The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus
An Analysis and Commentary on Changing Interests and Perspectives (1900-2009)

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Introduction

The framework and guiding principles for the Society of Jesus’ way of proceeding can be found in its Constitutions. This document also aids many other religious congregations which base themselves on the spirituality of St. Ignatius. The original text was written by St. Ignatius of Loyola with the help of his able secretary, Polanco. Down the centuries it has proved to be a point of reference in the process of discernment and governance. Along with the fact that it has been the guiding document in terms of the Society of Jesus’ way of proceeding, it has been the subject of much reflection, prayer and at times controversies.

The unique nature of this document has led to various interpretations of the same. While some look upon it as a document which is juridical in nature, others have emphasized the centrality of the spiritual experience as underlying all that it contains. Even those outside the realms of religious life have had their observations. Some have claimed it to be a sinister charter used by a suspicious group, while others have found it to be a wonderful method for management. All in all it is a document which has drawn the attention of various groups.

Considering the fact that this document has received wide attention and a great deal has been written about it during the last century, it has been considered important to analyze the literature that is available with reference to this unique document. This paper therefore attempts to analyze the bibliography related to the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus in order to understanding the changing interests and perspectives during the period from 1900 to 2009. It will make an attempt to analyze if from two perspectives – from a chronological point of view and from a thematic point of view. The variety of themes that emerge in analyzing the bibliography reveal that this is a text which is based on a solid tradition, but at the same time is versatile and adaptable. Over a period of time it has adapted and responded to new emerging situations.

At the very onset it would be important to define the nature of this work. This paper will comment on the bibliography by taking into account the changing interests and perspectives of the constitutions keeping in mind a well-defined scope and purpose. This paper is being written as a requirement for a doctorate in theology and hence the analysis is limited to writings about the Constitutions that have a theological content.
Therefore writings related to themes such as management, art, history, strategic planning, etc. have not been considered. This study limits itself to the various writings which are related to the Society of Jesus, theological issues, religious life and others issues related to Christian living.

The paper begins with a chapter on the methodology that has been followed in the process of data collection, classification and analysis. This chapter will explain as to how data was collected and stored. It will then explain the process of classification which was made on the basis of the final draft. The criterion that was used in order classify the data will be explained and the process used in the generation of graphs will also be described. The methodology used to read and interpret the graphs will also be explained in this chapter.

The second chapter will provide the historical context within which this entire literature has been written. The context that is being considered is the 20th century. It has been a century of cataclysmic changes which have had far reaching influences on every aspect of reality. From the perspective of Christian life (especially religious life), the most significant event was the Second Vatican Council. It is evident that the understanding of Christian life and in particular religious life has been radically altered with this Council. Besides the Second Vatican Council, other important events include the World Wars, the movements for democracy, the convergence of the East and the West, the emergence of a new globalized world and the technological revolution of the last few decades. The presentation of the context would help us to later on understand the text, where text is understood as the bibliography related to the Constitutions.

The third chapter will consist in a chronological analysis of the writings on the Constitutions. It will be divided into six blocks where an attempt will be made to see the issues that have dominated a particular epoch. Each block consists of 20 years, while the last block consists of 10 years. The fourth chapter will attempt a thematic analysis of the writings during the 20th century. It will attempt to see various themes that have been of interest during the course of 110 years. The co-relation between the events that shaped this century and the changing thematic pattern will also be explored. Finally the conclusion would provide a summary of all that has been done to the present day, draw attention to some factors that have influenced the bibliography and highlight challenges that face any individual who wishes to engage in a detailed study of the Constitutions.

It is hoped that this study will provide a bird’s eye view of the changing interests and perspectives of the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus through an analysis of its existing bibliography. This will provide an individual who is interested in engaging in serious research an idea of various publications, themes and trends during the past 110 years. At the same time it will provide a useful database to individuals who are already engaged in research related to the Constitutions.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Prof. José García de Castro who has been guiding and encouraging me in this endeavor. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Provincial of Spain – Rev. Fr. Francisco José, my superior – Dr. Prof. Julio Martinez, and other friends and colleagues who have encouraged me in this project. May this research project assist all those who desire to deepen their understanding of Ignatian Spirituality.
1. Methodology:

This chapter aims to explain the methodology as to how the data was collected, classified and finally analyzed. The entire process consisted in three phases and has been explained in the following three sections – 1.1 data collection, 1.2 data classification and 1.3 data analysis.

