

Biennial Report - 2016 Feb to 2017 Nov

CBCI Commission for Doctrine

Chairman: Bishop Mar Joseph kallarangattu

Member: Most Rev. Thomas Dabre

Member: Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios

Executive Secretary: Fr. Joseph Pamplaniyil

Introduction

- ❖ The Doctrinal Office, like all the other commissions of the CBCI, understands itself as an agent in the fulfilment of the mission of the Church in the concrete context of the ecclesial life and experiences of our nation. More especially, it contributes to the evangelising mission of the Church, by setting forth in ever greater clarity, the message of the Gospel; and promoting relevant contextual reflection on the Christian faith, in fidelity to the teachings of the Church and its living tradition. The Doctrinal Office strives to encourage and promote culturally-rooted and pastorally relevant theological reflection. As an organ of the CBCI, the Doctrinal Commission is entrusted with the task of mediation as well at different levels: within the Catholic Church in India and also to liaise between the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith and the body of theologians.
- ❖ Given the nature of the responsibility entrusted to the Doctrinal Office of the CBCI, especially with respect to the areas of doctrinal conflicts and theological confrontation, one of its principal focal points concerns activities of an extremely confidential nature. Over the years, the Commission has evolved a methodology of dealing with doctrinal conflicts, with a procedure which involves both the members of the Commission and the Consulters. Hence the activities mentioned below, refer primarily to some of the milestones of a more public nature.
- ❖ Executive Meetings
- ❖ The doctrinal commission envisions its plans and *modus operandi* by means of the executive meetings. Five executive meetings were held during the period of assessment

Executive Meeting 1:

The first executive meeting of the doctrinal commission of the period of assessment was held on March 29-30, 2015 at St. Johns Medical College Bangalore. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu in the presence of Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Abraham Mar Julios, the Episcopal members of the commission. Dr. Joseph Pamplany, secretary of the doctrinal commission presented a report of the general events that took place during his office-charge. The following decisions were arrived at:

1. The CBCI bishops-theologians colloquium on “the Unicity and Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church in the Indian Pluri-Religious Context” was discussed. The venue was chosen to be NBCLC Bangalore and the date was fixed for July 9 to July 10, 2015.
2. The CBCI president was chosen to inaugurate the meeting.
3. The topics as well as the speakers of the colloquium were decided in the light of CDF correspondences that raised certain doubts against the doctrinal orthodoxy of some of the Indian Theologians.

Executive Meeting 2:

The second executive meeting of the doctrinal commission was held on October 16, 2014 at Bishop's House Palai. The meeting chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu, was consulted and briefed to Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Julios. The following decisions were taken :

1. The previous colloquium was evaluated and the report on the same was approved. The CBCI bishops-theologians colloquium on *Misericordia Vultus*, based on various teachings of the papal document on Mercy was decided to be held at NBCLC Bangalore from July 7 to July 9, 2016.
2. The speakers and topics of the colloquium were discussed and decided.
3. The making of the inter-ritual theological text books by various committees were discussed in detail.

Executive Meeting 3:

The third executive meeting of the doctrinal commission was held on July 8, 2015 at NBCLC Bangalore. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu in the presence of Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Julios. The following decisions were arrived at:

1. The doctrinal commission has to extend its scope of functioning by convoking bishops-theologians meet at regional level.
2. Four regional level meetings were planned: Pune, Shillong, Bangalore and Satna.
3. The proceedings publication of the theology text books were decided to be accelerated. A time bound schedule for publication was arrived at.

Executive Meeting 4:

The fourth extraordinary executive meeting of the commission was held on July 9, 2015 at NBCLC Bangalore. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu in the presence of Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Julios. The meeting mainly discussed the issues raised by the CDF. The questions related to the doctrinal authenticity of the teachings of some of the Indian theologians were discussed in detail. The following decisions were taken:

1. A detailed discussion on the issue must be held, where the theologians in question must be invited to clarify their stance.
2. The CBCI president and the Cardinals must be discussed on this issue before any further actions against the theologians.
3. The progress in the making of the inter-ritual theological text books by various committees were discussed in detail.

