Paulachan Kochappilly, CMI***Spectrum of Ethical Imagination and Action****,* Dharmaram Publications, Bengaluru, India, 2019, pp. vi + 139, ISBN 978-93-84964-75-7

*Spectrum of Ethical Imagination and Action* is the publication of the Chavara Lectures delivered by Paulachan Kochappilly, CMI at Chavara Institute of Indian and Interreligious Studies (CIIIS), Rome in 2011.

Chavara Lectures is an annual feature of CIIIS, Rome instituted in order to celebrate the contributions of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara of the Holy Family, one of the Founders of the Congregation of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, the first indigenous Catholic religious congregation founded by the Indians at Mannanam on 11 May 1831.

Inspired by the fecundity of imagination epitomized by Father Kuriakose Elias Chavara of the Holy Family, a Christian mystic with a missionary zeal, who committed himself tirelessly to make the divine dream – experienced in his spiritual ecstasies and agonies – for the people of the land a reality, the author attempts to highlight the paths of doing ethical investigations and moral living. Often Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara is painted as a social reformer, which indeed he pioneered with a special rank and distinction, but he was more of a sage absorbed by the divine *darshan*, especially of the Eucharistic mystery. Father Chavara was a man of rare blending with the contemplation of the mystery of God and the action for the all-round flourishing of humanity in the world.

The author argues that ethics is existential and experiential and its perspectives are embedded in the ethos of a people, the sum total of their thought, word, and deed. *Spectrum of Ethical Imagination and Action* is an initial limited attempt to present the ethical orientations and injunctions in this direction from select resources of the Christian faith. The undercurrent of these lectures is that Christian ethics is nothing additional to Christian faith, instead, the epiphany of it. A train of thought that connects the Lectures is that the celebration of Christian faith supports and leads the faithful to celebrate their life in Christ to the glory of God, peace on earth, and hope to people.

The volume contains the six lectures delivered in Rome. The titles of the chapters are: As You Celebrate; So You Live, Angelic Hymn at the Nativity of Jesus: Ethical Spectrum of Imagination, Motivation, and Action; Mar Aphrahat on Moral Imagination, Motivation, and Action, Mar Ephrem on Moral Imagination, Motivation, and Action; Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara on Ethical Imagination, Motivation, and Action; and Celebration of Life in Christ.

The insight into the imagination and action behind each lecture is given in the page previous to the chapter in the book. The first chapter focuses on As you see, so you act; As you believe, so you behave; and As you behave, so you become. Meditating on the Angelic hymn at the Nativity of Jesus, the second chapter offers an invitation to Contemplate the joy and glory of God; Comprehend the way of peace in the world; Consecrate to build hope of humankind. The third chapter proposes to See your house built on the stone of faith in Christ; Seek the pleasure of the Lord in every moment; and Serve the dwelling place of Christ and for Christ. Focusing on the reflection on Saint Ephrem, the fourth chapter requests to Change the old and put on the new garment; Clothe yourself with Christ and his Spirit; and Clothe yourself with the robe of glory, his light. Reflecting on the work of Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the fifth chapter highlights the need to Behold every moment of Jesus the infant; Believe the unfolding of glory in every event; and Behave with the compunction of the heart. In the sixth chapter is a wakeup call to Walk the way of the glorification of God; Walk the way of celebrating life in Christ; and Walk the way of transformation of life in the Spirit.

The concluding chapter is on a description on Christian ethics and its various features that make it. Paulachan Kochappilly, CMI presents “Christian ethics is the way of celebrating life in Christ, which is an invitation and command to a transformed life in Christ and like Christ” (p. 139). In the same vein of thought, the author proposes, “Christian ethics is to support and promote the members of the Christian community to live a life transformed in Christ, which guarantees the glory of God, peace on earth, and hope to others” (p. 139). And he concludes the lectures with a new measure of Christian ethics, “the celebration of life in Christ serves as the criterion of ethical dialogue, discernment, and decision-making” (p. 139).

In an age of joy and celebration marked by the pontificate of Pope Francis, *Spectrum of Ethical Imagination and Action* is a refreshing and relevant reading in Christian ethics, though the lectures were delivered in 2011.