1.1 Data Collection:

The first part consisted in designing a database file in Microsoft Access which facilitated the process of data entry. The tables, queries, forms and reports were custom designed in order to ensure smooth and rapid data entry. Care was taken so that it would be easy to divide the bibliography according to sections and themes. The use of internal search engines allowed for quick access to the data. This design had to be modified a few times in order to make it function at more optimum levels. Once the design had been tested and its efficiency proved, the task of data entry began.

Various sources were used to collect data regarding the Constitutions. These included the bibliography in important books related to the Constitutions, dictionaries and encyclopedias and publications that specifically dealt with bibliographies. Though the various sources have been highlighted in the bibliography at the end of this paper it would be important to highlight three important sources. These include the bibliography compiled by authors such as Ignacio Iparraguirre and Laszlo Polgar as well as information obtained from the website – www.ignaziana.org. In the process of data entry, each title was given a specific code and the relevant details such as author, title, translator/editor, year, publication, place, relevant page numbers, etc. were entered. The code consisted in the first four alphabets of the author, the year of publication and an alphabet. This system of giving each entry a code helped in avoiding duplicate entries. Since the database of the bibliography was being compiled using various sources, there was the risk of repeating entries - especially important works which were repeated in various sources.

1.2 Data Classification:

Once the major part of data entry was complete, it was important to classify the data according to sections and themes. The first classification took place at the moment of data entry through the assignation of keywords. The basis of assigning keywords consisted in using words that appeared in the title of the book. However in the course of refining the data, the process of classification was to become more systematized and precise. The data collected would go through four different drafts until the fifth and final draft would be arrived at. The fifth draft would be ultimately used in order to analyze the data. The methodological evolution that took place in the first four drafts is briefly given below.
a. The first draft: The first classification consisted at the very moment of entering data into the above mentioned database file. Keywords which appeared in the title of the book were used as indicators in order to randomly classify the bibliography into various themes. There was no specific criterion in the process of classification, except for the fact that it was in some way related to the Constitutions of the Society. All this material was organized alphabetically according to authors and a subject index which was generated with the help of keywords was placed in the last page of the dossier. The total number of bibliographical entries was 441 and this dossier was complete on the 2nd of November, 2010.

b. The second draft: The second draft included the addition of more bibliographical entries with the total number reaching 874. The keywords were revised and an attempt was made to classify the key words according to some coherent criterion. The various parts of the constitutions and theological themes were used as guiding principles in the process of classification. In keeping with the previous draft, the keywords were used to prepare a subject index at the end of the draft. The dossier was completed on the 20th of December.

c. The third draft: The third draft which was completed on the 14th of February, 2011 was a more complete dossier. It consisted of four sections – an alphabetical classification according to authors, an elaborate classification according themes, a chronological classification and finally for the first time, the use of graphs to present the data. While the first section was a continuation of the earlier drafts, the second section made an attempt to group the key words (or themes) into certain general categories such as text, formation, the structure of the Society of Jesus, mission, specific characteristics of Jesuits, the foundational sources, important Jesuits and others. The chronological classification merely used the year of publication as a parameter and all the data was presented accordingly. The last section of graphs was the first attempt to visually present the data. Two sets of graphs were presented. The first consisted in a thematic presentation through the use of vertical bars in order to see the hierarchy of importance of a keyword/theme within a category. The second set consisted in seeing the varying importance of a particular keyword/theme in the course of history. These graphs were revealing, but needed to be refined further and these were done in the final draft.

d. The fourth draft: The fourth draft primarily consisted in classifying the first section of the previous draft. Some of the data which was not directly related to the Constitutions was edited and the number of entries came down from 874 to 797. This was then divided into three sections – original sources, primary sources and others. The thematic classification was also divided according to primary and secondary sources (as and when applicable). This draft was completed on the 15th of March.

e. The fifth and final draft: The classification of the database was further worked upon and the entire material was classified into five sections: a) Primary Sources, b) Sec-
ondary Sources, c) Other Sources, d) Appendix 1 and e) Appendix 2. A brief description of the five is given below:

a. Primary Sources – as the name suggests, it refers to original texts and translations.
b. Secondary Sources – refers to titles and publications that are directly related to the Constitutions.
c. Other Sources – refers to publications that are related to key themes of the Constitutions.
d. The first appendix – refers to publications about significant themes of the Society of Jesus.
e. The second appendix – refers to other themes which may have a remote relationship to the Society of Jesus.