Executive Meeting 5:

The fifth executive meeting of the doctrinal commission was held on Dec 7, 2015 at Bishop's House Palai. The meeting was chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu and was consulted and briefed to Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Julios. The following decisions were arrived at:

1. The CBCI bishops-theologians colloquium 2016 will discuss the issues related to "Misericordiae Vultus." The venue would be NBCLC Bangalore and the dates , July 7 to July 9, 2015.
2. The CBCI president to chair the meeting.
3. The topic of the colloquium: "Living the Mercy of the Heavenly Father."
4. The dates and details of the regional bishops-theologians meet at Pune and Bangalore were planned.

Executive Meeting 6:

The sixth executive meeting of the doctrinal commission was held on November 29, 2016 at Bishop's House Palai. The meeting chaired by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu, was consulted and briefed to Bishop Thomas Dabre and Bishop Abraham Mar Julios. The following decisions were agreed to:

1. The CBCI bishops-theologians colloquium was decided to be held on the recent magisterial teaching *iuvenescit ecclesia*, in view of the various popular lay movements sprouting in our context, and was to be held at NBCLC Bangalore from July 6 to July 7, 2017.
2. The CBCI president is asked to inaugurate the meeting.
3. The speakers and topics of the colloquium were discussed and decided.

1. Meeting With the CBCI President

The doctrinal commission made an unusual sitting with His Eminence Moran Mor Beselios Cardinal Cleemis, the president of the CBCI to discuss the various related functioning of the doctrinal commission. The meeting was held at the Cardinal's House, Trivandrum on 27.11.2014. The meeting deliberated upon the various comments made by the CDF regarding the Indian theologians. Inspired by the President the members decided to hear the standpoints of those theologians under scrutiny in the context of the bishops-theologians colloquium. The schedule of the colloquium was later modified to implement this decision.

2. Correspondence with the Sacred Congregation for Faith (CDF) of the Holy See

During the period of assessment, the sacred CDF had asked for clarifications on two important issues:

1. A Report of the CBCI Commission for Doctrine regarding two Indian theological journals: As there had been complaints received by the CDF regarding the doctrinal positions of these journals, a detailed report assessing the previous issues of the journals was submitted to the CDF. To safeguard the confidentiality of the procedure, the names of the journals were not supposed to be published for the time being.
2. A Report of the CBCI Commission for Doctrine regarding four Indian theologians: This report was part of the ongoing correspondence with the CDF regarding the doctrinal orthodoxy of certain Indian theologians. A detailed report assessing the writings of these theologians was submitted to the CDF. To safeguard the confidentiality of the procedure, the names of the theologians were not to be published for the time being.
3. A Report on an article published in an Indian Journal by an Indian theologian on the salvific efficacy of baptism was directed to be scrutinized for its doctrinal differences. The report as well as the discussion with the writer helped in clarifying the positions. The writer published a new article clearing the ambiguity caused by his previous article.

3. Bishops-Theologians Colloquium

Three colloquia were held during the period of assessment. The topics were selected on the basis of the relevant doctrinal issues, especially related to the then relevant magisterial documents.

4. 2.1 Bishops-Theologians Colloquium 2015

CBCI commission for doctrine organized a colloquium of bishops and theologians of India, from July 8 to 10, 2014 at NBCLC, Bangalore. In view of the continuous resentments expressed by the CDF regarding the interpretation of the uniqueness of Christ by certain Indian theologians, the commission decided to conduct a colloquium on the same topic. The topic for discussion was "Announcing the Unicity and Universality of Jesus Christ and the Church in the Indian Pluralistic Context. The colloquium was inaugurated by His Eminence Moran Mor Beselios Cardinal Cleemis, the president of the CBCI. His Eminence George Cardinal Alencherry, the representative of the CDF actively participated throughout the discussions of the colloquium.

