

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pope Francis met with national representatives of the Pontifical Missionary Societies in 2018, and asked them to prepare the Extraordinary Missionary Month, scheduled for October 2019. Pope Francis said that it is an opportunity to renew the faith and missionary commitment of the entire Church. The motto of that extraordinary month will be “Baptized and Sent Out: The Church of Christ on a Mission in the World”. This involves making each Christian responsible, since the missionary attitude starts from baptism and not from a special consecration.

Fr. Fabrizio Meroni, PIME, is the Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Union, Rome, Director of the International Centre for Mission and Formation (CIAM) at the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and Director of Fides, News Agency of the Pontifical Mission Societies. In the recent times, more contextualized mission approaches are evolving; this is more meaningful for the local Church as well as for effective mission. Thus, PMU is promoting the local thinkers and missionaries to reflect about the current problems and concerns in a country or local Church and share the concerns with others. Through the reflection of the local issues, it encourages to show new pathways to be missionaries so that we ceaselessly continue our missionary activities.

Bishop Peter Paul Saldhanha was the Professor at the Pontifical Urbanian University in Rome and from September 2018, he is the Bishop of Mangalore Diocese. He took the initiative to coordinate various authors to contribute articles to this volume.

This book on *Prospects and Pathways in India: Misso Ad-Inter Gentes* is an attempt to publish articles from Indian situation, but this can motivate other local Churches to face the similar challenges and to become strong in their missionary activities. Precisely this is the intention of PMU to exchange the ideas, reflection and initiatives of local Churches with others, so that we learn from one another.

We thank all the persons who were instrumental in publishing this book.