These five sections were given the codes of A, B, C, D and E. The thematic classification was based on the bibliography contained from sections A to D. The graphs which were generated were based on sections A – C (i.e. publications which were directly related to the Constitutions and its related themes). Once the basic classification was complete, the themes/keywords were thoroughly revised and inserted into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. This was then used to generate graphs which were based on chronological and thematic considerations.

The chronological division was made keeping a time frame of 20 years each, with the last time period being limited to 10 years. The thematic division consisted in placing the publications in two basic sections which was then further divided into different categories. The various categories which make up the first section include the various parts of the Constitutions. The categories which make up the second section included themes related to history, the text, foundational sources, specific personalities, theology, etc.

1.3 Data Analysis:

The data was analyzed chronologically and thematically. This part of the chapter indicates the methodology followed in analyzing the various data and their corresponding graphs.

The chronological analysis was done on the basis of extracting and sorting the data from 1900-2009. Presuming that a generational change takes place within 20 years, this data was divided into blocks of 20 years each, (e.g. 1900-1919, 1920-1939…) with the last block being limited to only 10 years (2000-2009). Each block was then sorted thematically. Later a table was prepared in order to find the themes that occurred with greater frequency during each block. The four or five major themes were then presented in the form of a graph with each line indicating a particular theme. The only exception was the period between 1960 -1979, during which the volume of publications relat-
ed to the Constitutions was very high. Accordingly this period would have two graphs. An analysis of the various graphs would help us to understand the important trends during a definitive period.

The thematic analysis takes into account publications related to different themes (within a particular category) from 1900-2009. At this point it is important to indicate the difference between a ‘category’ and a ‘theme’. As indicated earlier, a ‘category’ consists in a collection of related ‘themes’. The various categories include - the different parts of the constitutions, the text, foundational sources, important individuals and theology. The themes on the other hand refer to keywords that have been assigned to each publication. In keeping with the above criterion various themes related to a category were placed in a table and this table was then presented in the form of a graph. Each line indicated the volume of publications related to a particular theme from 1900 to 2009. An analysis of these graphs indicates themes (within a given category) that have been considered important and commented upon during the past century.

The interpretations of the graphs took into account various variables. The first part consisted in presenting some specific comments as and when it was felt necessary. Dominant authors during the concerned period or theme were highlighted. This was followed by observing the line which was most dominant and the period during which it was highest in the scale. Subsequently comments have been made on any brusque change in the line, contrast of one line as regards other lines, comparison of tendencies in the pertinent graph with other graphs, attention to significant gaps, projections as far as future trends were concerned and finally any other striking factor. After observing the various lines separately, the entire graph was commented upon as one single unit.

Once the graph had been analyzed, an attempt was made to co-relate significant events during this period with the results of data analysis. This has led to some observations that are contained in the concluding chapter.

This has been the methodology followed in presenting a commentary related to the bibliography that is available about the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus. As said earlier, it is not exhaustive and there remains a possibility that some important publications and titles may have been overlooked. It is also possible that on some occasions, the keywords that have been assigned may not be accurate. However, the present compilation of bibliography is rather comprehensive and provides enough data in order to observe certain trends. It helps us discover how various publications and titles are influenced by changing contexts.

In order to be able to have a more profound understanding of the various trends, interests and preoccupations that emerge during the analysis it is necessary to understand the historical context of this literature. Hence it would be important to understand the background of the 20th century before we embark on an analysis of the data. Thus the following chapter will provide a brief overview of the significant events that have shaped the 20th century – changes that have forever altered the way we live. An awareness of the context would help us understand the elements that reveal themselves as the data is analyzed.
2. A Brief Overview of the 20th Century

2.1 Introduction:

The 20th century has been a century of epochal changes – changes which have radically altered human existence. These could be compared to the changes that took place during the Neolithic period, the 6th Century BC, the advent of Christianity and the Renaissance. Unprecedented changes have taken place in the fields of science and technology, history, communication, philosophy, social sciences and religion. This chapter attempts to provide a bird’s eye view of the global changes which have affected human life (particularly religious life) during the 20th century.¹

