



Book Reviews

Koteswara Raju Penmetsa, *Resilient Social Work The Gracious Way*, New Delhi: Anne Books Pvt. Ltd. 2014, pp. 250 + x. ISBN: 978-93-8365-685-1 Price: Not given

As one turns the pages of this above book one finds the personal admiration articulated by the author about versatile and veteran personality of Professor Dr. Gracious Thomas the founder and the Director of School of Social Work (SOSW), IGNOU with whom the author works at INGOU. The book has fifteen chapters with further subtopics which uncovers the service-minded, inspiring, committed, innovating, collaborating, delicate, novel, pioneering, synergetic works and activities of Professor Dr. Gracious Thomas. It records the bounteous and building contributions of Professor.Dr. Gracious Thomas, to the field of Social work. The author calls Professor Dr. Gracious Thomas as “Messiah of Knowledge” (p. 8) for his unique contribution in bringing about e-GyanKosh of IGNOU, spiritual person, (p. 12), builder of teams (p.17), far sighted enigma (p. 20).The book contains tow interviews with Professor.Dr. Gracious Thomas in one of which he shares with us about the secret of success in all his initiatives which is, “Prayer and Total surrender to God’s will.” The book contains the foreword written by His Holiness Dali Lama, which adds credibility to the book. It ends with an exhaustive list of publication of Professor Dr. Gracious Thomas numbering around 500 books and articles.

As one reads this book one can’t but wonder at the tremendous potential of Professor.Dr. Gracious Thomas and in

each one of us which goes untapped. If only it gets ignited by prayer and concerns for others it can have infinite consequences making the lives of million others a little better. That's why it is rightly said when love and skill work together expect a Masterpiece and no doubt that the contributions of Professor.Dr. Gracious Thomas to humanity through his academic and social services ventures he stands as 'Master's Master piece'.

Bala Francis

Kuruville Pandikattu (ed) *Pope Francis on Creation and Evolution*, Pune: Association of Science, Society and Religion (ASSR), 2014. Pp. 48+iv ISBN: 978-81-88864-24-9, Price: Not given.

Scientific theories including the “Big Bang” believed to have brought the universe into being 13.7 billion years ago and the idea that life developed through a process of evolution do not conflict with Catholic teaching, Pope Francis affirmed on October 27, 2014.

Fifteen reactions to this Papal affirmation of both of big bang and evolution have been compiled and edited by Dr Pandikattu. No claim of originality is made in this booklet. Various articles from different internet sources are collected so that the educated reader can gather differing perspectives on the comment of the Pope.

The editor hopes to show that as such for a believing Christian there cannot be – and is – no conflict between scientific theories and religious beliefs. We also realise that both scientific theories and religious beliefs are open to new and creative interpretations. So he believes that both science and religion can go hand in hand, criticising and enriching each other. In the process humanity will be enriched by both. 🌱

VM Jose SJ

PHILOSOPHY FACULTY
JNANA-DEEPA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE

Following Vatican's *Decree on the Reform on the Ecclesiastical Studies of Philosophy* (2011), Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, has some changes in our Philosophy Programme. Accordingly, these are some of the Programmes the Faculty of Philosophy offers:

a. Two Year Certificate Programme in Philosophy

Since the *Decree* demands two years of Philosophy for priestly students to pursue their theology studies, we offer two years of Philosophy without any degree. Normally they will not be able to do higher studies in Philosophy, but can study Theology (including Bachelor's Programme in Theology). The minimum requirement: +2 or equivalent.

b. Three Year Bachelors Programme in Philosophy

As per the guidelines of the *Decree*, the Bachelors Programme in Philosophy is a three year programme which we are happy to offer. The minimum requirement: +2 or equivalent.

However, with the approval of Rome, we may be able to grant the BPh Degree in *two years* time, if the candidate has already obtained any Bachelors's Degree from any recognized university.

Along with their Philosophy Programme, BPh students are highly encouraged to do a UGC recognized BA or MA degree in Philosophy from a university in Pune.

We are sorry to inform that ***Rev. Fr. Alex Dassanayake***, a long time collaborator of AJRS, has gone to his eternal rest. Funeral Mass at Dummalakotuwa, Sri Lanka on 8th December, 2014 at 3.00 p.m.