

# Vidyajyoti Today

*Announcing the Gospel with Joy*

VJ TODAY - 08

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## Courses offered in Vidyajyoti College of Theology

B.Th. (Degree)

B.Th. (Certificate)

M.Th (Two Year)

Doctorate in Theology & DEPTH

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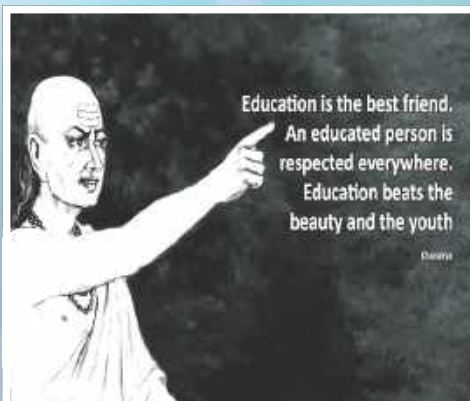
Dear staff and students,  
well-wishers, benefactors and readers of  
Vidyajyoti Today,

Compliments of the season and Happy  
New Year 2020.

We witnessed, during the season of Christmas and New Year protests and dharnas against the ruling dispensation's National Registration Certificate and Citizens Amendment Act. Those were, exactly the days, when I was invited to Rome to present a paper in a seminar titled "Transforming Asia: Challenges of the Christian Mission in Asia on the 20th Anniversary of Ecclesia in Asia" organized by Pontifical Theological Faculty of St. Bonaventure - Seraphicum, and Pontifical Urbaniana University in collaboration with Pontifical Missionary Union. I began my paper on "Hindu Nationalism's Challenge to Christian Mission in India", with the words of Pope Francis to a group of Indian bishops that "he was aware of the challenges confronting the Church in their country, but they should continue their work with courage and enthusiasm". The recent violent incidents at Jamia Milia Hamdard and Jawaharlal Nehru Universities have shockingly unearthed a narrative of how Hindu nationalists have amplified and routinized public anger and collective violence as legitimate means of political expressions of exercising aggressive political power.

In a charged context like this, what challenges do Hindutva forces pose to the Christian mission in India? And what ought to be the response of the Indian Christians in this conflictual situation were some of my concerns in the paper. May God Emmanuel continue to reveal to us what we ought to do in the present context of India!

P.R. John SJ (Principal)





### Lecture on Islam



On 1st October 2019 we had lecture on Islam by a team coming from CPS International (center for peace and spirituality). This was the part of our Islamic course. Three main speakers along with the group of Muslim brothers and sisters came for the program. Fr. Edwin Victor SJ welcomed the guests in the beginning. Prof. Farida Khanam spoke about the sublime character, peaceful behavior and positive response of the prophet Mohammad. His life was



marked by patience and quality. Run away from fight, live God oriented life Miss Mariam spoke about the positive aspects of today's Islam.

Nirmal Khullu ,  
I B.Th.

### DEPTh, 2nd Convocation Ceremony & Annual Seminar

DEPTh , the Distance Education Programme in Theology of Vidyajyoti College of Theology organized its 2nd Annual Laity Seminar and Convocation Ceremony on 2nd October, 2019 at Navjivan Renewal Centre, Delhi. It was an overwhelming feeling of joy to witness the presence of people in big numbers about 400 of them from different parishes of Delhi Archdiocese and from all over India.

His Excellency Most Rev. Francis Kalist, the Bishop of Meerut was the Chief Guest. His Grace Most Rev. Vincent M Concessao, Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Delhi was the Guest of Honour. Fr Raj Kumar SJ, the director of DEPTh welcomed the chief guest, the guest of honour, other dignitaries and the entire gathering. One of the important events of the day was the convocation ceremony. We had twelve women and men, among them were nuns and religious brothers, who got graduated this year. His Excellency Most Rev. Francis Kalist, His Grace Most Rev. Vincent M Concessao and Mr.Cinnappan A, Secretary General, All India Catholic Life, acknowledged their success and presented them their Diploma Certificates.



The chief speaker Rev. Fr. Dr. Jacob Parappally, MSFS, reflected on the theme for the day, Radical Discipleship of Lay Faithful Today. Fr Jacob began his talk by inviting the lay faithful to be prepared to defend themselves and explain their reason for the hope they have. His reflections on radical discipleship were deep and he insisted that it demands from us a deep commitment to Christ and apostleship, which calls for rootedness in Christ. He said that the radical discipleship is not just 'believing in Christ' but a call to be 'united in Him'.

