PREFACE

The thesis entitled, “THE LAY PEOPLE’S INVOLVEMENT IN CHURCH ACTIVITIES IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT (1962–2012 A.D)” is an attempt to portray the involvement of the lay people in church activities since the Vatican Council II (1962 – 1965), which took place in Rome, under the chairmanship of His Holiness Pope John XXIII which was attended 3000 participants. The Lay people, who were treated as subordinates and non priestly members in the Catholic Church hierarchy, were changed by bringing back the early Christian concept of the Church as “People of God.” The concept “People of God” includes all the baptized members of the Catholic Church, namely the clergy and the lay people. As a result, the lay people are encouraged to undertake activities in the Parish and Diocesan levels. Through their initiatives, their needs and desires of common people are shared with the Church authority. At present, due to the necessity, the lay people have become more involved in the Church activities, than they had been before the Vatican Council II. The study is a modest attempt to bring to lime light the remarkable rise of the involvement of the Lay people in the Church activities in Kanyakumari District.

There has been no systematic study so far, about the role and contribution of Lay people in Kanyakumari District to the growth of the Church and society. But the participation of Lay people in the development of the Church, upliftment of the common people and the eradication of social evils among the people are commendable. The services of the Lay people in the Church must be brought to the notice of the public, especially to the Christian community to encourage their positive attitude and dedication. With this end in view the topic has been chosen for
research. A sincere attempt has been made to collect relevant data which are available at Tamil Nadu State Archives, Chennai; Arch-Diocesan Library, Madurai; Jesuits Library, Shenbaganur; Diocesan Library, Thoothukudi; Arch-Diocesan Library, Mylapore, Chennai; Santhome Archives, Mylapore; Archives of Kottar Diocese, Nagercoil; Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli; S.T. Hindu College Library, Nagercoil; District Library, Nagercoil; Arch-Diocesan Archives, Thiruvananthapuram and at the Parish Archives of Colachel, Kottilpadu, Muttom, Sahaya Nagar, Kadiapattanam, Kurumpanai, Thiruthuvapuram, Mulluvillai, Palliyady, Mulagumoodu, Madathattuvillai, Kuttaikadu and Nellickavilai.

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