2.2 Changes during the last century:

**Historical Change:** Two important events which open and close the century include the Japanese attack on Russia on 10th February, 1904 and the attack on the World Trade Center on 9th September, 2001. During the intermediate period we have seen two world wars which resulted in millions of deaths, totalitarian regimes in the forms of dictatorships and communist regimes, the end of monarchy in most parts of the world and the emergence of democracy as a stable form of government. Immediately after the Second World War, most countries which were under erstwhile colonial powers attained independence. Sub-Saharan countries were engaged in intense warfare towards the end of the century and the United States emerged as the dominant global power.²

**Scientific Changes:** The scientific changes have helped us to communicate and travel faster, led to large scale production, better medical facilities and consequently better standards of living. However these developments have not been without a price. The development of science has led to the use of more sophisticated weapons during war and wanton exploitation of natural resources. The ecological damage caused by industrialization has led to the depletion of the ozone layer and caused global warming.³

**Philosophical Changes:** At the turn of the century, reason reigned supreme. However the two world wars and consequent human suffering led to a phase of disillusionment. The rise of existentialism led to a rather pessimistic outlook of life. The ideologies of communism and socialism tried to create an utopist society, but that too met with failure. This has led to a phase of post-modernism where there seems to prevail an attitude of irony and cynicism.⁴ Human life was no longer guided primarily by metaphysics,

³ IBID., pp. 4-5.
empiricism, existentialism, socialism or even post-modern principles, but by utilitarian principles which focusd basically on finding happiness in the here and now.

**Anthropological Changes:** The second half of the 19th century saw the emancipation of slavery in the United States. In the 20th century we have seen a movement towards equal rights for women and just wages for workers. Despite these radical changes, the ugly head of racism reared its head time and again, most strikingly in Germany, the United States and S. Africa. Subjectivism had been a point of debate with certain groups claiming that the subject is merely a puppet while others desire to raise the subject to more profound levels of interconnectivity and commonness. The awareness of the uniqueness of every individual and his/her capacity to engage in meaningful dialogue has given rise to movements for human rights with greater emphasis on collaboration.\(^5\)

**Economic Changes:** Since the beginning of the 20th century, there has been a noticeable shift in the population from the countryside to the cities. Better jobs and opportunities were available in the cities. The concept of an economy has moved from being a local economy or national towards a more globalized economy. By the turn of the century it was evident that communism as practiced during the major part of the century had failed. Today most of the countries have a market based economy with socialist overtures to a lesser or greater degree. While economic changes have led to many positive developments, it has also led to unjust, unequal and exploitative systems.\(^6\)

**Cultural Changes:** Culture and tradition is related to space and time. The development of large cities in the affluent countries had led to mass migration. This has led to the mixing of cultures and an encounter with other traditions and religions. While on the one hand it has led to an enrichment of one’s own tradition and religion, it has also been the cause of conflict and strife. The alienation experienced by some had led them to still ‘remain very attached to their traditional allegiances and families’\(^7\) resulting in the emergence of fundamentalist tendencies. The revolution in communication has resulted in the emergence of a new language and culture.\(^8\) Ancient structures of culture, tradition, economy, family life, etc. are giving way to new structures.

**Religious Beliefs:** The development of psychology led to a deeper understanding of religion and religious experience. While extrinsic religion was merely an acceptation of certain codes and beliefs, intrinsic religion indicated a faith which had been internalized. Revelation came to be understood differently with the Other now being within the human subject. There was a growing tendency to disregard the need of validation by an

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\(^6\) The author goes on to explain the two forms of economies that have dominated the world. These include ‘liberal capitalism’ and ‘communist socialism’. In the context of these systems, he presents the social doctrine of the Church. (Ibid. pp. 245-250)

\(^7\) Davis, Noel & Conway, Martin. *World Christianity…*, p. 6.

external authority, because God communicated directly to the subject. People were more interested in the meaning of religious symbols and rituals. The hierarchical setup and institutions began to be challenged. A pluralistic form of understanding religion took place due to contact with other religions. The essence of truth was no longer in dogmas/creeds but in experience and dialogue. Religion changed from primarily being related to vertical transcendence to a new perspective which gave equal emphasis to horizontal transcendence.9