The three Panellists, Mr.Devasia, Secretary, Laity Commission, Archdiocese of Delhi, Mrs. Lucy Binoj, Director (HR&Audit), STJ Electronics Pvt, Ltd. and Rev. Fr. George Jacob Palackaparambil SAC, Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for SCCs, shared their experiences in reference to lay involvement in the Church and it was acknowledged that it is a vocation and this demands the support from the family and from the Church. Questions from the audience were very practical and contextual.



Lijo Antony ,  
II B.Th.



### Islamic Studies Association (ISA) Jubilee Convention

On the 13th of October 2019, the students of Vidyajyoti were privileged to participate in the Jubilee Convention organized by the Islamic Studies Association. The ISA has completed forty years of its service to the Church and Society. The program was held at the Navjivan Renewal Centre. Emphasis was laid on the aspect of interreligious dialogue as not a mere intellectual exercise but rather as a process in which both parties involved are transformed and enriched by their experience of working with each other.

The welcome address was given by Fr. Pushpa Anbu S.V.D, the former editor of salaam. On the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the historical meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik Al Kamil (1219 – 2019), a painting done by Sch. Devadoss SJ was unveiled and displayed to the audience. The presidential address was given by Fr. Thomas Kununkal SJ. This was followed by the reading out of various messages sent to the Islamic Studies Association (ISA) by various prominent personalities. Letters sent by Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. George Pattery SJ, Provincial of South Asia and Msgr. Indunil Janakarathne, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.



We were privileged to listen to two very inspiring people, a Christian and a Muslim. Their faith in God shaped their lives and their contribution to society. The first speaker was Mr. Faisal Khan, he is the man who has revived the KhudaiKhidmatgar movement. It fights the social evils in our country today. The next speaker was Fr. Bob McCahill, a Maryknoll priest, who has worked as a missionary in Bangladesh since the year 1976, over a period of more than forty years, serving the people of Bangladesh. They gave us the message that “we are all one family” and they emphasized our collective responsibility to care for the world's vulnerable. The event was a great success. It was very well organised by Fr. Victor Edwin and the Jesuit scholastics from Vidyajyoti.



Wesley D' Costa,  
II B.Th.

### Banaras – A Journey in the Land of Hinduism.

We, the first year theology students of Vidyajyoti, had an unforgettable pilgrimage to Banaras, as part of our course on Hinduism. Like our Hindu brethren, we took this journey as a pilgrimage. Banaras is a city which needs you to stay there for at least a week to really get soak into the culture and atmosphere of the place. We were fortunate enough to get our lodging and boarding at Vishwajyoti Gurukul, a beautiful formation house belonging to the Indian Missionary Society. We were guided by Frs. Jerome, IMS and P.R. John, S.J.



Banaras is the spiritual capital of India. It occupies a prime position in the list of the holiest of holy destinations for Hindus. Today, Varanasi is known all over the world for its pulsating culture, the Ghats along the banks of the holy river Ganga and its 23,000

odd temples which include the Kashi Vishwanath temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, with whom the city is synonymous with. Hindus believe that death in the holy city of Varanasi would lead to their salvation and this belief draws the devotees like a magnet, to visit the city at least once in a lifetime. We pilgrims, with a deep-rooted interest and fascination for the spiritual and mythological intricacies of Hinduism were sure to love and treasure this visit to this ancient city.

We took a short half-day trip from Varanasi to Sarnath, which is just about a half-hour drive away. Sarnath is the place where Buddha went from Bodh Gaya soon after his enlightenment under the Bodhi tree and preached his first sermon to five disciples and laid the foundation stone for Buddhism. Even today if you walk in the deer park and if you listen carefully, the sounds of “Buddham Sharanam Gacchami”, echoes in the air. We also visited the Archaeological Museum which is home for the various findings from the Sarnath site. The Museum has a collection of more than 6,000 sculptures and various artifacts. The most famous of these is the Lion Capital of Ashoka (sculpture of 4 Asiatic lions standing, back to back), sculpted in sandstone and originally erected in Sarnath in the year 250 BCE.



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The grand finale to our trip was, witnessing the spectacular Ganga Aarti on Dashashwamedh Ghat sitting in a boat, moored near the Ghats. As the sun sets in the horizon and twilight casts its mystical glow, the river Ganga assumes a golden sheen in front of the Dashashwamedh Ghat. At the end of our trip, we were filled with awe and amazement to see a distinct and serene picture of Hinduism. We also realize that Varanasi is not just about Hinduism, temples and Ghats, but is much more than that. We were enlightened by various visits, lectures and workshops and on-site stays, which were well organized by our local guide and organizer Fr. Jerome. I feel Varanasi is a place that all those in formation must add to their bucket list, to prepare well to serve our Lord.



