

About the Editors

Archbishop Felix Machado: He has a Licentiate in Catholic Theology from the Catholic Theological Faculty, Lyon, France (1974-76). He has an M.A. in Theology (with specialization in Catholic Missiology) from the Maryknoll School of Theology, New York, USA (1980). He holds a Doctorate (Ph.D.) in Catholic Dogmatic Theology from the Fordham University, New York, USA. He has been Professor of Catholic Dogmatic Theology, Missiology and formator of future priests at St. Pius X College, Mumbai from 1984 to 1993. From April 1993, he had been called to Rome in order to work in the Roman Curia (Holy See, Vatican) at the Asia Desk of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. On 1 October 1999, he was nominated Under-Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, Vatican, by Pope John Paul II and confirmed by Pope Benedict XVI.

He has been visiting Professor of Catholic Dogmatic Theology and Missiology at: Pontifical Institute, 'Regina Mundi' in Rome; Pontifical Institute of the Sciences of Education, 'Auxilium' in Rome; Rome Centre of the Loyola University in Chicago, USA., and at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.

He has published three books: *Jnaneshvari, Path to Liberation; Journeying Together* (in English, French and Italian), a Marathi translation and short commentary on the Vatican II document, *Lumen Gentium*. He has also published over a hundred articles in various international academic journals of theology. On 16 Jan. 2008, Pope Benedict XVI has appointed as Bishop of Nashik with personal title Archbishop. He is now Archbishop of Vasai Diocese.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Fernandes is resident Professor of Ethics and Moral Theology at St. Pius X College, Mumbai. He has a Doctorate in Moral Theology from the Academia Alfonsiana, Rome, Italy. He also holds a Master of Commerce (M.Com.) and Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degree from the University of Bombay. For two terms he was the Secretary of the Bombay Priests Council. From the year 2008, he is the Executive Director of the F.I.A.M.C. Bio-Medical Ethics Centre, Mumbai.

From the year 2000, he is Theological Consultor, C.C.B.I. Commission for Doctrine and Theological Consultant, Catholic Medical Guild of St. Luke, Mumbai. He is

also a Life Member of the National Catholic Bioethics Centre (NCBC), Philadelphia, USA. He is a Member and Consultant, International Association of Catholic Bioethicists (IACB), Toronto. He is the Secretary, Permanent Diaconate Programme, Archdiocese of Bombay. He has presented research papers on Ethics and Justice issues at local, national and international conferences. He has to his credit published articles in various journals on Ethical issues and issues of justice and peace.

In May 2006, he received the Pope John XXI International Award “Premium Deontologiae” for research on the occasion of the XXII World Congress of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations (FIAMC) in Barcelona, Spain. In January 2008, he received “The Iustitia et Pax Medallion” from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Vatican City in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the promotion of Justice and Peace.

Note on the Contributors

1. Ms. Heidi Kuhn: Keynote Speaker

Heidi Kuhn, Founder and CEO, Roots of Peace, was deeply inspired in September 1997 to create an organization dedicated to the eradication of landmines worldwide. With a simple toast in the living room of her home that the world may go from Mines to Vines™, a global initiative was launched from the heart of a mother of four children following the death of the late Princess Diana who catapulted the issue of landmines to the forefront of the international agenda. She replaces the scourge of landmines with the nectar of grapes in war-torn countries and transforms “seeds of terror” into “seeds of hope”, replacing the scourge of landmines with the nectar of fresh grapes, raisins or a fine bottle of wine. She envisions the “grapevine” as a symbol of hope—reminding global citizens of the seeds we have in common rather than those which separate us.

2. Dr. Liu Youfa: Guest of Honour Consul General of the Peoples Republic China in Mumbai, India.

He held many important portfolios in the Diplomatic Services as well as in Education. He was Second Secretary at the Embassy of the PRC in Australia and Papua New Guinea; Division Chief and Counselor of Headquarter Party Committee of the MFA of China; Counselor, Embassy of the P.R.C in the United Republic of Tanzania, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and USA. Counselor, MFA of the P.R.C and Vice President of China Institute of International Studies.