2.2 Christianity in the 20th century

The changes in the world have strongly influenced Christianity during the 20th century. As we reflect on these changes we cannot but be aware that the fundamentals of what constitute Christian life have been called into question. Revelation, Scripture, authority, religious life, sanctity, the concept of the sacred, and so on have all been reflected upon. Serious questions are being raised about the institutionalized form of religion and its claim to authority.10

Within the Catholic Church, the defining event was undoubtedly the Second Vatican Council that was inaugurated by Pope John XXIII. It was the culmination of decades (even centuries) of change11 and indicated a sincere attempt by the Church to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as to the future course it ought to take. The Second Vatican Council redefined the understanding of the Church, liturgy, the laity, hierarchy, other Christian denominations, other religions and provided to the faithful a new understanding of being the People of God.12 The importance of Vatican II is dealt in greater detail towards the latter part of this chapter. During the 20th century (especially during the second half), the rise of Pentecostal movements has been spectacular. ‘This movement has quickly spread to North and South America, has gained a foothold in Europe and is influencing indigenous churches in Asia and Africa.’13

The last century has seen great advances in the area of ecumenism. After centuries of strife, Christians of various denominations began to come together. Among the ecumenical efforts is the movement of Br. Roger at Taizé. This movement has members from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions.14 While Ecumenism brought together members from different Christian denominations, the openness towards other religions led to a dialogue of religions and cultures. Channels of dialogue were opened between Christians and Muslims as well as Christian and Jews. Rahner’s concept of

10 Cf. Ibid., pp. 890-91.
12 Cf. GARCÍA PAREDES, JOSÉ CRISTÓRE. Teología de..., pp. 66-67.
anonymous Christians provided a breakthrough in theologically understanding the universal salvific will of God in different religions and cultures.\textsuperscript{15}

Probably the most outstanding feature of Christianity in the 20th century is a process of global expansion that is taking place. From being primarily a religion focused on Europe and to a certain extent in the Americas, it has moved on to Africa and Asia. While it is true that the church has tried to adapt to the ancient cultures in these continents, even traditional Catholic areas such as Latin America and Europe have seen important changes. In Latin America, Liberation theology challenged the inequality that existed by a reinterpretation of Scripture and the formation of base communities. Europe on the other hand has been profoundly influenced by the two world wars, the subsequent economic boom, the emergence of new philosophies and a growing process of consumerism and secularism.\textsuperscript{16}

The development of psychology as a well-established science has influenced the understanding of religion and religious beliefs. Some psychologists have tried to pass off religion and religious beliefs as something that belongs to an archaic past. However others have attempted to use psychological techniques and spiritual traditions in order to create healing techniques and therapies that further the general well-being of people. Writers such as Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Anslem Grün (some of whom have been trained in psychology) have tried to present the central Christian message in contemporary language and their books have influenced millions of people. The 20th century has also seen the emergence of associations which use some psychological tools to help people recover from addictions and other forms of pathologies.\textsuperscript{17}

Social movements have affected Christianity like never before. Some key areas include issues related to human rights (which include economic, political and civil rights), gender equality and life threatening ecological changes. Prominent Christian activists reject the individualistic orientation of Christian Spirituality and emphasized both the vertical and horizontal dimensions of Christian life. At the same time the growth of the mass communication has led to a new way of tele-evangelization since the 1970s. The famous crusades of Billy Graham and many other tele-evangelists are popular all over the world. The boom in internet and its chat rooms has led to a new form of evangelization over the internet. All world religions have significant number of sites which provide its believers resources for their spiritual growth.\textsuperscript{18}

We thus see that the 20th century has been unparalleled in the history of Christianity. Core issues such as the very identity of the Church, the Christian community vis-à-vis other Christians and other religions, social issues, gender equality, ecology, globalization and mass communication have greatly influenced the way we live our lives as Christians and proclaim the Good News. These changes have influenced Christian life at all levels

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid., pp. 139-41, 145-48.
\textsuperscript{16} Cf. Davis, Noel & Conway, Martin. World Christianity..., pp. 7-12.
\textsuperscript{17} Cf. Mursell, Gordon. The Story of Christian Spirituality..., pp. 348-50.
\textsuperscript{18} Cf. Ibid., pp. 351-364.
and religious life is no exception. While its influence on contemplative life has been restricted, it has strongly influenced religious orders that are engaged in apostolic activity. The following section provides a brief overview of religious life during the 20th century.

