



Asian Journal of Religious Studies

July-August 2016

61/4

Contents

Editorial: Fidelity and Commitment	2
Partnership of Men and Women in the Mission of the Church... ..	5
<i>Kurien Kunnumpuram</i>	
Blessed Are the Merciful	13
<i>+Filipe Neri Ferrão</i>	
God Who Is Rich in Mercy	18
<i>Paulraj Mariapushpam</i>	
An Interview with Fr Prem Kumar SJ.....	30
Homily Notes	36
Book Review	46



FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

Asian Journal of Religious Studies (formerly *AUC* or *Apostolic Union for Clergy*) is a pastoral journal for Christian leaders. It is a bimonthly published from the Papal Seminary, Pune 411014. Inspiring and short articles beneficial for Christian leaders are welcome.

Editor: Kuruvilla Pandikattu SJ

Circulation: Stephen Jayard

Section Editors:

Pastoral Theology: V M Jose SJ

Christology: Francis Gonsalves SJ

Scripture: Paul Raj

Homiletics: Nishant Irudayadason

Moral Theology: J. Thayil

Counselling: V.Crasta & G. Cordeiro

Indian Religions: Prasad Lankapalli. SJ

Mysticism: George Karuvelil SJ

Administration: Dinesh Braganza

Management: Karunaidass & Patras Kujur

Finance: Alex G SJ

Printed at: Kunal Offset, Pune

Typeset at: Papal Seminary Centenary
Computer Centre



Donations are accepted either by M.O. or D.D. If sent by cheque, please add Rs. 15 as bank commission. Suggested amount: Rs. 100 (in India); \$ 5 (in Asia); \$/Euro 12 (in Europe & America). Cheques and DD in favour of APOSTOLIC UNION

Address all correspondence (incl. DD) to:

The Editor, AUC, Papal Seminary, Pune 411014, India Email: kurusj@gmail.com

P-ISSN 2249-1503



Editorial

Fidelity and Commitment

Pope Francis has said the “great majority” of Catholic marriages being celebrated today are invalid because couples do not fully realize it is a lifetime commitment, drawing sharp criticism from Church conservatives.

The Pope was speaking at a question-and-answer session with priests, nuns and parish workers on Thursday, June 16, 2016 in a Rome basilica.

“We are living in a provisional culture,” Francis said in response to a man who spoke of “the crisis of marriage” and asked how the church could better prepare young couples.

“Because of this, a great majority of our sacramental marriages are null because they (the couple) say ‘yes, for the rest of my life’ but they don’t know what they are saying because they have a different culture,” Francis said. The Pope said the church needs to better prepare couples for the sacrament

In the Vatican’s transcript issued on Friday morning his words were changed to read “some” instead of “a great majority,” with the approval of the Holy Father. A Vatican spokesman said the Pope’s off-the-cuff remarks are sometimes edited after consulting with him or among aides.

“The crisis of marriage is due to the fact that people don’t know what the sacrament is, the beauty of the sacrament, they don’t know that it is indissoluble, that it is for your entire life,” the Pope said.

“There are girls and boys who have purity and a great love, but they are few,” he said, adding that many young people had a materialistic and superficial approach to their wedding day, such as an obsession with choosing the right gown, the right church and the right restaurant.

He said the Church needed better marriage preparation programs, to foster fidelity and commitment.

Conservatives also chided Francis for saying at the same meeting that priests should not pressure couples who were co-habiting if they were not ready to get married. He said the priests should “let fidelity ripen.”

What the Pope has said about marriage is equally valid for priests and religious who are committed to Jesus and to the people of God. Without long-time commitment and lasting fidelity, love – of God and of the neighbours – cannot bear fruit!

“The crisis of marriage is due to the fact that people don’t know what the sacrament is, the beauty of the sacrament, they don’t know that it is indissoluble, that it is for your entire life.”

Kuruvilla Pandikattu SJ
Editor