

CHAIR FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT

The construction of a new building for the Chair is in progress; hopefully it will be completed soon. It is hoped that the Chair would be able to start higher research in Christianity without delay.

The activities of the year 2014

1. International Conference on *Living Legacy of Vatican II*, 2014:

In connection with the golden jubilee of the Council, an International Conference was held between 28th Feb. to March 2nd 2014. The inaugural session was held at the University campus and was inaugurated by Prof. Dr. M. Abdul Salam, the Vice Chancellor of the University. Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalackal, bishop of Calicut gave the presidential address. The sessions on March 1 and 2 were held in Trichur and was inaugurated by Mar Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop of Trichur. The speeches of the Conference: *Nostra Aetate 2*, *Vatican II On Hinduism And Buddhism: A Historical Survey* (Prof. M. Lamberigts, K.U. Leuven); *The Church in Dialogue with the World: Impetus from Vatican II* (Mathew Paikada OFM Cap, Capuchin Theologate, Kottayam); *Elements for further studies on the reception of Vatican II in India* (Gilles Routhier, Laval University, Canada); *Church and Democracy: Political and Ethical Orientation after Vatican II* (Msgr. Prof. Dr. Peter Schallenberg, Theological Faculty of Paderborn, Germany)

Plenary Papers: *Lumen Gentium and Communion- Developing Participatory Leadership in the Church* (Dr. R.B. Gregory); *Sacramental Theology since Vatican II: Changes and Perspectives* (Dr. Bilju F. Vazhappilly); *Catholic Social Teaching in the Light of Vatican II* (Mr. Marco Bonacker); *Vatican II And Communion Ecclesiology*,



With Special Reference to the Church in India (Dr. Sebastian Chalakal); Declaration on Education *GE* in the Indian Context (Dr. K.M. Francis); Ecumenism: Council's Achievements & Future Prospects (Dr. Lawrance Thykattil); Response to Ideological Challenges in the Light of Vatican II: Responding to Individualism, Relativism and Atheism (Dr. Thomas Padiyath); A Church that is poor and for the poor – Legacy of *Gaudium et Spes* in the Indian Church (Dr Paul Pulikkan); The Need of Human Face to the Development (Mr. Rajan Kidangan); Second Vatican Council and Role of Women (Dr. Mary Regina); Biblical Renewal in the Kerala Church Since Vatican II (Sr Dr. Rogit); '*Evangelii Gaudium*' and the Politics of 'New Solidarity': Revitalizing Vatican II (Dr Sabu Thomas); Vatican II and the Family, The Paradigm Shift and the Challenges ahead (Dr. Shaji George Kochuthara); Between Classicist and Fundamentalist Approaches to Cultural Encounters – Legacy of *Gaudium et Spes* (Dr Tony Neelankavil). There were 8 short papers also. The Conference was held with the collaboration of Institute of Theology, Trichur.

2. Value Education Programme:

The Chair's 3 year long programme for graduate students on value education is held in 8 colleges (Carmel College, Mala; St Joseph's College, Irinjalakuda; Little Flower College, Guruvayoor; Sahrudaya Engineering College, Kodakara; St. Mary's College, Trichur; St Dominic College Kanjirappally, Mercy College Palaght, Providence College Calicut) In the first year, the topic is *Personality Development and Value of Life*. In the second year, the topic is *Rights and Duties of The Individual, Society, And The Role Of Religion*. In the third year, the topic is *Values for a Successful Life*.

3. Eastern Journal of Dialogue and Culture

The Chair launched in 2008 a new journal *Eastern Journal of Dialogue and Culture* (ISSN. 0974-7567). The journal, which appears as half-yearly, engages in creative discussion in theology, philosophy, interreligious studies, Religion's social responsibility, India's rich heritage of religious traditions, interreligious harmony, the cultural

contextualization of theology, questions of inculturation, Christian faith in a pluralistic society, Second Vatican Council's thrust on dialogue etc. The journal is interdisciplinary in its approach. The branches of knowledge such as theology, philosophy, sociology, psychology, human anthropology will create an effective platform of dialogue for this journal. The journal will also include the public lectures held under the auspices of the Chair.

The first issue of 2014 (Jan-June) the Reception of the II Vatican Council in India. The Second issue is on the Challenges to Family: a Theological Discussion (in print).

\4. The academic activities of Dr Paul Pulikkan, the Visiting Professor

In 2014, he received Erasmus Mundus India To Europe (EMINTE) scholarship of the European Union.

Articles published: P. PULIKKAN, *Asian Contribution to the II Vatican Council: The Story from the Subcontinent and the Oriental Churches in the Middle East*, in S. Kochuthara (ed.), *Revisiting Vatican II, 50 Years of Renewal*, Bangalore: Dharmaram, 2014,132-146.

Conferences and papers: 2014 Oct 21-22, Paris. International research project under the patronage of the International Federation of Catholic Universities on Vatican II. "Vatican II: historical event and stakes involved for today" (Paper: Encounter of the Gospel with the current society).

2014 April 24-26, Paper at the International Conference, Lived History of Vatican II, Notre Dame University, USA (Reception of GS in the Diocese of Trichur)

International Conference on *Living Legacy of Vatican II* Calicut University / Trichur Feb 28- March 1, 2, 2014, Gaudium et spes and the Church of the Poor