EDITORIAL

Pope Francis is at his most personal, profound and passionate in his recent book: *Let us Dream – the Path to a Better Future* (01 December 2020). The Holy Father lifts hope for a Post-Covid radical re-think of our shared way of life. He explained why we must – and how we can – make the world safer, fairer and healthier for all people now. In this context the present age is particularly sensitive to the value of justice and freedom. Having elapsed three decades since the promulgation of the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, the present volume of *Eastern Legal Thought* concentrates mainly on the value of justice and especially the protection and promotion of rights of the Christian faithful in communion with each other in ecclesial life as well as in civil society.

In the first article *on Certain Questions which require clarification for a Correct Understanding of the Penal Law in CCEO* Sunny Kokkaravalayil sj endeavours to understand and interpret meaning of selected canons in penal law especially with reference to canons on religious. In his scholarly presentation he makes an overview of the two codes in comparison to disclose *lacunae* or ambiguity reflected in penal norms contained in ecclesiastical law.

The second article by Michael Vattappalam, *Protection of Minors and a vademecum of the Church to apply the Procedural Norms* proposes various ways and means for a better administration
of justice. He highlights the internal Church process for investigating and prosecuting sexual abuse cases in the various spheres of the Church governance. He dwells at length the recent Vatican document *Vademecum* (16 July 2020) which clarifies the various stages of penal procedure in a sexual abuse case.

Eucharistic sacrifice is the source and summit of the entire Christian life. Hence CCEO c. 199 #1 has established that Bishop is bound to safeguard the sound doctrine and to promote the discipline concerning the most Holy sacrament of Eucharist. The third article on *Abuses against the Sanctity of the Eucharistic Discipline* by Sebastian Muttamthotty MCBS is an attempt to envisage the possible abuses that might creep in the observance of the Eucharistic discipline due to violations of canonical norms and Liturgical prescripts.

Andrij M. Hlabse sj in the Review Article, *The Pamphilian Jurisprudence’s Influence on Eastern Ecclesial Self-Governance in Historical Perspective*, fourth one in the list is an overview of the binding authority of the decisions of the Apostolic See in different epochs concerning the autonomy and self–governance of the Christian faithful in the East. The so-called Pamphilian Jurisprudence is a decision of a Particular congregation of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of Faith on June 4, 1631.

Roy Joseph Kaduppil discusses in the fifth article, *The Vow of Poverty and the Holding of Property: A Canonical Civil Appraisal*, the circumstances in which the right of the religious to hold property is safeguarded. It is an investigation on the spirit of the vow of poverty in the various forms of Consecrated life or religious institutes. The disciplinary enactments of the Church and the various verdicts of the civil legal system are analysed to present a correct perspective in this regard.

The sixth article by George Thekkekara, *The New Epoch of Information Technology: E - Commerce, E – Contracts and Consumer Protection in the Indian Context*, is an interpretation of
state laws in the context of the emerging trends in business transactions today. It is an attempt to caution against the far reaching influence of electronic media today. He discusses also the possible dangers inherent in the deal with pitfalls against transparency in the protection of the interests and rights of consumers.

The seventh article, *The Synod of Diamper as a Juridical Source of the Syro-Malabar Church*, by Varghese Palathingal is an appraisal of a tradition of a Church *sui iuris* in the Catholic communion. He considers the Synod of Diamper (1599) as a mile stone in the history of the Syro-Malabar Church. As the CCEO has elapsed three decades after the promulgation of the CCEO, the decrees of the Synod of Diamper still exerted its influence on the sacred heritage of an ancient and Apostolic Church of the Saint Thomas Christians. The author explores the circumstances in which the decrees of the Synod of Diamper are included among the sources of the CCEO and the Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The Allocution of Pope Francis to the Apostolic Tribunal of Roman Rota to mark the inauguration of the Judicial Year 2021, an apostolic letter, *Ab initio*, issued *motu proprio* by the same Pope, ecclesiastical Jurisprudence, book reviews, news and views are also added in this volume.

Editor