

## EDITORIAL

In recent decades, the Church and the world have, in various ways, drawn attention to and intervened on issues of great importance and actuality: the digital media, the dignity and human rights of women, private revelations, and pastoral care of vocations.

The present edition of *The Catholic Voyage: African Journal of Consecrated Life* (TCV-Africa) thoroughly examines some specific aspects of these issues. The authors delve into the following topics:

- *Consecrated Life in the Digital Age*: In his examination of the challenges encountered by individuals who have embraced consecrated life and their religious communities in the digital age, author Jerin Jacob acknowledges the dual nature of digital media as both a blessing – and, as an instrument, offers opportunities - and a potential source of risk or danger. It is important to exercise prudence and achieve balance in the use of digital media, particularly in the context of one's religious vocation and mission. The author emphasizes the significance of understanding the influences at work in the digital and physical environments, stressing the need for an appropriate and comprehensive digital media education. As an attempt to critically understand the paradigm shift that the digital environment is bringing into religious life, it is suggested that “a firm religious commitment, knowledgeable prudence, and mature balancing of one’s online and offline existence become key factors for a witnessing religious existence in today’s world.”
- *Spiritual discernment of Private Revelations*: The articles authored by Henry Nwokoro examine the place of, and the initial formation for, spiritual discernment of private revelations. Driven by a pastoral need to guide the lay faithful, these studies aim to enhance the initial formation for spiritual discernment of private revelations and evaluate its place in the current formation program of Redemptorists in the Vice-Province of Nigeria.
- *The dignity of women and the multiform violence and abuses against women*: On this subject, first, the Nigerian philosopher Ikechukwu Kanu

examines violence against women in relation to resurrection faith, that is, “Christian eschatological hope” which, he argues, affords “liberty in the present to those who believe.” In another insightful article on women, Kanu focuses on the ethic of reciprocity and the experiences of widows in Nigeria, considering that women are often accused of being responsible for the death of their husbands - especially when the man dies at a young age. The author argues that the ethic of reciprocity is a credible means of restoring the dignity of women for the stability of the family and the nation.

- *Pastoral Care of vocations*: the challenges of evangelising mission clearly relate to and affect the Pastoral Care of vocations in the Church. Since the salvation of human persons is the evangelising mission to be accomplished, this task can be better accomplished not only where people demonstrate their availability but also, as Richard Omolade argues, “when everyone is co-responsible and sees themselves in communion with one another and see the mission of the Church as theirs.” Consequently, “the task of pastoral care is to educate all members of the Church to key into the mission of the Church, which is the mission of Christ.”

The research and discussions on the above topics are ongoing. The following reflections contribute to the debate: they address some emerging questions, and make recommendations the authors hope readers will consider.

Enjoy reading.

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