P I A

History: The Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Alwaye (PIA), is an Inter-
ritual Ecclesiastical Faculty (Latin, Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara) under the
Catholic Bishops' Council of Kerala (KCBC). The Pontifical Institute had its beginning
on 7 October 1959, when the theology department of the then St. Joseph Seminary,
Alwaye, was affiliated to the La Salle University, Rome. The Congregation for Catholic
Education, Rome, erected a Theological Faculty in the Seminary on 24 February 1972,
and the Philosophical Faculty on 1 October 1974. In 1997, following the re-organization
of the Seminary on the basis of Rites, the Institute was separated from the Seminary.
Since then has it been an independent body functioning within the physical structures
of both Carmelgiri and Mangalapuzha Seminaries. The PIA confers degrees like Bachelor
of Philosophy, Bachelor of Theology, Master of Theology and Doctor of
Theology. The Institute consists of around 35 resident professors and 60 visiting
teachers. This academic year around 600 students, representing 32 dioceses and 21
religious congregations, study at the Institute. The presence of laywomen, women
religious and non-catholic students, enhances further the catholicity of our Institute. It
runs three periodicals: The Living Word, Mathavum Chinthavum and Prabhakaranalum.

Context of the Colloquium: The Universal Church is close to the final phase of the
Golden Jubilee celebration of Vatican II. The Church, with its wealth of stimulating ideas
on faith and culture, offered by the Second Vatican Council, has been all these years
making genuine and strenuous efforts to foster dialogue between religions and cultures.
How far, then, has the Church succeeded in this process and are the theologians and
philosophers sincerely involved, are questions that need serious exploration. Shouldn't
Catholic Institutes provide platforms for serious and scientific efforts to arrive at a
healthy synthesis between faith and culture? Is faith that does not become inculturated, that
is not entirely thought-out, nor faithfully lived, fully acceptable? And on the other side,
is culture not purified, enriched, illuminated or transformed by faith fully meaningful?
This Colloquium explores such questions and many things more towards an
understanding of the synthesis of faith and culture in our contemporary world.

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM

FAITH & CULTURE

29-30 January 2015
Alwaye, Kerala, India

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