The colloquium intended to set forth again the doctrine of the Catholic faith in these areas, pointing out some fundamental questions that remain open to further development, and refuting specific positions that are erroneous or ambiguous. For this reason, the colloquium takes up on the one hand what has been taught in previous Magisterial documents, in order to reiterate the truth that is part of the Church's faith and on the other hand the various theological stances of the Indian Christian theology, that are at times ambiguous, misconstrued or erroneous. The colloquium went through the following proceedings:

1. Border Regions of Indian Catholic Theology
Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt (Chairman: CBCI Doctrinal Commission)
2. Uniqueness and universality of Christ in salvation from an Indian Point of View
Fr. Michael Amaldoss SJ
3. Historical Evolution and the Theological Implications of the Doctrine of the uniqueness of Christ
Abp. Anil Joseph Coutto (Chairman, CCBI Commission for Theology)
4. Role of the Church and sacraments in universal salvation?
Fr. Francis Gonsalves SJ (Vidya Jyothi, Delhi)
5. The historical evolution and the leading trends in the Indian Theology of religions
Fr. Saju Chackalckal CMI (President DVK, Bangalore)
6. Towards an Indian Theological Methodology
Fr. Martin Kallungal, (St. Joseph's Pont. Institute Alwaye)
7. The Challenge of Announcing the unicity of Jesus and the Church in a pluralistic context
Fr. Sbhash Anand
8. Reception of the themes of *Dominus Iesus* in India
Bp. Thomas Dabre
9. Alternative Methods in Doing Theology
Mathew Illathuparampil (Rector, St. Joseph's Pontifical Institute, Alwaye)
10. Western Civilization vs Christian Civilization
Prof. Dr.A. Pushparajan, Bangalore
11. Intercultural approach in theology as an antidote to today's atmosphere of cultural fundamentalism

Bishop Tony Neelamkavil

The colloquium come up with the following consensus: It is often proposed that theology should avoid the use of terms like “unicity”, “universality”, and “absoluteness,” which give the impression of excessive emphasis on the significance and value of the salvific event of Jesus Christ in relation to other religions. In reality, however, such language is simply being faithful to revelation, since it represents a development of the sources of the faith themselves.

2.2 Bishops-Theologians Colloquium 2016 at NBCLC

CBCI commission for doctrine organized a colloquium of bishops and theologians of India, from July 8 to 10, 2016 at NBCLC, Bangalore. In view of the year of Mercy, the commission decided to conduct a colloquium on the same topic entitled: *Being Ecclesial and Being Merciful*. The colloquium was inaugurated by His Eminence Moran Mor Beselios Cardinal Cleemis, the president of the CBCI. His Eminence George Cardinal Alencherry, the representative of the CDF actively participated in the discussions of the colloquium. The colloquium explored the various aspects of mercy from the biblical, patristic, doctrinal and practical aspects. 9 main papers were presented at the colloquium. The major papers were the following:

- ❖ Merciful Like the Father: Theology of Mercy as Envisioned in *Misericordia Vultus* – Bishop Joseph Pamplany
- ❖ Mercy Lived: Mercy as the Hermeneutical Key for Christian Moral Theology – Prof. Dr. George Therukattil MCBS
- ❖ Mercy Practiced: mercy to Those who Live in Difficult Marital Situation _ Prof. Dr. Errol D’Lima
- ❖ Faces of Mercy: Towards an Interfaith Solidarity : Prof. Dr. Francis Gonsalves

- ❖ Mercy to the Nature: towards an Eco-Theology of Mercy Based on *Laudato Si* – Bishop Thomas Dabre
- ❖ Mercy Revealed: Biblical Foundations of Mercy – Dr. Sr. Rekha Chennattu
- ❖ Mercy Professed: Patristic Foundations of the Theology of Mercy – Prof. Dr. Thomas Kollampampil
- ❖ Mercy Celebrated: Theology of Mercy Reflected in Liturgy – Prof. Dr. Paulachan Kochappilly
- ❖ Mercy Envisioned: Philosophical Foundations of Mercy – Dr. Sooraj Pitapilly

2.3. Bishops-Theologians Colloquium 2017 at NBCLC

In the context of the upshooting of different sectarian groups and biased understanding of the charismatic gifts, there is a growing tension between the hierarchy and the Charismatic leadership. The CDF is also well aware of this tension. As a result, it has published a document entitled: *Iuvanescit Ecclesia* that explains the means for the harmonious co-existence between both hierarchy and Charism. The CBCI Bishops - Theologians colloquium 2017 decided to discuss the theological practical implication of this magisterial document in the Bishops-Theologians colloquium of 2017. The following main papers were discussed at the colloquium:

