

## Preface

The present volume assembles eleven essays that were originally presented at an international conference held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 on today's challenges to mission work and mission theology in Africa. The conference, entitled "Mission in Africa: Evangelizing the Future", was jointly organized by *Tangaza University College* (Nairobi), and *missio-Aachen*, in collaboration with the *Pontifical Urbaniana University* (Rome). This is the first international conference on a continental level organized to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples", also known as "Congregatio de Propaganda Fide", founded in 1622. Other similar conferences were planned to take place in Latin America in 2020 and in Asia in 2021 but they had to be cancelled due to the covid-19 pandemic.

In order to identify the different ways by which the various continents and contexts contribute to shape a theology of mission and the challenges that it faces today, there are several wide-ranging topics which should be taken into account, for instance: history of mission, missionary spirituality, evangelization, mission and dialogue, inculturation and interculturality, the female face of mission, mission and diakonia, mission and development, religious freedom, interreligious dialogue, reverse mission, mission and migration, mission and violence, mission and liberation, and the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*.

The organizers of the international conference "Mission in Africa: Evangelizing the Future" have identified three core areas to explore from an African perspective: 1) evangelization and inculturation, 2) the female face of mission, and 3) mission and development. The speakers concentrated on some aspects and subthemes related to one of these three topical strands; most talks were followed by group discussion, as there were about 25 participants from all over Africa who attended the conference. Considering crucial to highlight the multifaceted contextual realities and to draw lessons from multiple case-studies and viewpoints, the conference gave particular attention to the value of experience within different settings

in Africa. The authors were then invited to review their contributions with reference to the proposed themed roundtable.

This volume presents the results of a nourishing and productive institutional cooperation. The editors wish to express their gratitude to all the participants for their time and efforts to come to Nairobi, share their ideas on complex issues, and prepare their papers for publication. May this presentation contribute to cultivating new ways and to develop our common task of mission.

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