2.3 Religious life during the 20th Century:

Religious life could not be immune to the changes that swept civil society and the church. The tradition of religious life within the church dates back to the period of monasticism in the early centuries. The history of Christianity reveals as to how various forms of religious life were adaptations to changing contexts. These include the emergence of monasticism during the early centuries, followed by the mendicant orders during the middle ages and finally the growth of apostolic orders during the last few centuries.

A cursory glance of the history of religious life indicates that the progress of religious life has not been a linear process, but a process that has had its moments of glory and crises. While the foundational basis of any religious life consisted in a profound desire to respond to God’s call, its specificity has depended on the inspiration received from the Holy Spirit by the founder or a group of founders. This inspiration responds to a definitive context and in the course of time gets institutionalized. With the passage of time, the context changes and the institutionalized form of religious life is in conflict with the new context. This leads to a crisis and the specific form of religious life returns to its core carism and adapts to the new context or eventually fades out.

As seen in the first part of this chapter, the 20th century has been a period of radical change and this in turn has profoundly affected religious life. The only period which comes close to that which has been experienced by religious life in the 20th century is the period after the Reformation during the 16th century – albeit on a much smaller scale. This chapter does not desire to go into a detailed analysis of specific events during the 20th century, but would focus on the Second Vatican Council, a defining moment in reinterpreting the meaning and identity of religious life. However before moving on to the Second Vatican Council, it would be important to note that the above mentioned changes had been influencing religious life over a prolonged period of time. The apparent calm which manifested itself in the increased number of vocations, the semblance of stability and order as well as the well-defined understanding of what religious life was all about turned out to be the lull before the storm.

Pope John XXIII's surprising decision to convoke an ecumenical council was in order to affirm doctrine and order discipline – its purpose was generally pastoral. However the announcement caused some latent problems to surface and they would go on to influence the proceedings of the Council. These included issues such as ecumenism,
missionary endeavors, liturgical renewals, etc. The expectations were high when the Council formally began on the 11th of October, 1962 and was unprecedented in many aspects. The 2,540 number of churchmen with right to vote, the higher representation of missionary countries, the openness to examine all aspects of ecclesiastical life, the decision to admit non-Catholic observers and the presence of the media made it a unique Council. Added to this, the influence of the historical methods in the study of sacred subjects had led to the emergence of a strong group of progressive theologians and experts.22

The Council deliberated for nearly three years and by the time it concluded in December 1965, it had touched upon almost all facets of Christian life. In the time that has elapsed ever since, it is clear that the Council has had a dramatic impact on the life of the Church. The documents of the Council dealt with a wide variety of issues and legislations (albeit few). Two important legislations which directly influenced all the members of the church were the changes to liturgical and sacramental practices as well as changes to religious orders. The Council caused a considerable amount of turmoil with a marked decrease in the number of candidates to the priesthood and religious orders, and to a degree unprecedented since the Reformation, mature men and women left the priesthood and religious orders. Certain countries registered a decrease in attendance at the liturgy and a general decline in religious practice.23

The general intent of the Council was to respond to a newly emerging context. Some of the intentions included a more decentralized form of authority, moderation of Greek metaphysics and greater importance to biblical and historical realities in matters of doctrine, greater ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue, diminishing distinction between the clergy and laity and finally greater sensitivity to local needs, traditions and customs.24

As far as religious life is concerned the Council in Perfectae Caritatis (2) said that

The adaptation and renewal of the religious life includes both the constant return to the sources of all Christian life and to the original spirit of the institutes and their adaptation to the changed conditions of our time... Therefore let constitutions, directories, custom books, books of prayers and ceremonies and such like be suitably re-edited and, obsolete laws being suppressed, be adapted to the decrees of this sacred synod.25

This led to a great interest in the foundational carism of religious orders, revision of constitutions, rules, apostolic priorities and community life and led to a radical alteration in their entire way of life. These changes (at times radical and brusque) led to a great deal of soul searching and reflection, resulting in various writings that were indicative of the serious efforts being made to adapt religious life to the changing times and directives of the Council.