- ❖ Tension between the Charismatic and Hierarchical Gifts in the Context of India: Archbishop Prakash Mallavarappu
- ❖ Biblical Foundations of the Dynamism between the Charismatic and Hierarchical Gifts – Malpan Mathew Vellanickal
- ❖ Theological Foundations of the Charismatic and Apostolic Charisms – Dr. Stephen Fernandez
- ❖ Charisms and Institutions: Lessons from Early Christianity – Dr. Joseph Valliatt
- ❖ Ecclesial Practice of the relation between Charismatic and Hierarchical Gifts – Dr. Francis Gonsalves, SJ.
- ❖ Relationship between Hierarchical and Charismatic Gifts in the Recent Magisterium – Dr. Joseph Lobo
- ❖ Liturgical Significance of the Hierarchical Gifts in the Life of the Church – Dr. Pauly Maniattu

Regional Theology Forum

As planned by the executive committee regional theological forums were organized by the doctrinal commission. The following regional theological forums were conducted during the period of assessment.

1. Regional Theology Forum at Jagadapur

A regional theological colloquium was conducted at Jagadapur on 27.07.2016. The participants were the theologians from CMI and Claretian faculties at Wardha. Together with the theme “*Misericordiae Vultus*,” the “challenges faced by the Religious in India” was also discussed in this meeting. More than 300 participants attended this meeting. Doctrinal commission secretary Fr. Joseph Pamplany presented the paper. Bishop Joseph Kollampampil inaugurated the Regional meet.

2. Regional Theologians Meet at Bangalore

The CBCI doctrinal commission conducted a regional Bishops-Theologians meeting at Dharmaram College Bangalore on 01-03-2016 from 10 am- 04 pm. The participants were the theologians from Karnataka. The scholars from different catholic Institutes in this region actively took part in the discussions. Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the chairman of the doctrinal commission of CBCI presided over the function and Archbishop George Njaralakatt inaugurated the meeting. The meeting discussed the various theological aspects envisioned in *Misericordiae Vultus*.

3. Regional Theologians Meet at Calicut

A regional theologians meet was held at Calicut in which 43 theologians from three *sui juris* churches participated. The main paper was presented by Prof. Dr. Vincent Kundukulam on the *Hindutva Agenda of Sanga Parivar and its Alarming threat to Christianity*. The presentation as well as the discussions were really eye-opening. The meeting was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Varghese Chackalakkal, bishop of Calicut. It is significant to note that this regional theology forum meets every three months, which is an exemplary model for every regional theology forum.

4. Regional Theologians Meet at Pune on Feb 16, 2016

The CBCI Commission for Doctrine convokes a regional theologians meet on 16th February at Papal Seminary Pune, More than 50 leading theologians region are expected to participate in the meeting. We expect the local ordinaries, leading theologians and seminary professors of the region. We decided to discuss the following topics during our gathering:

1. Announcing the uniqueness of Christ in the Indian Pluri-Religious Context
2. The theological and pastoral outcome of the Synod on Family in the Indian Context

The regional theologians meet is intended to gather the opinion as well as the theological concerns and anxieties of the regional theologians on the topics of discussion. The meeting is intended to be a part of CBCI doctrinal commission's attempt to convey the magisterial positions of the Church on the prescribed topics. The pastoral and social issues related to topics are also addressed in this meeting.

8. Study on Yoga

Based on the various doctrinal instructions given by Vatican that include the provisional document titled *Jesus Christ: The Bearer of the Water of Life: A Christian Reflection on the 'New Age,' You CAT*, the doctrinal commission has made a thorough study on the theological issues related to Yoga and evaluated whether this particular spiritual practice is acceptable to the Christians.

1. As a spiritual path, yoga is incompatible with Christian spirituality. When mentioning yoga, it would seem prudent to counsel folks to stay away from the very spiritual yoga teachers and at least mention its non-Christian foundations with a caution not to participate in the soul-opening sense of the practice.

