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## Asian Journal of Religious Studies

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Associate Editor: Kurien Kunnumpuram SJ  
Circulation: Stephen Jayard

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*Address all correspondence (incl. DD) to:*

The Editor, AUC, Papal Seminary, Pune 411014,  
India Email: [kurusj@gmail.com](mailto:kurusj@gmail.com)



## Editorial

### Specially Chosen

On Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015 Pope Francis added 20 new members to the College of Cardinals, warning the newly-minted “princes of the church” from around the globe not to let their new red hats go to their heads.

Rather than seeing themselves as a priestly elite maneuvering among themselves, Francis said, the cardinals should be “models of love and humility.” Above all, Pope Francis added, they should avoid “that smoldering anger which makes us brood over wrongs we have received.”

“No! This is unacceptable in a man of the church,” Francis warned the new cardinals arrayed before him in St. Peter’s Basilica. “Even if a momentary outburst is forgivable, this is not the case with rancoir. God save us from that!”

Francis seemed to be acting as both a spiritual director and a psychologist for the churchmen as he analyzed the perils of clerical privilege. He also probed how the cardinals — whom he chose precisely because they represent the furthest margins of the church — can avoid the very sins and attitudes that he wants to purge from the dysfunctional Vatican bureaucracy, reports Religion News Service.

“The cardinalate is certainly an honour, but it is not an honorific,” Francis told the new cardinals before each of them swore an oath of fidelity to the Pontiff and the Church. They then knelt before the pope while he placed the distinctive red biretta on their heads.

What Pope Francis has said about the cardinals is also applicable to all Christians. As specially chosen people, can we also be “models of love and humility,” rather than priestly elites maneuvering among themselves? As specially chosen people, can we gracefully give up “that smoldering anger which makes us brood over wrongs we have received”?

Kuruvilla Pandikattu SJ  
Editor