CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT vi

ABBREVIATIONS viii

LIST OF TABLES x

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I: THE TOPIC - CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE 1

1. The Topic and its Sociological Context 1
2. The Relevance of the Topic 4
   Numerical Considerations 7
   The Context of Kerala 8

THE THEORETICAL STUDY (The Survey of Literature)

CHAPTER II: THE PRIEST - CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION 18

1. The Concept of the Priest/Priesthood 18
   The Priest and Related Role Types 21
2. The Evolution of Priesthood 25
   Journey From Natural Priesthood to Professional Priesthood in Religions 25
   The Sacred Versus the Secular Powers 29

CHAPTER III: PRIESTHOOD IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 37

1. The Etymology of Priest 37
2. The Biblical Foundations of Roman Catholic Priesthood 38
   The Priesthood in the Old Testament 38
   The Priesthood in the New Testament 40
3. The Evolution of Roman Catholic Priesthood 42
4. Contemporary Understanding of the Priest in the Roman Catholic Church 43
   The Common Priesthood and the Ministerial Priesthood 43
   The Establishment of the Ministerial Priesthood 44
   The Role of Roman Catholic Priests in the Understanding of the Church 46
   i) The Self-understanding of the Role of Catholic Church in the World 46
   ii) The Role Prescriptions of Roman Catholic Priests 48
   iii) Some Indicators to the Excellence of Ministerial Priesthood 56

CHAPTER IV: A SECULARIZATION PERSPECTIVE OF RELIGION 60

1. Etymology 60
2. The Sacred and the Profane 61
3. The Concept and Extent of Secularization 66
4. Secularization of Kerala 82
5. Secularization: Relevance for Research 83
CHAPTER IX: THE ROLE OF ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS
IN KERALA IN THE FUTURE

1. The Total Perspective
2. The Role in Education
3. The Role in Value Education
4. The Role in Job Concerns
5. The Role in Health Care
6. The Role in Financial Assistance
7. The Role in Legal Matters
8. The Role in Counselling / Advice
9. The Role in Patriotic and Civic Matters
10. The Role in Fine Arts
11. The Role in Mass Media
12. The Role in Recreational Concerns
13. The Role in Ecumenical Relations
14. The Role in Inter-religious Relations
15. The Role in Catholic Religious Belief and Practice
16. The Role Played, According to Socio-Economic Variables
17. The Role of Priests during the Period 1991-2000, and in the Future: A Comparison

CHAPTER X: MAJOR FINDINGS AND THEORETICAL INSIGHTS

CONCLUSION

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX

1. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DATA COLLECTION FROM THE PRIESTS
2. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR DATA COLLECTION FROM THE LAY PEOPLE