2. Yoga can be followed as a physical exercise. Doing a yoga pose is not an automatic pathway to Hell. To accuse such physical exercises as anti-Christian is baseless. The elementary mistake as noted before is that particular bodily movements have power in and of themselves, independent of intention or design, to invite in "supernatural powers [more properly defined as preternatural powers] . . . through these exercise positions. Not only is the claim superstitious, but it indicates a lack of familiarity with the Christian understanding of metaphysics.¹ The CDF document also approves this stance: "genuine practices of meditation which come from the Christian East *and from the great non-Christian religions*, which prove attractive to the man of today who is divided and disoriented, [can] constitute a suitable means of helping the person who prays to come before God with an interior peace, even in the midst of external pressures."² Catholic theology of the body is useful in this context. A body can be used to worship God, and a body can be used to worship Satan, but the difference is in the intent, in the act of will. It is not the action that defines the intent, but the intent that defines the soul and guides the action.

3. An unscrutinized curse on everything Eastern is also not Catholic. It is important for Catholics to know that yoga should neither be hallowed nor damned. As a spiritual path for Easterners, it may serve to assist them as "they seek freedom from the anguish of our human condition either through

¹ Brinkmann, p. 20.

² *Some Aspects of Christian Meditation*, 28.

ascetical practices or profound meditation or a flight to God with love and trust” (*Nostra Aetate* 2). There is Christian mysticism in Eastern forms. The Vatican’s reflection on the “New Age” even admits/warns that some practices are labeled “New Age” as a marketing technique and remain harmless. Just because a spiritual practice comes from outside the Christian tradition doesn’t automatically mean it conflicts with church teaching - nor does it automatically mean the opposite. Branding the whole yoga philosophy into Sankara’s monism also shows lack of adequate information about the Indian systems of Philosophy. Christians seek as the goal of their prayer to “flow into the way to the Father, which is how Jesus Christ has described himself. In the search for his own way, each person will, therefore, let himself be led not so much by his personal tastes as by the Holy Spirit, who guides him, through Christ, to the Father.”³

4. The attempt of the Roman document to brand the entire concept as well as the practice of Yoga as New Age Movement is to be judiciously approached. The term “New Age” is a bit of a catch-all in this document; it lumps together practices such as acupuncture, Zen meditation, yoga, homeopathy, transpersonal psychology, transcendental meditation, Feng Shui, crystal healing, and astrology. This sort of sweeping categorization of several methods into one umbrella term irrespective of the differences in their nature or age of origin is not convincing at least to the Indian minds.

5. Is it possible that, especially for those more shaky in their faith, that the practice of yoga could be a slippery slope into loss of faith? Could just doing it for exercise, particularly if the teacher is spouting all the “one with nature” and “soul-centering,” give Satan a foothold into one’s mind, even if they don’t think it will?

5. CBCI inter-ritual Text Book Committee

The reconstituted CBCI inter-ritual text book committee had its meeting at NBCLC Bangalore on 09.07.2015 and 07.07 2016. Bishop Mar Joseph kallarangattu , Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, Most. Rev. Dr. Bishop Jerry were the episcopal representatives at the meetings. The leading theologians of India participated in the meeting. The project initiated by CBCI for the preparation of Text books in Theology for India and entrusted with the implementation to the Inter-Ritual Committee for the Text Books in Theology, which had been pending for years due to the unexpected demise of Fr. Paul Puthenangady SDB. The doctrinal commission together with the Inter-Ritual Committee for the Text Books in Theology (which is an organ of the commission for doctrine and theology) has decided to take up the case and complete the mission. The books are intended to be used as the textbooks for our seminaries. The priests in ministry can also make use of these books, which can serve as a very good instrument for their on-going formation.

The following books are already completed by the respective authors:

- ❖ Pathil Kuncheria & Veliath Dominic, *An Introduction to Theology*, TPI, Bangalore.
- ❖ D’Lima Errol & Urumpackal Thomas Paul, *Sacraments in General*
- ❖ Puthenangady Paul, Illickamury Cyprian, Valumparambil Kurian, and P.T. Mathew, *Baptism and Confirmation*, TPI, Bangalore.
- ❖ Puthenangady Paul, Saldanha Julian, P.Arockiadoss, *Revelation and Faith*, TPI, Bangalore.
- ❖ Kuttianimattathil Jose, *Theological Anthropology: A Christian Vision of Human Beings*, TPI, Bangalore.
- ❖ Jacob Prappally MSFS - *Christology*

³ *Some Aspects of Christian Meditation*, 29.

