

Transformation and Conversion in the Multireligious Context of India

**Lazar Thanuzraj SVD
Membership ID – no. 1049**

India is a rich country having multireligious and pluricultural traditions. All the major religions are found in this country, but Hindus are majority. Religiosity and poverty are the two poles that make this country very complex. Globalization, economic growth and cyber-world have contributed to the country positively and negatively. Poverty and human rights issues are rampant, fundamentalism and violence in the name of religion too affect the transformation of the country. Thus, what is the mission of the Church in this context?

Mission of the Church is to transform the world, to historicize the Reign of God and to heavenize the earth. In the effort to realize the Reign of God, transformation has to take place among people interiorizing the values of the Reign. When the values of freedom, communion, equality, justice, peace and joy take roots among the religions, cultures and peoples, there is transformation and society could grow with full vigour and strength towards peace and harmony. Jesus calls everyone to conversion in this context.

In the context of multireligious and pluricultural context, the transformation of the world would be through interfaith dialogue, interhope dialogue, interrelations with other faiths and prophetic dialogue. In this process of interaction and dialogue, transformation will come when everyone is truly converted. Without the conversion, there is no transformation. This leads to mould the people as path breakers of harmony, to be builders of justice, to be disciples of Christ, and to proclaim peace, and not to create animosity of religions. Conversion of heart and mind is the key and only this can make a person to involve in this process of transformation. Therefore, change of religion, baptism, making them as Christians and being members of a Church could be left to individuals' freedom and responsibility. We, together with other religions work for the transformation of the world with this dialogical method.