Vivian Lopes,  
I B.Th.

### The Second Endowment Lecture - Baptised and Sent



The second endowment lecture was organized on 30th October 2019 in the honour of Prof. Joseph Putz SJ and Jacques Dupuis SJ at Vidya-jothi College, Delhi. The theme was “Baptized and Sent: The Church of the Christ on Mission in the World.” The lecturer was delivered by Dr. Errol D’Lima SJ. Fr. P R John SJ the principal gave welcome and the introductory speech about the Lecturer. Later on Fr. Rajkumar moderated the session. Archbishop of Delhi Rev. Anil J T Couto briefed us his beautiful and short memories about Prof. Joseph Putz SJ and Jacques Dupuis SJ.

Fr. Dr. Errol D’Lima SJ began his talk focusing on the evolution of Christ’ Mission. He touched the aspect



of Proclamation during colonization and evangelization by Spain and Portugal. These two countries had blessings of Popes. Donor Model was introduced by that time for missionary work. Popes had universal Jurisdiction. The Church was involved forcefully grabbing lands and suppressing others. The pattern for appointment of local clergies to guide the local churches was done according to the Roman Church.

Fr. Dr. Errol D' Lima SJ also highlighted the Vatican II understanding the Christ' Mission. He stressed the church to be the people of God giving expression to communication. The Donor Model today has two methods namely, dialogue and celebration. Fr. Errol beautifully explained the method of dialogue in order to have meaningful proclamation of Christ Mission in the world. These methods are Discernment, Inclusiveness, Synodality, usage of Semic Pace Diaspora, FABC, and Ashram. The entire college was divided into 8 groups. We had fruitful sharing in the group. It was followed by a meaningful and fruitful reporting session.

Fr. Errol D' Lima S J, slept in the Lord on 5 January, 2020 at 7:50 pm. He was one of great theologians of India. Fr. Errol will be fondly remembered by many Jesuits, religious, priests and lay persons whom he accompanied along their journey of faith. He was refreshingly honest in his quest for the truth, always acknowledging our human limits in grasping it fully. We all realize that in our efforts to understand the Divine Mystery, all we can do is 'to know only in part; to see as in a mirror dimly'. Fr. Errol now sees this Mystery face to face!



Felix Tete,  
II B.Th.

### The Second Endowment Lecture - Who is My Neighbour?



The Second Endowment Lecture was organized on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 in honor of Profs. Jules Volckaert S.J. and Paddy Meagher S.J. Rev. Sr. Dr. Pauline Chakkalakal, DSP was the main speaker. She spoke on the theme "Who is my neighbor?" The session was chaired by Fr. Valan, SJ. Rev. Fr. Dr. George Pattery SJ, President, Jesuit conference South Asia was the chief guest.

Dr. Pauline presented her topic in two parts; The context, structure and exegesis of Luke 10: 25-37 and Implications and challenges for today. She emphasized on the present situation of India and posed the question to the listeners, "who is my neighbor?" in the context of today.

She said that India is wounded by caste, creed, religion and fundamentalists. She further added that Dalits and women are the most vulnerable in the present situation. Who are their neighbors? She talked about the feminist equalitarian. And we need to become a prophetic voice for women.

Samaritans were looked down by Jews during Jesus' time. Therefore, Jesus tried to uplift them by giving importance to their dignity. Jesus gave a story of a Samaritan to Jews in order to show them, the dignity of the Samaritans in the society. Their generosity and compassion spoke louder than Jews' law. Dr. Pauline compared Dalits with Samaritans by looking at the context of India. She invited us to uplift these people by becoming a neighbor to them. We need to care for them and uphold dignity of life, so that they too can live their life with dignity in the society. She emphasized that we need to go beyond blood relationships of neighbor in order to actualize the vision of Jesus.



Bhadagi Jayanti,  
I B.Th.

## Nayi Roshni – Bal Mela 2019

Nayi Roshni was the theme chosen for the Bal Mela 2019, which was organised on 1st December, 2019. The Total number of children and the volunteers, who participated in the Mela was 484. As we were looking for the theme for the Bal Mela, we kept in mind one of the Universal Apostolic Preference of the Society of



Jesus: 'caring for our common home'. We strongly felt that our theme too should revolve around this. Thus we ended up keeping it 'Nayi Roshni' which means 'New Rays'.

