



SAMANVAYA
THEOLOGY
FEST '23

RE NE W AL

OF THEOLOGY

PREPARING
THE PEOPLE OF GOD
FOR OUR TIMES

NOVEMBER 24, 25, 26
BHOPAL, M P, INDIA

Samanvaya Theology Fest

It is an opportunity to rediscover and respond to the theological thinking appropriate for our times. During the fest you will meet renowned theologians, representatives of students from different major seminaries of India, representatives from lay movements, lay faithful, and others interested in theological discussion. Unlike usual seminars, Theology Fest comprises workshops, presentations, exhibitions, competitions etc., all aiming at the renewal and updating of theology.

Deliberations on

Dogmatic - Unifying Strategies for Witnessing Christ in the Pluralistic Milieu of India
Contextual - Indian Challenges and Relevance for Theology
Practical - Theology for Youth and Lay People

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National Theology Essay Competition '23

CMI Samanvaya Theology College, Bhopal invites you

Samanvaya Theology College in collaboration with Poornodaya Mission Institute of Bhopal and CMI General Pastoral Department is conducting an essay competition titled **"Renewal of Theology: Preparing the People of God for Our Times."**

The essay competition will be followed by a Theology Fest on the same topic.

There is a consistent need for renaissance and aggiornamento in Catholic theology, and particularly in the Indian context, due to the ever-changing and challenging socio-political and cultural scenario of our country. There is an urgent need to rethink the practical, pastoral, cultural, contextual (socio-political) and dogmatic approaches of the Church and her theology in the changing situation of our time. The Second Vatican Council notions of the Church as the people of God, inculturation, dialogue with other religions, flexibility, and openness to the modern world, etc. require rediscovery and reinterpretation, to be relevant and effective in the present crisis, where minorities face threats of elimination and extinction.

A theological rethinking of our times must take seriously the concept of synodality without sidelining the importance of environmental stewardship and other eco-friendly approaches. Synodality has to be the key to restructuring the role of authority in the Church. More than ever, it is at this moment, all theologies must focus on empowering the laity, which alone would enable us to face the present challenges of our country. Therefore, the renewal of Catholic theology in the Indian context is not just about adapting to the local culture, but also about responding to the signs of the times and the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the Indian society, the Church, and the people of God at large.

Development in theology is not a notion that is closed forever. Theology is always evolutionary aiming at a holistic understanding of human beings, for God's glory. Theology always needs reinterpretation based on contextual hermeneutics safeguarding it from the contours of a dead discipline. Open discussions and deliberations alone would keep it dynamic and updated. They need newer and newer understanding and applications. Encountering the changing contexts must be the key to redefining our theology, to be relevant for the people of God in our times.



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Qualify with an excellent essay

We expect a theological, contextual, practical, creative, and academic thought-provoking essay.

Form	Essay (Word and PDF formats max. 4000 words, exclusive of abstract, bibliography, and footnotes)
Language	English
Deadline	5 November 2023
Participants	Seminarians, religious candidates and youth of 18-40 years of age
Anonymity	Your name, e-mail address, Seminary institution or university, or any identifying details should not be mentioned anywhere in the contribution file.
Individuality	Individual work is expected, no group work is allowed. The essay must be written exclusively for this contest. The idea must be author's own.
Citation	All sources must be cited and referred at the relevant section of the essay. All contributions will be tested for plagiarism.
Template	Please download the template to write the Essay.
Award	1st Prize -Rs 12000, 2nd Prize -Rs 8000, 3rd Prize -Rs 5000, and the best 10 will be published.

Instructions for Participants

Step 1 - Open the Website samanvayacollege.com

Step 2 - Register Online

Step 3 - Download the template form and write your essay

Step 4 - Upload your essay (Go to your Email Inbox, click on the login link, samanvayacollege.com/user-login enter the password and upload the document)