**St. Albert’s College, Ranchi, India**

**In Collaboration with The Association of Moral Theologians of India (AMTI)**

Seminar on

**SEXUAL ABUSE: CRISIS OF CREDIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

St. Albert’s College Ranchi, Jharkhand, organized the extended lectures of the Association of Moral Theologians of India (AMTI) on 29 February 2020 at the College Auditorium. The entire staff and students, along with a few moral theologians of close-by institutes, participated in the half-day seminar. The seminar began at 8:30 am with prayer service led by the students of third year theology. Session one was chaired by Fr. Fabian Kullu. Fr. John Crasta delivered the first talk titled ***Sexual Abuse by the Clergy: Church Response That Calls for More Accountability and Responsibility***. The speaker highlighted the steps taken so far by the Catholic Church to address the crisis and restore justice to the victims of clergy sexual abuse. The talk focused on the root cause of sexual abuse, viz. clericalism, and the consequent moral crisis. Fr. Crasta concluded the talk insisting upon the need for more accountability and transparency in the exercise of priestly power and ministry in the Church. The second talk was presented by Fr. Lancy Rodrigues SVD and was titled ***Theology of Sexuality and Reflections on Sexual Abuse***. The speaker clarified that human sexuality, rightly understood, encompasses sexual orientation, beliefs and attitudes, morality and personal identity with its attendant concepts of femininity and masculinity. Human sexuality is intrinsically good, because it is intended by God for humanity to celebrate this divine gift in life-giving, consensual, faithful and loving relationships. Sexual abuse, conversely, aims at mere expansion of the self, tries to annihilate the otherness of the other and looks for the total possession of the other. Fr. Lancy spoke at length on the number of clergy abuse cases reported in the Church recent times.

Session two was moderated by Fr. M. Anthonysamy and the speaker, Fr. Ajay Kumar Xalxo, spoke on the topic ***Inspirational Insights from Pope Francis on Priesthood and Mission in the Context of Sexual Abuse Crisis*.** According to Fr. Xalxo, Pope Francis in his teachings highlights the moral crisis and also challenges the priests to become missionary disciples. The lecture underscored Pope Francis’ call to priests to conform themselves to the Good Shepherd and live a life of simplicity, humility and holiness. Likewise, Pope Francis counsels bishops and priests to be sincere in exercising their authority and ministry. Finally, Fr. M. Anthonysamy summed up the seminar with his observation that we need to find steadiness and balance in the Church that is fast changing. Sexual abuse is a serious disease and the situation calls for understanding and integrating sexuality into our lives, which will bring about healing in the Church. The seminar came to an end at 12:30 pm.

**INVITATION**

**MORAL THEOLOGY SEMINAR ON 29 FEBRUARY 2020**

**AMTI EXTENDED LECTURES AT SAC RANCHI**

**Theme:** Sexual Abuse: Crisis of Credibility, Accountability and Responsibility

**The Program**

8:30 am             Prayer (by the Third year Theologians)

**Session 1: Chaired by Fr. Fabian Kullu**

8:45 am             Talk One by Fr. John Crasta: **Sexual Abuse by the Clergy: Church            Response That Calls for More Accountability and Responsibility**

Time for Intervention/ Discussion

9:30 am       Talk Two by Fr. Lancy Rodrigues SVD: **Theology of Human Sexuality**

 **and Reflections on Sexual Abuse**

Time for Intervention/ Discussion

10:30 am            Tea Break

**Session 2: Chaired by Fr. M. Anthonysamy**

11:00 am            Talk Three by Fr. Ajay Kumar Xalxo: **Inspirational Insights from**

**Pope Francis on Priesthood and Mission in the Context of Abuse Crisis**

Time for Intervention/ Discussion

12:00 pm            **Concluding Remarks/ Summation by the Chair**

            Vote of Thanks (by the Third Year Theologians)

12:30 pm            Lunch, departure

Fr. John Crasta

President, St. Albert’s College