This Bal Mela was organized mainly for the children living in slums among whom we have our Field work, an appropriate platform, has been the tradition of Vidyajyoti. When we look at these children and their lives in the slums, we find that they are like butterflies with fences around. They are busy doing their household activities and schooling. These children need a Mela like this, first of all, to come out of the fences, to enjoy the company of more than four hundred children, and

to bring out their talents and creativities in the form of drawing, making wealth out of waste, dances, and different games, etc. And Bal Mela was the right platform for that.

Fr. Alex Chinna, SJ was the chief guest for the inaugural session. He encouraged the children to be the change of society and country. Fr. Sanjay Kujur SVD, the chief guest for the cultural programme, while addressing the children he talked about four things. They are: to have Self-confidence, to celebrate one's strengths, to face the challenges optimistically and to strive for excellence. He also exhorted the children to do away with the crowd mentality. He encouraged the children to think differently and be the agents of change in the society which will be their new identity in the society.



In the Gospels we read how much Jesus loved children. In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says

"Let the children come to me". Jesus welcomes the children. He loves the little ones. He invites us today to let the children come to Him. That is what exactly happened in this Bal Mela. This was an occasion wherein we could bring the children and make them play, dance, sing, speak, and enjoy and thus brought them closer to Him. It was also an occasion wherein the children experienced the values of Christ such as love for another, forgiveness when the other made a mistake, friendship, and so on. Thus our Bal Mela turned out to end in a happy note. Thanks to Fr. Milianus and Lopes for their hardwork.



Cajetan Anthony,  
I B.Th.



### A Day with the Buddies of Asha ki Kiran

"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2019 greeted us, to impart a unique experience as the gates of the college was wide open for the street children (Asha ki Kiran).

By 8 am, the city guys started appearing with their usual rattling gestures greeting every one Namaste Father, Namaste Didi.

Soon after the registration they were sent to meet their hygienic needs. We gave them haircut, provided medical aid for those in need and distributed jackets, shirts and jeans pants for all.

Adv. Sr. Anastasia Gill, PBVM, Member of Delhi Minority Commission, was the chief guest of the day.

Through her spontaneous and friendly interaction she helped them to realize how they are being exploited by the social system and encouraged them

to lead a dignified life. Rev. Fr. Sanjay Kujur, SVD a doctoral student of Vidyajyoti, during his address appreciated those children who stopped taking

drugs and invited them to have a change of life. Different fun games were conducted and it was wonderful to see all of them taking active part in them.



Sr. Stella PR,  
II B.Th.

Around fifty of them were present to benefit out of this event. The hours we spent with them sharing jointly what we had, enriched our experience; to love without condition, to give without reason and to care without expectation.

### Christmas Celebration 2019

We celebrate Christmas every year in remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ. Christmas is the time of celebration which brings joy, happiness, and peace in our lives. It is celebrated in various ways in today's world. This year amidst tensions across the country, we chose to celebrate prayerfully and meaningfully in a simple manner.



We celebrated Christmas at Vidyajyoti College on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2019. The celebration began with a melodious prayer song. After the prayer song, sisters and brothers made spontaneous prayers. We prayed especially for peace for India and the world at large. Sch. Suresh Anthony SJ read the Gospel, followed by a meaningful reflection about Christmas by Sr. Stella. The carol singing began by Pratiksha brothers followed by Vidya Jyoti

Niwas sisters. Fr. Alex Chinna, SJ, was the chief guest. He gave a beautiful Christmas message through his own life experiences and emphatically expressed that 'Jesus is with me and he accompanies me in every situation of my life'. His message was filled with hope, love, and faith. Carol singing by brothers from Ranchi, Madurai and Varanasi added flavour to the celebration. At the end, Fr. Rector gave a heart-touching Christmas message. The celebration was concluded with the vote of thanks given by Sr. Mini. The master of ceremony was Br. Jugal TOR.



Bhadagi Jayanti,  
I B.Th.



### Gyan Bharati Regional Theology Centre, Varanasi

The Varanasi Regional Theology Centre, Gyan Bharti is entering more into the learning and doing theology in these years. We are trying to follow Pope Francis Praxis Model. Apart from the Classes in theology there are other sessions and seminars on relevant topics and exposures.



The Second Year students had exposure to Kuamavi Christians in Banna and Luchasani, Almora of Nanithal Region in the month of July 2019.

