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**Book Review**

**Saju Kuthodiputhenpurayil, *Formation of Religious Priests. A Historico-Juridical Study with Special Reference to the Eastern Legislation*, Dharmaram Canonical Studies, 7, Bangalore: Institute of Oriental Canon Law & Dharmaram Publications, 2009, ISBN: 83-89958-20-8, pp xiv + 394.**

The title itself makes it very obvious that this work traces the origin and development of the present Canonical Legislation on the formation of religious priests. It is a wonderful study, based on the Scriptural teachings, historical facts and records, Church documents and monastic laws, finding its roots in the early Christian community and recognizing its relevance today in the light of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (CCEO)*. The study has its focus mainly on the Eastern Christian tradition of religious life.

The book is divided into four chapters with an appropriate general introduction and a general conclusion with a perfect logical sequence. By dividing the chapters, a clear demarcation is done in the time periods in which norms for the formation of religious priests developed in the Catholic Church. In the first two chapters the author takes the reader through the history and the sources of the present legislation on the formation. While the first chapter focuses on the pre-conciliar developments, the second chapter deals with the conciliar and post-conciliar documents. Thus, we find a detailed account of the original sources used for the emergence and the development of the norms on the formation of religious priests as the author has identified in *CCEO*.

Although there are no specific canons on the formation of religious priests in *CCEO*, the author, in the third and fourth chapters, has made a genuine effort in identifying and specifying the norms in this regard. The author makes an analytical study of the canons which he finds are directly or indirectly related to the formation of religious priests. The lion portion of the fourth chapter is dedicated for a comprehensive study of the canons 471 and 536 of *CCEO*, which speak of the fundamental principles and

purpose of the formation as well as the details of the formation of the religious clerics.

The book, indeed, is an asset in the study of the formation of religious clerics in the Catholic Church. Complimenting the book is the skilfulness of the author in bringing about a perfect blend of theology, history and canon law by doing justice to its title. The language used in the book is simple and appropriate to serve its purpose to help the reader understand “the legislation on the formation of religious priests against the background of the legislative history of the Church.”

**Dr Sebastian Payyappilly**

Associate Professor, Canon Law, DVK

Bangalore, India.