for people of faith to not turn a blind eye to violence in its many forms, but to instead engage their faith to walk with those who suffer.