We had a session on the Digital Media and its effect on Seminary Formation conducted by Sr. Joeann DSP on 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 2019. The Students were made aware the way they become unconscious victims to digital addiction and tips were give help to avoid mobile addition other related issues on such as false sexual gratification through media.

As part of the Eco theology the students planted trees in the villages they go for ministry on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We try to keep our campus as much as eco-friendly by avoiding plastics and chemical manure. We cultivate quite a bit of organic vegetables for our use and also share with neighboring community.

During these Festive days, Varanasi students visited temples, pandols and other places of worship to acquaint themselves with the cultural and religious practices of other faiths.

Participating and being volunteers at Annual Convention at Matridham Ashram, Pligimage to Infant Jesus Shrine, Mugalsarai, Helping in Christ, the King procession at Varanasi Cathedral are regular activities of our students.

We celebrated Christmas with our neighborhood people on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec and the Message was delivered by our Director Rev. Fr. Dr. Jerome IMS. He explained to people on three words 'Bharosa, Astha and Vishwas.' Bharosa is

trust, we trust in people; Astha is belief, we believe in Dogmas; viswas is faith we believe in God and God alone gives salvation-mukti through the Paschal Mystery of Christ Jesus. We also participated in Christmas ministries and enjoyed the season by visiting many religious houses singing carols. After the hectic sessions of two semesters and relaxed refreshed Christmas holidays we are looking forward for yet another hectic semester to learn Christology, Christian Anthropology and Prophets and many other theological courses. Fr. Jerome released a book titled "Spirituality of Interfaith Dialogue". It is the compilation of the papers presented during the seminars conducted by Gyan Bharati Gurukul in the year 2016.







## Ministry Among the Sex Workers

Ministry among the sex workers is a new ministry which started last year. The ministry mainly aims at educating and motivating the children of sex workers living in G.B. Road. As education is an effective way



to transform the lives of vulnerable children, we are engaged in imparting knowledge through creative and innovative ways. The biggest challenge for us is to keep them motivated in studies and help them dream big. As they are living in an extremely volatile situation, we need to help them through education. Apart from education, what the children need is our care and constant accompaniment. I am extremely proud of being part of this ministry and contribute in my own little way to this noble cause. The participation in Balamela was an unforgettable day in the lives of children of our ministry place. The children were so excited to come for

B a l mela as it was their first experience. I could see the joy and happiness in their faces when they won prizes in various games. As soon as they won the prizes, they came to us showing it with great happiness and pride. They also performed various cultural programs which were appreciated by many. Balamela gave them the right platform to exhibit their hidden talents and boosted their confidence in facing the crowd. Above all, Bal mela gave them a memorable day in their lives.



Stevenson Paul ,  
II B.Th.

## Change and Become Like Children

At the very heart of Jesus' teaching on children is the affirmation that a child, as a symbol, resembles God. It represents the love that flows and unites humans. It also represents the grace that is showered upon the world. Love and grace are the works of God. Jesus also affirms in Mark 9: 37, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." Children have a greater role in the Kingdom of God than anyone else. It is a privilege for me and the group to go to Jahangirpuri tuition centre. On the one hand, we see the children being studious, brave, joyful and entertaining; on the other hand, we observe their brokenness, inability and vulnerability. These children are the exact portrayal of the Kingdom of God. They show us that amidst vulnerability and brokenness the hand of God leads us naturally to the Kingdom of joy, peace and reconciliation. Because of them, the entry to the Kingdom of God is quite simple – change and become like children (Mt 18:3).



Jivodaya Jahangirpuri E' Block

The world of the children is quite vast like the universal Church. The church is a community in which everyone shares the love of God with others. We witness the expression of love and joy by the children which in a way take away our personal dryness. Of course, they do not solve our problems but rather they show us the way to redemption from our problems – just smile at the problems. I personally have grasped this attitude of smiling at the problems. At the same moment, with the Church, we also take part in nurturing and shaping these children. Children are the real God-given gifts for the world to realize how God is, functions and cares for humanity.



Pon Ruban,  
III B.Th.



### MSFS Brothers' Experience



With immense pleasure and joy, we admit the fact that our theological studies for about a semester in Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi, was indeed a memorable one. It was indeed a great joy to be part of this institute. Our life in Vidyajyoti was one of pleasant, fruitful, and enriching time. As part of our free semester- exposure programme, unique to our Theologate, Tejas Vidya Peetha, a Centre for Mission- Oriented and Contextual Theology, we became part of Vidyajyoti community. Thanks to the effort of our confreres back in Bangalore

for paving the way and the fathers and brothers here for filling that path with joy and happiness.

