

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-51646

Date: 17-05-2025

Title: MISSIONARY SPIRITUALITY OF ST. CHARLES DE FOUCAULD: THE SPIRITUALITY OF KENOSIS AND A CALL FOR UNIVERSAL FRIENDSHIP

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....YES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		√		
Techn. Quality			√	
Clarity			√	
Significance		√		

Reviewer's Name: Shafiya Akhter

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

General Overview:

The manuscript presents a compelling and theologically rich exploration of the missionary spirituality of St. Charles de Foucauld. It articulates a nuanced understanding of Foucauld's life and spirituality, with a focus on kenosis, universal friendship, and non-proselytizing evangelization. The study is firmly rooted in primary sources and informed by both historical and contemporary theological perspectives, offering a highly relevant contribution to the discourse on interreligious dialogue and Christian mission.

Abstract and Keywords:

The abstract clearly outlines the purpose, scope, and theological significance of the study. It captures the central thesis concerning Foucauld's spirituality as a paradigm for contemporary mission rooted in humility, presence, and universal fraternity. The keywords are well-chosen and accurately reflect the thematic core of the paper.

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Methodology:

The use of a qualitative, theological-historical method is appropriate and effectively implemented. The integration of primary texts—Foucauld's letters, prayers, and biographical narratives—with ecclesiastical documents and theological scholarship is seamless and intellectually robust. This methodological framework allows for a deep and credible exploration of the subject.

Literature Review:

The literature review demonstrates engagement with foundational texts and authoritative voices on Foucauld's life and spirituality. Works by Ellsberg, Bazin, and Collins are well integrated and provide historical, spiritual, and missiological insights. The references are relevant, and they enhance the manuscript's academic grounding and interpretive depth.

Theological and Missiological Analysis:

The paper thoughtfully highlights Foucauld's "double identification" with Christ and the poor, and how this identification shapes his unique missionary ethos. The exploration of kenosis, rooted in Jesus' hidden life at Nazareth, is particularly meaningful and theologically resonant. The manuscript's framing of mission as humble presence rather than proclamation offers a provocative and spiritually grounded model for engaging a pluralistic world.

Structure and Style:

The paper is well-structured, with a coherent flow from abstract through methodology, literature review, and theological analysis. The writing is scholarly yet accessible, maintaining a contemplative and respectful tone that aligns with the subject matter. The balance between historical narrative and theological reflection is commendable.

Contribution to the Field:

This study makes a significant contribution to missiology and spiritual theology by elevating St. Charles de Foucauld as a contemporary model of missionary engagement through presence, simplicity, and relational openness. It enriches current discussions on mission in the context of religious diversity and socio-political fragmentation, and offers a vision that is both deeply Christian and universally human.

Conclusion:

The manuscript presents a reflective, well-researched, and theologically insightful study of St. Charles de Foucauld's missionary spirituality. It succeeds in articulating a vision of mission that prioritizes humility, identification with the marginalized, and interreligious fraternity, making it a valuable resource for theologians, pastoral workers, and scholars of spirituality alike.

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