

National Conference on Connectedness in a Fragmented World: A Path for Formation 2035

Organised by
Institute Mater Dei, Old Goa
(A Unit of CRWI)

In Collaboration with
CCBI Commission for Vocations,
Seminaries, Clergy and Religious
(VSCR)

Date: 27th & 28th February 2026
8.30am Onwards
2 Institute Mater Dei, Old Goa

About the Institute

The Institute Mater Dei (IMD) was initiated in 1964 by the Conference of Religious Women India (CRWI), a National body for Catholic women's congregations, under the guidance of the then Apostolic Inter Nuncio James Robert Knox, as a centre for higher ecclesiastical studies and formation of women religious within the historic Santa Monica Convent, Goa. CRWI is established in the 1960s to unite sisters, support their ministries, and serve the Church and society through collaboration, formation (at the Institute Mater Dei), and focusing on leadership and well-being of sisters across 282+ congregations. Beginning with 58 students, IMD has formed more than 4,000 women religious with a motto 'Grow unto the fullness of Christ' (Eph 4:13) over the past six decades.

About CCBI

The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) is the national episcopal body of the Latin Church in India, headquartered at the CCBI Centre, Bengaluru, with an Extension Secretariat in Benaulim, Goa. Established in April 1988 by the directive of Pope St. John Paul II, it is the largest bishops' conference in Asia and the fourth largest globally, representing 132 dioceses and about 209 bishops.

About the Conference

Our contemporary world is undergoing rapid and unprecedented change bearing significant signs of fragmentation through psychological stress, digital overload, cultural polarisation, and spiritual fatigue. These breaks, inevitably impact the journey of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation of our candidates.

In this context, formators and leaders are called to understand these dynamics and accompany individuals toward wholeness.

This Conference invites us to walk together in hope, listening, and mutual enrichment and return to wholeness to rebuild unity, restore connectedness, and deepen our common mission.

Rationale

Formators today face complex challenges as they accompany young people who carry the weight of a rapidly changing world. There is an urgent need for integral, interdisciplinary, and Gospel-rooted formation, draw in intercultural wisdom that helps to reclaim wholeness in a fragmented world for a tangible human mission from theology, psychology, spirituality, and intercultural wisdom.

that helps to reclaim wholeness in a fragmented world for a tangible human mission. This National Conference hopes to contribute that mission by fostering deeper understanding, renewing formation practices, and accompanying one another in the journey towards exploring pathways to restore connectedness and promote integral formation for the Church of 2035.

Objectives

1. To deepen the understanding of integral human formation amid contemporary fragmentation.
2. To promote collaboration across Seminaries, Formation Houses, and Religious Institutes.
3. To renew commitment to synodality as a formative paradigm of the present Church and rebuild communion by restoring connectedness.

Conference Participants

- Rectors, Spiritual Directors and Seminary Professors
- Directresses of Tertianship, Juniorate and Ongoing Formation
- Directors and Animators of Formation Institutes
- Lay collaborators in formation and education

Expected outcomes

- Enriched frameworks for contemporary formation
- Strengthened inter-institutional networks
- Renewed spiritual and psychological accompaniment approaches
- Concrete pathways for collaborative formation initiatives
- Strengthened commitment to connectedness in Church and society

Conference Highlights

- Keynote and Concept addresses by renowned formation experts
- Interdisciplinary sessions on Theology, Spirituality, Psychology, Digital culture, and Synodality
- Hands-on workshops on integrative approaches to formation
- National-level networking and collaboration
- Platform for Dialogue, Learning and Renewal