The theological discourses on various subjects, the exposure to social work and the interaction with Vidyajyoti brothers belonging to different culture enhanced our thoughts and deeds and widened the knowledge about the world and its needs, besides helping us to strengthen our faith. Access to Vidyajyoti Library, the deliberations and discussions with the professors and classmates, the lectures and the seminars held here gave us more insights on many aspects of contextual theology.

We felt at home and cherished the companionship of everyone at VJ. We consider it as a blessing to be able to become part of VJ family. Though our stay at vidyajyoti was short, we are sure we are going back with hearts full of riches of various kinds. Our perspectives have changed, our thoughts are challenged and what not. As we bid farewell to VJ family, we have nothing else to say, expect a big thanks to all of you. And finally we admit, "How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard".



Albin Mathew,  
III B.Th.

### The Indian Adventures of a Hungarian Jesuit

What is less than two months' time if you wish to become familiar with a culture so marvelously rich as the Indian? In two months, one can merely gather impressions about a country, nothing more than that. However, one can meet and befriend new people – and that is something, something wonderful!

It has been two months since I visited India. I remembered the day I set off and arrived in the country. To tell the truth, I was already on the plane when I suddenly realized how unprepared I would be arriving in Delhi. Naturally, the question is whether it is possible at all to get ready for India. I believe the answer is yes and no at the same time. On the one hand, it is possible to get ready as one purchases the plane ticket, obtains the visa, gets the vaccinations, sends e-mails to sort out the details with the superior of the local Jesuit community – and in the meantime prepares for the heat with quite high levels of humidity. One accepts in advance that clean drinking water will not be available everywhere, furthermore, the locals will heavily overcharge him for the services such as taxis, tuk-tuks, admission tickets, the hairdresser etc.; the guest will pay much more than the Indians, which is completely understandable, indeed. One can be pleased in advance to be able to attend splendid lectures at the theology, even though he is a priest already – live and learn, they say, or as they put it in Hungary: a good priest learns until his death; and that he will finally understand what contextual theology is. What one cannot see in advance is being immediately surrounded by some twenty taxi drivers as he steps out of the airport, not knowing which driver has got hold of his mobile phone and in a couple of minutes how this phone will find its way back to him (which, of course, it did). One cannot see in advance how very kind, thoughtful, friendly and how extensively helpful the fellow members will be. And how absolutely up-to-date the professors will be when it comes to theology as well as other fields like politics, sport and public life. It is impossible to see in advance how easily one can make friends on the train, and that it seems the best place to do so. It is impossible to get ready for the diversity of religious belief which



no doubt characterizes India – the beautiful Hindu temples, the Buddhist religious centers, the Muslim houses of worship. It is hard to get ready for the poverty one can face up to in India, as one looks into the empty eyes of the people living in the street, eyes sometimes full of hopelessness. It is utterly impossible to be ready to see the eyes of children asking for help but then their uninhibited cheerfulness (Dilbara), too. One cannot get ready for two cultures so far apart as Hungary and India to have that many things in common: points of intersection in the shape of personalities, as for example Amrita Sher-Gil, a Hungarian-Indian painter; in the shape of families, such as the chess-player Polgár family, or in the shape of inventions, say a Rubik cube, placed on a table in the memorial room of Indira Gandhi. It is also quite unexpected that notwithstanding the general knowledge that the Hindu religion is famous for its tolerance, there are temples which Christians can never set foot in. And from our European perspective, it might also be difficult to imagine that India is going through a phase of closing up and is flirting with the idea of nationalism, which might result in the nation losing its strength and unfortunately, in the course of time it might weigh heavily on cooperation as such.



Fr. László SJ  
from the Hungarian Jesuit Province



### Finding God in All Things

An introduction to the New Testament focuses on historical questions dealing with authorship, date, sources, purposes, and aims of each particular book. The New Testament consists of 27 separate books, written by different authors. These books teach and manifest the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the rise of early Christian communities.



It contains the historical background of Old Testament. Knowing the time period between the ends of old Testament and the beginning of New Testament helped us to understand the history of early church, and the circumstances where the followers of Jesus had grown up. As the salvific mission of Jesus Christ is give importance in Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, the events of the suffering in Gethsemane, the crucifixion, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ also were given importance. The events in the New Testament are the fulfillment of those events prophesized by many prophets in their prophetic books. This course helped me to gain

the sum and the substance of the books of the New Testament.

