

The Library has at present 124414 volumes: 63818 in the library on Mangalapuzha campus and 60596 on Carmelgiri Campus. In addition to this, the Institute library makes available to the researchers around 350 journals, in different disciplines.



»» Staff and Students

The teaching Staff consists of 8 emeritus professors, 35 resident teachers and 60 visiting teachers. The total strength of the students (in three Cycles together) is around 600. Among them about 400 are resident students on Mangalapuzha and Carmelgiri campuses put together, and the rest are the day students coming from 18 religious houses situated in and around Alwaye. In the current academic year, we have students representing 32 dioceses and 21 religious Congregations and that makes the Institute an instrument in building up the 'One Church of Christ in diversity'. The average number of students in the second and third Cycles, put together is thirty.



In the functions and activities of the Institute, the Student Council plays a vital role. It not only helps the conduct of Inaugural Day, Convocation Day and Zacharias Lectures, but also conducts, on its own, Inter-Collegiate seminars, National Essay Competitions, Institute Day celebrations, and the like.

»» Affiliated Institutions

Two centres of theology are affiliated to PIA at present and they are Zion Vidya Bhavan (S.A.B.S. Theological Institute, Alwaye) and FCC Institute of Theology, Alwaye.

Besides, the Institute also recognizes *ad casum* courses, organized by the ecclesiastical agencies, like 'The Integral Formation Course for Laity' conducted by the Laity Commission of the Archdiocese of Verapoly, provided their programme conforms to the rules and regulations stipulated by the Institute.



»» Identity

What makes the Pontifical Institute unique is its inter-ritual character. There is hardly any Pontifical Institute in India other than PIA which is inter-ritual in administration. Under the guidance of the KCBC, the Institute provides ample space for the close collaboration among the three rites in Kerala and thus witnesses to the common bond, heritage and communion of these Churches in India. This does not mean that the mission of PIA is limited to inter-ecclesial communion. As its Statutes make clear, the Institute is entrusted with the task of investigating the patrimony of Christian wisdom and carrying out researches worthy of a University in collaboration with other Christians, other religions, and secular centres of knowledge.



PIA

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Pre-story

The history of the Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy cannot be understood apart from that of St. Joseph Seminary Alwaye, which had its beginning in the second half of the 17th century. The Carmelite Missionaries, who were sent to Malabar (Kerala) by Pope Alexander VII, started a Seminary at Verapoly in 1682 for the formation of both the Latin and the Syrian clergy. Due to lack of conveniences, the Seminary at Verapoly was shifted to the new buildings at Puthenpally in 1866. In 1888, the Seminary at Puthenpally was constituted the Major Central Seminary for the whole of Kerala, and was placed under the Congregation of Evangelization of Peoples.



Seminary at Verapoly



Seminary at Puthenpally

Owing to the increase in the number of students, a new Seminary with better accommodation was inaugurated at Mangalapuzha, Alwaye on 28 January 1933. For the same reason, a new philosophical section was opened at Carmelgiri on 24 November 1955. In 1964 the Seminary was raised to the 'Pontifical' status by the Holy See. On 12 June 1976 the direction and administration of the Pontifical Seminary was entrusted to Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council (KCBC).

Foundation

The first step towards the establishment of a Faculty was taken on 7 October 1959, when the Congregation for Catholic Education issued a decree affiliating the Theology Department of the Seminary to the Lateran University, Rome. With this, the Theology Department of the Seminary became a "Studium Theologicum" under the Lateran University. In April 1971, KCBC sent a petition to the Congregation for the erection of an autonomous Faculty.



On February 24, 1972, the Congregation issued the decree erecting the Theological Faculty in the Pontifical Seminary with all the rights and privileges ascribed to such Faculties. On 15 February 1973, the Pontifical Institute of Theology and Philosophy, Alwaye, was officially inaugurated by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Dr. John Gordon, the then Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to India.



On 1 October 1974, the Congregation issued a decree authorising the Pontifical Institute Alwaye (PIA) to confer the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. On 25 April 1997, through a decree the Congregation separated the Pontifical Institute from the Pontifical Seminary. Since the Institute does not have its own structures, at present it functions in the structures of the Seminaries at Mangalapuzha and Carmelgiri, and offers simultaneously courses of theology and philosophy on both campuses.

Courses

At present the Institute confers: 1) Diploma in Philosophy, 2) Bachelor Degree in Philosophy, 3) Diploma in Theology, 4) Bachelor Degree in Theology, 5) Master Degree in Theology and 6) Doctorate in Theology.



PIA offers one-year diploma in Philosophy for non-clerical students intending to pursue theological studies. There is provision also to do three-year diploma course in Philosophy. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy is conferred on those who successfully complete the three-years course in Philosophy. For those who don't like to acquire degree or are not eligible to do it, the Institute provides three-and-a half year diploma course in Theology. The degree of Bachelor of Theology is conferred on those who successfully complete the three-and-a half year course in Theology.



The degree of Master of Theology is conferred on those who successfully complete the four-semester specialization in a prescribed branch of Theology. At present, Dogmatic-Moral Theology, Spiritual Theology and Biblical Theology are offered by the Institute as branches of specialization. The degree of Doctor of Theology is conferred after the doctoral course, the defence of the dissertation, and the completion of other conditions stipulated by the Institute.

Publications and the Library

Two sorts of publications are done by PIA. The first one is books of scientific nature, produced by the staff or by any competent person. The second one is journals. PIA publishes three periodicals - The Living Word (English Bimonthly), Mathavum Chinthayum (Malayalam Bimonthly) and Preshithakeralam (Malayalam Monthly) in order to undertake creative discussions with the secular society and to contribute philosophically and theologically in conversations on issues of public interest.