23 Ibid. p. 16-17.
24 This is a summary of the eight points highlighted by John O’Malley in the above mentioned book.
Religious life is not the same as it was before the Second Vatican Council and will never be the same again. The extensive bibliography on the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus which is analyzed in this paper indicates how the Second Vatican Council has been a defining moment in understanding religious life. The analysis of the bibliography will also indicate that there has been a radical shift in the themes that interest people as far as religious life is concerned. The number of Catholics opting for religious life as a way of following Christ has dropped by the thousands, with hundreds of communities closing down. The change effected by the Council is unprecedented and on a scale never before witnessed. While it may discourage those who live in the nostalgia of the past, it also provides an opportunity to revise one’s understanding of religious life so as to make it more relevant for the 21st century.

**Conclusion:**

The changes in the world, Christianity and religious life within the Catholic church find an echo in the interests, reflections and writings regarding the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus. The Society of Jesus was by far the most dominant male religious order within the Catholic Church during the 20th century. At a certain point of time in the 1960’s it had reached a peak of nearly 36,000 members and right now stands at nearly 17,000 members. Its Constitutions as stated in the introductory chapter are unique and have proved to be an outstanding text in the history of religious life. This text contains the spirituality of St. Ignatius and his companions. It enshrines in an institutionalized manner the foundational carism of the Society of Jesus.

The profound wisdom of this text can be seen by the manner in which different groups of people have been able to tap its spiritual treasures in order to orient themselves during this century. While it is fitting that, members of the Society of Jesus and other religious congregations that have adapted the Constitutions have turned to this unique document in order to orient themselves in the face of unexpected and confusing situations, what is remarkable and stands out is that other bodies within the church and the world at large have found ways and means of navigating through the dilemma of contemporary events and situations by delving into the Constitutions. The fact that the changing contexts and their subsequent themes could be addressed by taking recourse to the Constitutions indicates the versatility of the text.

The changing contexts and their influence on the text will be amply seen during the course of the next two chapters when an attempt will be made to analyze the bibliography vis-à-vis the Constitutions from a chronological and thematic point of view to indicate newly emerging trends and perspectives. It will be sufficiently clear through the analysis as to how the mere observation of the bibliography related to the Constitutions helps us understand and confirms the universal process that has been taking place during the course of the 20th century.
3. Chronological Analysis

The chronological analysis of the data deals from 1900 to 2009 and has been divided into blocks of 20 years each with the last block (2000-2009) consisting of 10 years. The dominant themes of each block will be analyzed and the conclusion would try to highlight important trends during the entire period.

3.1 1900-1919

During this period the total number of publication were 18. The above mentioned themes were the main themes during that period. The interest seemed to have been limited to the general orientation of the constitutions with two important commentaries by Augustinus Oswald and José Aicardo. Two important summaries by Ioannes Dirckinck, and Arthur Veermeersch were also written during this period. Some investigations regarding the goal and purpose of the Society and the means to achieve them were also evident. Numerically the largest number of publications were related to the Rule with two important works by Baltasar Alvarez and Julius Negrone.

This was a period during which the general understanding of religious life had been broadly defined and it primarily consisted in implementing what had been laid down by St. Ignatius at the commencement of the Society of Jesus. It has to be commented at this stage that the desire was not to literally implement the text of the constitutions, but to find the spirit that permeated these texts. Thus it has been found that these texts had many notes and clarifications about the meaning of the text.
The publications that have been recorded in this paper for the corresponding period are 41 and of these the themes that seem to dominate include the Formula of the Institute, Rule, Brothers and the Text. Though the number of publications for ‘texts’ indicate ‘4’ it must be recalled that it was during this period that three of the four critical editions of the Monumenta Historica Societatis Iesu related to the Constitutions were published. These include the *Monumenta Constitutionum praevia* (1934), *Textus hispanus* (1936) and *Textus latinus* (1936). An author whose names appear frequently is Augusto Coemans and his writings contain a variety of issues such as the Formula of the Institute, Rule, Summary of the Constitutions and the Superior General. He also compiled a bibliography during the years 1930 and 1937. Other important authors include Paul Chastonay, Arturo Codina, Pedro Leturia and E. del Portillo.