3. Fr. Francis de Britto

Father Francis D’Britto, an environmentalist, journalist and author, received the Sahitya Akademi award for Marathi for “Subodh Bible – Nava Karar.” The original is The Bible: the New Testament in English. He also writes for local daily newspapers and magazines on God’s love, religious harmony and tolerance, social justice, forgiveness and brotherhood. He began writing profusely after he launched the *Harit* (green) Vasai Movement in 1989 to save the environment. He made headlines when he braved threats from unscrupulous developers who used force and intimidation to grab land in the Vasai region.

4. Dr. Zeenat Shaukat Ali

She is the Founder , Director General of The World Institute of Islamic Studies For Dialogue, Organization of Mediation and Gender Justice (Wisdom Foundation).

Awarded with a Ph.D in Islamic Studies from the University of Mumbai, she has been teaching Islamic Studies at St. Xavier's College for several years. She has 5 books to her credit These include: *Marriage and Divorce in Islam: An Appraisal*, *The Empowerment of Women in Islam*, *Winning The Peace : A Quest*, *Healing Memories: Civilizations In Dialogue* and *Taking India Forward : The Road Ahead*

5. Dr. Marie Fernandes

Principal of St. Andrew's College, Mumbai from 2006. She is also a member of the Board of Studies in English at the University of Mumbai and a recognized Research Guide. The title of her PhD thesis was "*The Animal Fable in Modern Literature*". This was subsequently published in 1996. She has to her credit a 35 research articles published in journals both in India and abroad. She was awarded the prestigious – 'International Visitor's Leadership Award', funded by the U.S State Department in 2010 and visited Colleges and Universities across the US.

6. Dr. Kashmira P. Mody

An Associate Professor in the Department of Economics of St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai. She teaches Economics at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Her research interests include economics of growth and development, the environment, monetary and financial economics. Dr. Mody also runs a blog with the aim of fostering interest in economics and providing information on various aspects of economics.

7. Prof. Sharmila Dhote:

A senior member in the faculty of Psychology at St. Andrew's College and has completed 18 years of teaching in college. Currently she is in charge of the Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation for Inter-Religious and Inter-Cultural Dialogue which she actively co-ordinates. She has organized International seminars and symposiums on

inter-religious and inter-cultural issues and various other activities and programmes to make the organization vibrant and meaningful. She has also presented a paper at Milan, Italy titled “Eat, Pray and Love”. Prof. Dhote is also a private practising Counsellor.

8. Prof Ayesha Imran Gundagi:

Asst. Professor in Environment Studies, St. Andrew’s College for the past 8 years.. NET cleared conducted by UGC. Best Student of the Department in M.A. Secured a First Rank in TYBA Geography, a Second Rank in M.A. from University of Mumbai. Received a UGC grant for a Minor Research Project on “Spatial Patterns of Health and Hygiene in Suburban Mumbai. Areas of interest includes: Environmental concern, creating awareness, initiatives undertaken at the Local, National and International Level. co-author for Environmental Studies text book for Himalaya Publication since 2009 till date as per the prescribed syllabus by university of Mumbai from time to time. Recently nominated for the Bharat Shiksha Ratan award by Teheg, New Delhi.

9. Prof Jyoti Bhatia:

A Post Graduate in Commerce and a Graduate in Law from Mumbai University. She has cleared the National Level Eligibility Test (NET) conducted by UGC. She is also an Associate Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. She is a full-time faculty in Accountancy Department at the St. Andrew’s College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai. She is a regular contributor of papers at seminars and conferences conducted by various educational bodies.

Along with over 9 years of experience as a Professor, she takes active interest to visit new places. Driven out of her experiences of one such visit at the Holy river Ganga, she presented an article that explores new dimensions on Religious significance of Water.

10. Dr. Homi Dhalla:

He was awarded the M.A. degree by Harvard University and the Ph. D. degree from Mumbai University. He has represented the Parsi community at several international

conferences in different parts of the world focusing on the issues of peace, ecology, human rights, inter-religious dialogue etc. He has also been very active in the interfaith movement for the last 30 years, both at the local as well as at the international level. He was awarded the “Mother Teresa National Award for Interfaith Harmony” in 2007.

He had made a DVD entitled “Many Faces of Peace” for the former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam which has been translated into different languages.

As the Founder-President of the World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, he has initiated various cultural projects for the Parsi community viz., Sanjan excavations and the conservation of the Bahrot Caves. He has established libraries in Bangalore, Baroda and Pune, besides crafting two cultural museums at Udvada and Navsari.