

universe in the Christ-Image. The author elucidates every articulation by profusely quoting St Paul, St John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. The recent papal teachings on art and beauty form the backbone of the work. The author can unequivocally claim the assertions he makes based on his vast experience in art and religious formation. I believe that the book will get a wide circulation and adulatory readership.

Professor Dr Anto Amarnad unveils the *Handiworks of God* in the Introduction and presents the book to the readers with an exclamatory note the work rightly deserves. Dharmaram Publications has brought out this book of more than 200 pages in attractive layout and readable print.

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Dr Varghese Pathikulangara, CMI, ed., *The Word in Celebration*, Vols 1, 2 & 3, Kottayam, Vidya Nagar, Manganam: Denha Services Publications, 2020. ISBN 978-81-905799-9-5; ISBN 978-93-81207-06-2; ISBN 978-93-81207-07-9. denhaservices@gmail.com

The Word in Celebration is a three-volume work on the homily or reflection on the biblical readings in the Sacred Liturgy of the Syro-Malabar Church of the East Syriac Tradition. Along with the title of the volume, the second and the third volumes carry separate subtitles, namely, *Word in the World* and *Word in Transfiguration*, respectively.

The Word in Celebration articulates the *marga* (way) and *shabda* (sound) for the celebration of life in the world in tune with the faith in Christ as unfolded in the liturgical year of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The first volume, *The Word in Celebration*, is dedicated to the study and reflection on the biblical readings in the Sacred Liturgy of the Passion Week and the Great Sunday of Resurrection. The logic behind the focusing of the first volume on the Passion and Resurrection is traceable in the Preface of the book, "The whole Christian life moves around and longs for Resurrection. It begins, moves on and culminates in Resurrection, namely, the Christian life is the celebration of Resurrection" (vol. 1, 9).

The second and the third volumes present reflections on the entire liturgical cycle and the feasts of the sanctoral cycle of the Syro-Malabar Church. They are set in the rhythm and the order of the seasons of the Liturgical calendar, starting with Subara (Annunciation), Denha (Manifestation), Sawma Ramba (Great Fast),

Qyamta (Resurrection), Shlihe (Apostles), Qaita (Summer), Eliah-Sliba (Elias-Cross), Mushe (Moses), and Qudash-Edta (Dedication of the Church). A brief introduction to the season proper is added by the editor before the reflections on the liturgical readings of the Qurbana, which helps the reader to understand the spirit and focus of the celebration through the weeks of a particular liturgical season. There is an editorial note before the reflections on the weeks of Annunciation, "The Syro-Malabar liturgical year begins with the proclamation and celebration of the historical encounter between God and man in the person of Jesus Christ, the human appearance of the Divine Person... The Syriac word *Subara*, "Annunciation," with which the Church inaugurates the first five or six weeks of her liturgical year, is, in fact, an announcement and proclamation and a celebration of this supreme glad news of divine condescension to human frailty to raise it to the divine sublimity" (vol. 1, 13).

Each of the volumes of *The Word in Celebration* has special dedications. The first volume is dedicated to "our confreres in the CMI Religious community and fellow believers in the *Mar Toma Margam* of the Syro-Malabar Church in the golden jubilee year of our religious commitment (May 16, 1961-2011)" (vol. 1, 5); the second volume is dedicated especially to "our beloved brethren in the *Mar Toma Margam* of the Syro-Malabar Church and all others in the East Syriac Tradition" (vol. 2, 8); and the third volume is specially dedicated to "our beloved brethren in the *Mar Toma Margam* of the Syro-Malabar Church and all others in the East Syriac Tradition and particularly to the Golden Jubilarians who were ordained in 1970" (vol. 3, 8). These dedications showcase the ecclesial, ecumenical, and congregational commemoration and commitment of the editor.

Dr George Kaniyarakath, Dr Paul Kalluveetil, Dr Thomas Kalayil, Dr Joy Kakkanattu, Dr Sebastian Mulloparambil, Dr George Edayadiyil, Fr Benny Nalkara, Dr Joseph Kureethara, and Dr Paulachan Kochappilly—all members of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate—have made their contributions to *The Word in Celebration*.

The subtitles of volumes two and three are telling and illustrating the progressive programmatic process of the mystery of Christ inserted in the history of salvation. It projects the progressive journey—*Mar Toma Margam*—of the faithful through the contemplation of and the participation in the mystery of the Incarnation through the mystery of the Resurrection—the transfiguration of life in Christ—towards the total Dedication of the Mystical Body of Christ by the Son to the Father in the Spirit at the eschaton—the ultimate end of the

celebration of the Word and the Eucharist. The editor correctly observes, “The last four weeks of the Syro-Malabar liturgical year are precisely arranged to have in-depth heavenly experience for the faithful” (vol. 3, 116).

These volumes, though published at different intervals, unveil the mystery of Christ celebrated in the Word of God in the context of the Liturgy of the Syro-Malabar Church of the Saint Thomas Christians of India towards the personal, ecclesial, and cosmic transfiguration or transformation. The contemplation and celebration of the Word of God help the faithful step by step to conform themselves to Christ. This is underlined by the editor as he writes, “They are also encouraged and helped to have an internal vision of the Lord, converse with Him and be truly transfigured to His personality. With such heavenly transformation, their earthly life becomes a standing invitation to their fellowmen and the whole of creation for a transfiguration to the Creator” (vol. 3, 116).

There are illustrations of each liturgical season by Fr Jobi Koodakkattu, which add not only colour to the book, but help readers to capture the mystery tastefully.

The Word in Celebration gives the reader a foretaste of mystagogical catechesis and takes the faithful by hand to the mysteries of the faith and assists them to walk with the Lord season after season through the mystery of the Incarnation to the reality of the celebration of life in Christ on earth and in heaven through the path of contemplation of and conformation into the icon of Christ.

Imbibing the spirit of the liturgical seasons, which unveil the integral mystery of Christ, through a self-insertion and a gradual putting on Christ is the essence of *The Word in Celebration*. The work is for a reflective reading and a thorough celebration of the Word in the World and to become an icon of the Word in the world towards the eternal celebration.

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