

## Application for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

### Statement of Self-Evaluation and Future Goals

I respectfully submit this statement in support of my application for tenure and promotion ~~as a~~ to the position of Associate Professor ~~faculty member~~ in the [REDACTED]. I ~~consider~~ am confident that my performance and accomplishments ~~of~~ during the last five years demonstrate excellence in scholarship, ~~and~~ effectiveness ~~in teaching~~ (with some indicators of progress towards excellence) in teaching and ~~effectiveness~~ in service.

Having had the unique privilege of being both at teacher and a student at [REDACTED], I have faced a wide array of challenges that have pushed me to develop my innovation and creativity and helped shape and hone my skills as an educator. I have fully embraced and utilized the opportunities provided to me by the university and have adhered to the standards and expectations outlined in the faculty handbook.- In the following pages, I will address areas of scholarship, teaching and service and provide evidence that demonstrates my commitment to excellence and effectiveness in all areas of my work.- This statement will address scholarship, teaching and service, providing evidences of excellence and/or effectiveness in each area. I will focus first on my ideals and priorities as they pertain to the areas of scholarship, teaching and service. Next, I will provide examples that highlight how I have attempted to apply these ideals in my work and how these approaches have fostered excellence and achievement and facilitated future efforts and goals. This will be followed by a brief summary note. Finally, I will reassert my claim that I have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, effectiveness in teaching, and effectiveness in service as they are outlined in the university's faculty handbook.

### Scholarship

I believe that scholarship and teaching are both symbiotic and inseparable. It is impossible to be an exceptional teacher without first being a conscientious and dedicated student. inseparable and go hand in hand. One cannot be an excellent teacher without being an excellent scholar. However, scholarship has a distinctive place in the academic world, especially in the field of one's specialization. In the area of scholarship, my greatest accomplishment has been my success in cultivating a unique identity as a theologian. My cultural and religious backgrounds are the primary factors behind this uniqueness. Using the words of Placid J. Podipara, an Indian Church historian, I am an "Indian in Culture, Christian in faith, and Oriental in Worship." I was born and bought up in the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church (The the Church of St. Thomas Christians in India, which follows East Syrian Liturgy), in a culture that was predominantly predominantly Hindu-cultural and religious context. My identity as a theologian is largely influenced by these contextual experiences and e as well as my undergraduate studies in Indian philosophy, education in Indian philosophy as a bachelor student. Later, my exposure to European society, culture, and religious practices during my time as a doctoral candidate at the prestigious and influential Catholic University, Leuven as well as my immigration to the United States provided me with new

~~experiences and dynamics through which I continued to grow. Exposure to European society and culture and religious practices as a doctoral student at Catholic University, Leuven, which is one of Europe's ancient and influential centers of theology as well as my immigration to the United States added other dimensions to my experiences. Collectively, these experiences molded and fine-tuned my identity as a theologian which eventually developed three distinct and separate aspects. These three perspectives place me in a unique category in the Catholic tradition which, I believe, enables me to make a very significant and meaningful contribution not only to Duquesne University but to the body of knowledge that encompasses the traditions of Catholic scholarship. All these experiences have influenced to shape my theology which eventually gained three different directions. I consider that these three directional orientation gives me a unique place as a scholar in Catholic tradition. I consider this uniqueness enables me to make a unique contribution to Duquesne and to academic world as a whole. As a systematic theologian, the threefold orientations that can be identified in my research and scholarship are the following:~~

#### *A Sacramental and Liturgical Theologian in the Syro-Malabar Christian Diaspora*

~~As a sacramental and liturgical theologian, my research focus has been centered in on East Syrian sacramental and liturgical tradition. ~~As a person living~~ Living in the Syro-Malabar Catholic diaspora (outside the territory of this individual church| i.e. India|), my research, presentations and publications involve not only the issues of the Indian Church, but also the experiences of the Syro-Malabar Catholic migrants, especially those residing in the United States. To my knowledge, I am the only full-fledged Syro-Malabar Catholic theologian living in the United States who approaches theology from a migrant perspective, and doing theology from the migrant experience.~~

#### *An Indian-Christian Theologian among American Theologians*

~~My bachelor undergraduate education in Indian philosophy and my Christian faith formation (in a traditional Christian family and later as a seminarian) in a Indian/Hindu cultural context provided an Indian-Christian context to my theology. This India-Christian foundation has been the primary focus of my research and scholarship. Additionally, it has influenced my academic interest in Eastern liturgies, in liturgical enculturation, in the theologies of non-Christian religions, and in the comparative study of the, give my theology an Indian Christian flavor. A major focus of my research and scholarship has been oriented towards Indian Christian theology. My academic interest in Eastern liturgies, liturgical inculturation, theology of non Christian religions and comparative study of the sacraments and the rites of passage rites of passages in Indian religious tradition a traditions.~~

#### *A Western Sacramental Theologian of Indian Origin*

~~My education studies in Europe enabled me to gain an in-depth knowledge in Catholic sacramental theology especially, specifically in postmodern postmodern sacramental theology. My unique approach to the Sacraments is derived from I have developed a specific approach to sacraments from the perspective of pneumatology (theology of the Holy Spirit) and the phenomenology of~~