

much to the systematisation of those languages and the healthy development of literature from local communities.

Another attractive feature of this book is the fact that it provides a comprehensive picture of the spiritual life of St. Francis Xavier. We can feel and experience the personality and missionary activities of St. Francis Xavier, which continue to inspire countless Jesuits and others. The entire book is filled with the face of a zealous missionary who was admired more and popularly known as their 'protector' by the local people and that is no one other than St. Francis Xavier. He taught, converted, and helped the poor people in society, especially the Konkani and Tamil people and lived for them by adapting their own culture and his own vision in the missionary works.

This volume contains not only information about the past Jesuit missionary works and visions, but also highlights their present activities and approaches. It also hints at the need of reorientation to the Jesuit charism and Xaverian spirituality to make the missionary approaches more effective in the present. As we go through the pages of this book, we see the role of Jesuits in the social reformation of India, especially in the education sector. They established schools and colleges and equipped the Indians to run their institutions by admitting the Indian youth into the Society of Jesus. They converted so many people and supported their lives with various projects. In general, the book stresses the fact that the social, economical, and educational sectors in some parts of India enjoy the effect of the Xaverian vision and the Jesuit mission.

The Jesuit sentiments towards the Madurai mission and the attitude when they were called back from Goa are very clearly seen in this book. Some papers hint at the new areas of services needed and the precious insights to help the Society of Jesus to enlarge its vision.

The twenty-seven chapters of this book are very different and unique in content and outlook. Every Jesuit can be proud of these articles, as they pave the way for self-esteem and self-recollection. The book is easy and simple in style and content.

Raju Nellissery

Delio De Mendonca, *Jesuits in India: Vision and Challenges*, Gujarat, India: Gujarat Sahitya Prakash, 2003, pages xxiv + 380, ISBN: 818788678-1.

Jesuits in India: Vision and Challenges is a compilation of papers presented on the occasion of the 450th death anniversary of St. Francis Xavier. It is edited by Delio de Mendonca. This is an attempt to draw a neat sketch of the arrival and missionary works of Jesuits in India. This book could have the power to lead the readers into the historical background of India and the political set up found in India and the influence of Christianity on the Indian culture. Some of the papers in this edited book show the difficulties and dangerous situations faced by the Jesuit missionaries in the 'wild land' – India. They had to fear the animals, beasts, and snakes during their journeys and it was so difficult to get any medical help in the case of illness. Moreover, due to the problems of language and a culture with which they were not at home, the missionaries suffered a lot, especially in communicating with the local people. Gradually, however, they mastered the local languages and contributed