This is the first collective study of the *Franciscan Institute for Asian Theological Studies* (FIATS), founded in 2015 at the Pontifical Theological Faculty St Bonaventure (Seraphicum - Rome). The volume represents a modest contribution to the modern scholarship on faith living and inculturation in Asia. With twelve articles of various length and academic research level, it offers to readers materials for study, reflection, and information on Christian and Franciscan thought and activities in the midst of wide-ranging Asian cultures and societies. The richness and variety of the book emerge already from the titles of the articles such as: *The Universality of the Gospel, the Particularity of Cultures, and the Task of Practical Theology; From Jesus’ Compassion to the Mission of the Disciples: An Exegetical Analysis of Mt 9:36-38 with an Implication for Asian Theology; The Biblical-Theological and Franciscan Perspective of the “Evangelical Mission” (in Asia and in the world); Shusaku Endo’s “Silence” and its Significance in the Japanese Christian Context; Christianity and Hinduism: Toward a Genuine Interreligious Dialogue; Ethics of Virtue: Confucius and St. Bonaventure; Should Franciscans Read Haiku? Some Reflections on the Margin of Laudato Si’ by Pope Francis and The Complete Haiku by Matsuo Bashō; Asia Seen Through the Eyes of a Conventual Missionary Friar; The Faith in Christ in Sri Lanka; Advancing the Christian Culture of Love in an Asian Context: A Report of Franciscan Pastoral Activities from Viet Nam.*

Despite all possible imperfections, this book is a milestone publication and a giant leap for FIATS and, generally, for the Franciscans in Asia.

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FIATS
FRANCISCAN INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Franciscan Institute for Asian Theological Studies or FIATS is a research institution within the Pontifical Theological Faculty St. Bonaventure – Seraphicum (Rome). It aims to coordinate, encourage and promote reflection on the Christian life of faith and Franciscan spirituality in Asia as well as on the dialogue between the Christianity and Asian cultures. Inaugurated solemnly on 14th March 2015 during the Faculty annual feast, FIATS has its International Center at Seraphicum and collaborators in many Asian countries, including China, India, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka. Among its main activities, FIATS publishes the Franciscan Asian Biennial Book which is home to various studies and reflections on Asian theological issues. It also seeks to promote the publication of research monographs on Asian ways of understanding and living Christian faith in a multi-cultural world.

For more information on the FIATS current activities and for submitting paper-contribution to the Franciscan Asian Biennial Book as well as manuscript for valuation, please write to Fr. Dinh Anh Nhue Nguyen OFMConv at: fiats2503@gmail.com