The executive committee meeting of the Inter-Ritual Committee for the Text Books in Theology held at NBCLC Bangalore decided to accelerate the publication of the following books and slight modifications were made in certain committees as follows:

| No. | Topic | Text Book Committee | Contact Details |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Theology of the Eucharist | Fr. Francis Gonsalves SJ (Convener) | fragons@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. Philip Chempakassery | philipchempakassery@gmail.com 9446121608 |
| | | Dr. George Karukaparambil | Phone: +919495807464 , E-mail: JOICHAN.K@gmx.de |
| 2. | Sacrament of Reconciliation | Fr. Therukattil MCBS (Convener) | geotheroo@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. Andrew Anil Sequeira | aasequeira@rediffmail.com |
| | | Fr. Joseph Valliattu | valliattachan@gmail.com 00919447351400 |
| | | Fr. Dominic Vechoor | dominicvechoor@gmail.com 00919447397046 |
| 3. | Eschatology | Fr. Pamplany (Convener) | jpamplany@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. Jolly Karimpil | frjolly@gmail.com |
| 4. | God and Trinity | Fr. Dominic Veliath SDB (Convener) | dominicveliath@gmail.com 00919480452549 |
| | | Fr. Jacob Parappally MSFS | |
| | | Fr. Tony Neelamkavil | tneelan@gmail.com 00919744787865 |
| 5. | Ecclesiology | Fr. Siju Thykoottil (Coordinator) | |
| | | Fr. George Therukattil MCBS | malankaramathai@msn.com 8281657777 |
| | | Fr. George Karakkunnel (convenor) | gkarakunnel@gmail.com 00919895587450 |
| 6. | Matrimony | Fr. Stephen Fernandes | stefanofernandes@gmail.com |

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|-----|--|--|---|
| | | (<i>Convener</i>) | 09820332965 |
| | | Fr. Shaji Kochuthara CMI | kochuthshaji@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. John Padipurackal | jpgadipurackal@gmail.com 99446910090,9072310071 |
| 7. | Mariology - | Bishop Agnelo Rufino Gracias | agnelorg@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. Sebastian Chalackal (<i>Convener</i>) | chalakkalseby@gmail.com 00919446619266 |
| | | Fr. James Puthuparambil OIC | 9539848544 |
| 8. | Bio-Ethics | Fr. Scaria Kanyakonil (<i>Convener</i>) | skanniyakonill@gmail.com 919446714468 |
| | | Fr. John Karuvelil SJ | karusj@gmail.com 08237701126 or 09405757276 |
| 9 | Grace/Pneumatology | Fr. Martin kallumkal (Convenor) | fmartink@yahoo.com |
| 10 | Fundamental Moral Theology | Fr. Clement Campos (convenor) Fr. Thomas Srampickal | clementcampos@yahoo.co.in 09480707456 |
| 11. | Theology of Ministry/Priesthood | Bishop Agnelo Gracias, Mumbai | agnelorg@gmail.com |
| | | Fr. Cherian Kottayil | kottayilc@gmail.com 9605536290 |
| | | Fr. Fr. Jose Oliapuram (Convenor) | oliap.jose710@gmail.com 0091 7736131423 |
| 12 | Justice | Fr. Srampickal | |

In preparing the texts, the following guidelines for the authors were approved by the committee:

1. Each of the authors to be assisted by a small committee, consisting of theologians from all the three Rites, competent in the particular subject.
2. The book could be written by one author or by more than one. The Committee expressed its preference for co-authorship.
3. The language should be simple enough to be easily understood by the students.
4. Care should be taken to avoid returning to the old manualistic theology.
5. They should not curb creativity in thinking both on the part of the professors and of the students.
6. These books should be meant more for the students than for the professors.
7. The teachings of the Church, Universal and Local, should be clearly enunciated and fully integrated into the text.