The course on 'Grace and Anthropology' seeks to provide a theological understanding of the human person

and her/his leaning to grace. It leads us to make a coherent framework from a Christian perspective of human being and her/his orientation to the divine life. The focus is on the understanding of the human beings as beings with others. Among the most basic and interesting themes to consider in this study are; 'our creation in the image of God', 'our existence as fallen and sinful' and 'our use of freedom in our each and every deeds with or without the planning of God'. Our creation is as persons in relation, as creatures in the image of God and it is an eschatological gift of grace, and it is visible and matter of experience in an anticipatory way in the church. Even if the body is strong and good of any electronic device, it cannot be function without charge or energy, like these devises; if there is no grace in human being's life he cannot do good deeds in his life. Man must need the actual grace from God.

Ignatian spirituality is all about finding God in all things and sharing the joy with all His creatures. It is the spirituality of everyday life. It leads an individual towards the everlasting light. This spirituality blessed many saints and it continues to move the heart of the people even after his life on this earth. The specialty of this spirituality is that, it seeks to imitate Jesus through prayer, discernment and action. Essentially it is Christian spirituality. It not only influenced Christians, but also influenced people of other faiths. The formula of discernment for the decision-making has been adopted even in the corporate world. Therefore, this spirituality is accepted by all for a smooth running of life trusting in the mercy of God. The goal of this spirituality is for the greater glory of God. Therefore, it



Praveen CST,  
I.B.Th.

### Dialogue with the Other for Harmony

In dialogue we express our mutual feelings and sentiments on a particular matter so that both the parties may understand each other in a better way and thereby they live in peace and harmony. We are not dialoguing to convince or to prove the other that we are better but in and through this dialogic process we are trying to give our ears and hearts to listen and to understand them. And so in dialogic process no one is right or wrong. The method of dialogue is not something new for India. Ever since India became a home for people of different religions, it has been dialoguing exceptionally well.



In religion people's feelings, sentiments and emotions are intermingled. Religion is one of the greatest strengths of any civilized society. It takes care of the ethical issues of the society. Every religion tries to promote life. None of the religions says that we have to take the life of the other. But what we see in our day today life is just the opposite.

Few fundamentalists with their selfish and political motives instill in people wrong teachings of religion. They interpret their scripture to suit their vested interests and project God accordingly. This leads to various religious riots. Many innocent and poor people have been affected by this atrocious act. In the Gospel of Mathew (5:44) Jesus says, "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." Jesus initiated dialogue even with those who hated him. He replaced hatred with love. The doctrine of 'Extra ecclesiam nulla salus' held sway for centuries in the Church. It determined its relationship with people of other faiths. Vatican II marked a significant change in the attitude and outlook of the church towards other religions. Though it has





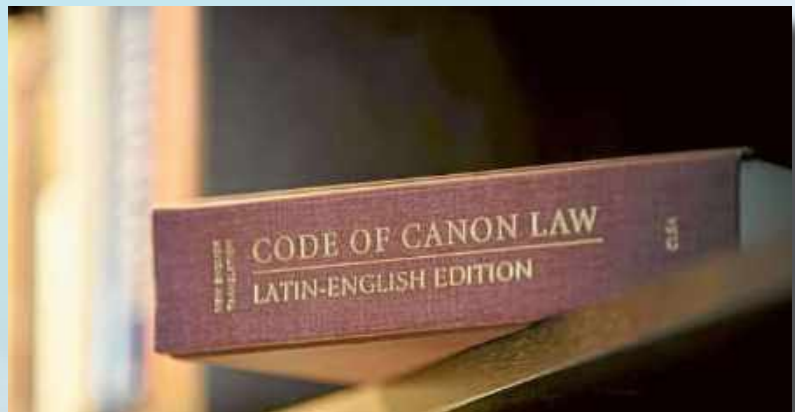
opened its door, it still faces many difficulties in its effort to dialogue with the other religious groups. First and foremost, there is no unity within the Church. Whenever new changes are brought out by the higher authorities prompted by the signs of the time, they don't get to the faithful with its proper interpretations. Even if it reaches them they are not able to come out of their comfort zone because their mind-sets are closed. The Church has a bigger task of preparing the faithful before it gets into dialogue with the other religious groups. In the meanwhile, the church must continue its good work in the field of dialogue. The ultimate goal of every religion in the dialogic process should be of love and harmony. Everyone should realize that we are all from one God who reigns over our hearts. John Fuelenbach in his 'The Kingdom of God: The Message of Jesus Today' (1995) says, "The kingdom's goal is to create one great family of one people where all will find their home in the family of God. Here all discrimination against any individual or group will have ceased. This is the vision Jesus came to bring. This is the kingdom message."



