**Michael Peters, *The Family Moral Values in Vālmīki Rāmāyana and in the Teachings of the Catholic Church…”* Bengaluru: ATC Publishers, 2019.**

The book on: “The Family Moral Values in Vālmīki Rāmāyana and in the Teachings of the Catholic Church: A Comparative Study, is a first attempt to make a systematic study to cull-out the ethical and moral family values enshrined in Vālmīki Rāmāyana which is one of the most ancient Epics of the Hindu tradition that forms part of Hindu Puranas and an indispensable part of Hindu Scriptures. This research work is made based on the inspiration from a very important Catholic Church document “Nostra Aetate” that invites to seek the “goodness” in other religious traditions as well (See: N A, 2). Vālmīki Rāmāyana contains very important ethical moral values that presents most essential moral virtues known as “***dharma***” to lead a good virtues life, particularly married family life which are so close to the Catholic Teachings of the Church on Family Moral Values.

The Church in India is one among many other religious traditions. Therefore, today an Inter-Religious Dialogue is very essential to promote sisterhood and brotherhood among all the peoples of this nation. This does not mean to compromise with one’s own faith. Another major reason for this study is due to the growing rate of marriages between Catholic parties with persons belonging to other faiths and particularly Hindus. In urban areas such marriages between Catholics and Hindus are becoming common and as well with parties of other than Hindus. The concern is, after their marriage how they live their faith? Is there respect for one another’s faith and their respective ethical and moral values? Ultimately do the couples allow their spouses to follow and live the religious observances and respect their conscience in matters of faith and ethical/moral values are a matter to be inquired?

Said that this book on *The Family Moral Values in Vālmīki Rāmāyana and in the Teachings of the Catholic Church* is a sincere effort of the writer to bring to the forum the importance of knowing the faith and ethical and moral values found in the other religious traditions and the virtues enshrined in them, in a particularly in Hinduism and in the Catholic religious tradition importantly found in the official documents of the Catholic Church. It is the desire of the author of the said book to help such couples married but belonging to Catholic and Hindu religious traditions, to understand the richness, goodness and the beauty of family moral values present in their own respective religious traditions and begin to respect one another’s religious tradition and find a way to live those values and impart it to the children. The author desires and prays that there be perfect harmony, peace, love and a openness of heart and mind and spirit among the family members and particularly families formed out of inter-religious context.