8. Clear distinction should be made between the teaching of the Magisterium and theological opinions of scholars.
9. They should contain the Biblical, Traditional and Liturgical trends on the subjects that are dealt with.
10. The ritual diversity of the Catholic Church should be taken into account. This should be reflected in the textbook given the fact that these books are meant for all the Rites of India.
11. Religious pluralism of our country and the mission of the Church to enter into a dialogue with people of other religions should be reflected in these books.
12. There should be ample scope for local and regional reflections on the various treatises.
13. The books should not only impart knowledge, but also facilitate reflection and promote creative thinking in the students, taking into account the Indian situation of religious pluralism, socio-economic and cultural contexts of their pastoral ministry. For this, besides giving a basic bibliography on the subject, there could also be questions for discussions in groups and for personal reflection.
14. Suggestions from laity, priests in ministry, religious and youth should be elicited.
15. Instead of aiming at offering a comprehensive compendium of theology, stress should be given to topics of relevance, without, however, neglecting to give a survey of the history of theological development in the course of time and in different contexts.
16. In the exposition of the matter there should be continuity with the past with openness to the future.
17. The fundamentals of theology with which the textbooks deal should be presented in such a way that all sections of the people of God could benefit from it. In other words, our target audience should not be narrowly focused on clergy.
18. The textbooks should reflect an ecclesiology that is open to all the faithful.
19. While keeping in mind the experiential dimension on theologizing, care should be taken not to delink experience from the historical perspective of Christian faith.
20. Our textbooks should aim at forming a priest who can respond to the problem that our Christian as well as people of other Faiths pose before him. It should enable him to pass from inherited faith to critical faith.
21. Keeping in mind the missionary perspective of Christian life, our theologizing should prepare people for apostolate.
22. Theological education should lead to transformation of persons and society.
23. In the exposition of the text (without neglecting the scientific character of the work) there is no need to give footnotes or end notes. References can be mentioned in the text itself.
24. At the end of each Chapter there should be an up-to-date bibliography and a set of questions for reflection or group discussion.
25. First a draft schema, as detailed as possible, to be prepared and circulated among bishops and theologians for comments.
26. In the light of the comments received, the schema of the book is finalized and the writing begins
27. Once the manuscript is ready it will be circulated among a wider group of theologians and Bishops for comments and suggestions.
28. The author (authors) will finalize the text taking into account the comments received
29. The Inter-ritual Committee will study the text and approve it for publication.
30. The copyright of the Book will remain with the Inter-Ritual Committee of the CBCI for textbooks.

6. Publication of New Text Books

The CBCI inter-ritual text book committee is happy to announce the publication of the following books in the month of March-April:

- ❖ Eschatology
- ❖ Theology of Justice

- ❖ Fundamental Moral Theology
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation

We hope to achieve our destined goal on time.

Future Plans

- ❖ The doctrinal commission has planned a Bishops-Theologians Colloquium at NBCLC on July 7-8.
- ❖ In order to facilitate the process of developing theology in the Indian context, in response to the pastoral needs of the Church in India and to foster an ecclesiology of communion among the three *Sui Iuris* Churches, the doctrinal commission plans to conduct a summit of various doctrinal commissions of the three *Sui Iuris* churches and the regional doctrinal commissions.
- ❖ To foster relationship with and among Catholic theological faculties, institutes and departments of Christianity in the nation, the commission plans to conduct regional bishops-theologians colloquium in collaboration with the important theological research centres. There will be a special session for the discussion of the doctrinal formation in seminaries.
- ❖ In collaboration with the *Inter-Ritual Committee of the CBCI for Textbooks in Theology*, the publication work of the theological text book serial will be completed. We feel that it will be a great help for the doctrinal formation of the seminarians and the religious.
- ❖ Above all, the commission will be always at the service of offering theological clarifications, safeguarding the soundness of doctrine and rendering assistance to mediation in doctrinal conflicts and controversies.
- ❖ Besides, the commission will maintain a liaison with the Doctrinal Commissions of the Episcopal Conferences of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, and establish, when required and asked for, an organic collaboration with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt

Bishop Thomas Dabre

Bishop Abraham Mar Julios

Dr. Joseph Pamplaniyil (Executive Secretary)