Devadoss,  
II B.Th.

### How Law Plays in Our Lives?

Laws are rules that bind all people living in a community. Laws protect the general safety, and ensure the rights of all citizens against abuses by other people, by organizations, and by the government itself. Sociologically, the church is a social institution; where people united by faith, hope and love, in order to attain a common goal, the 'Reign of God'. Like every



temporal organization, the Church must be governed by laws and regulations that will enable her to fulfill her mission and attain her end. Thus, the importance of Canon Law is realized. In any Social Reformation, there are always attempts being made to bring the real world closer to the ideal world. Therefore, change is the inevitable objective for social transformation. India had seen reformers like Ambedkar, who attempted to bring about change at the level of Constitution. The Hindu Social Reformers' contribution in promoting the "idea of India" is really great. Speaking of Indian Nationalism today, it is sad that the mainstream Indian Social Reformers are conveniently sidelined from the narrative. It's a high time to revive the reflections on India's unity, nationalism, and vision of the Reformers which provide us with a richer understanding of the "idea of India".



Joseph Zoliana,  
III B.Th.



Fr. Jerome Sylvester belongs to IMS Congregation. He is doing his service for the faithful in Varanasi. At present he is the Director of RTC, Varanasi.

### Interview with Fr. Jerome Sylvester, IMS

#### 1. What do you feel about the collaboration between National Theology Center and Regional Theology Center? Do you think that this collaboration imparts sufficient theological knowledge in young theologians of NTC and RTC?

The National Theology Center and Regional Theology Center joint venture in the formation of future priest and missionaries is a welcome approach. It will not only give an opportunity to learn about other religion in the field but create an openness to know from close proximity and have firsthand knowledge. It will help in shaping one's spirituality and attitude toward other religions.

Theology is learnt by experiencing god in the given situation. This joint venture by NTC and RTC will build bridges for generation to come in new ways of shared formation of priest and missionaries.

#### 2. What lessons can we learn from Hinduism as young Catholic theologians?

In India a priest is seen as a man of God. Spiritual experience is the central point. One has to learn the lesson of way to perfection and higher moral life that he/she embodies the spirituality/ theology one learns.

#### 3. What is your message for us in today's context?

Be rooted in your faith; always keep your search for truth and wisdom alone. Keep courage, today, the young need it more than ever for the pursuit of real meaning of life.



Tinto KJ,  
I B.Th.

### Happy New Year to all....

Ring in the New Year is cause for celebration, for spending time with friends and family, and for looking back. A lot can happen in a year and between the good, the bad, and the ugly, this may seem like an understatement for most. As glasses are raised and fireworks explode into the sky, it's important to recognize the special symbolism this year brings with it. A time of new beginnings and fresh starts also comes with a time of reflection. So let this year a fruitful year!



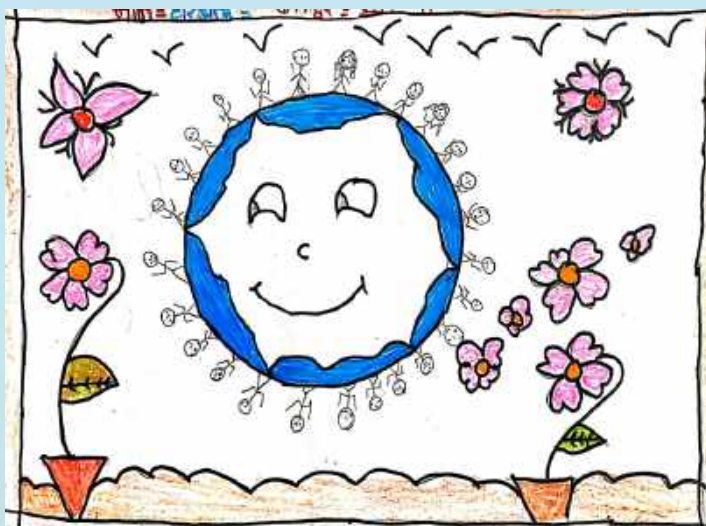




Yashoda, VII C



Vishak, VI C



Hari, VII B



Krishna, VII B



Rajesh, IV A



**Balamela Photoshoot****VJ Protesting against NRC -CAA 9 January 2020**