The dominant theme during this period was the Formula of the Institute with publications being spread out during the entire period. Augusto Coemans was an important author and his commentary is analytic and minute with many references to various Superior-Generals. During the years 1927-1931 there were three writings on the Brothers. It is interesting to note that during the period of 1920-30 there was a lack of publication. This can be observed by the fact that only 11 of the 41 publications took place during this period. The publications on the Rule and the text, along with the Formula of the Institute indicate the area of interest that was prevalent during that time and was also an indication of what was to come in the subsequent years.
The lack of publications during the period 1920-1929 and the subsequent increase (albeit miniscule) in the publications could be attributed to the fact that they were years immediately succeeding the First World War followed by the Great Depression. During this period the General of the Society was Fr. Ledochowski who was elected in 1915 as the 26th General of the Society of Jesus. He called a General Congregation (the 27th) in 1923 and desired that the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus were in line with the new Code of Canon Law of 1917. Comparing the publications with the earlier period, it can be said that the general interests remain the same with some variations. The interest in the Rule continued as in the earlier period. However the publications related to commentaries, goal and summaries gave way to a greater emphasis on the Formula of the Institute and the text. We can also presume that the extraordinary work of the MHSI had its influence on the emerging publications seen during this period.

3.3 1940-1959

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Obedience</th>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Poverty</th>
<th>FI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>5</td>
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</table>
The publications during this period numbered 69. The major themes consisted in themes such as obedience, the Rule, Poverty and the Formula of the Institute. During this period authors such as Paul Chastonay, Ignacio Gordon, Fernandez Regatillo and Antonio Oráa continued to publish on themes such as the Formula of the Institute, the Rule, the Summary, etc. However at the same time many new authors such as Jesús Granero, Manuel Espinosa, Heinrich Keller, Hugo Rahner, Joseph Creusen and Burkhart Schneider began to publish on themes such as poverty and obedience.

The dominant theme that emerges during this period is ‘obedience’. However it must be noted that this is so during the period 1950-1959. During the first ten years 1940-50, there were three publications on obedience. However in the next phase, there were eight publications, with four important publications in 1956 by Pierre Blet, Jesús Granero, Hugo Rahner and Burkhart Schneider. The second most important theme, ‘Rule’ presents an opposite figure. It is interesting to note that the majority of writings are during the first part of this period (1940-1950). While 6 of the 8 publications are during this period, only two publications are observed during the period (1950-1959). The theme of ‘poverty’ follows a pattern which is similar to that of obedience. The inverse data in the patterns observed in the theme of ‘obedience’ and ‘poverty’ as against the theme of ‘Rule’ in some way indicates of the trends that will be observed in the years to come.

The important historical events that occurred during this period include, the most intense periods of the Second World War, the freedom achieved by various countries from erstwhile colonial powers, the election of Fr. Jansens as General of the Society and a period of increasing vocations in the Society of Jesus. An important point that needs to be kept in mind is the fact that this period coincided with the post-civil war period in Spain and considering the fact that Jesuits from Spain constituted the largest group in the Society, this is an important data. This was also the period preceding the Second Vatican Council and a time of tremendous theological reflection within the church. The Society of Jesus could not be immune to the movements within the church and the world at large.

The tensions between nations which characterized the great wars gave way to other forms of tensions – primary among which was the tension between an institutionalized framework of rules and an emerging understanding of human freedom. The clear shift in thematic interests during this period is an indication of the tension mentioned above. The Second Vatican Council would deal with this and many other issues and the publications that would emerge during that and the subsequent period would reflect the same.

3.4 1960-1979

The period 1960-79 was a period of immense importance and a time when there was a large amount of publication. For the sake of convenience and clarity this has been divided into two parts, with some concluding remarks at the end.
As noted earlier this period would be a defining period in a variety of ways. As far as publications related the Constitutions are concerned we see that there was a virtual explosion in the years following the Second Vatican Council. According to the data-
base, there were 336 publications during this period and they touched upon a wide variety of themes. These included some very important seminars and congresses which were later published. Considering the voluminous publications during this period, this period has been divided into two sections with the first section dealing with the first five most important themes. These include the themes of ‘mission’, ‘obedience’, ‘the Formula of the Institute’, ‘Text’ and ‘Governance’.

The most dominant author during this period was undoubtedly Antonio Aldama. His writings touched upon most of the major themes such as the composition of the Constitutions, the Formula of the Institute, and important parts of the constitutions such as mission, religious life, obedience and union. Many of his works were translated into English. Miguel Fiorito has various publications on classical themes such as prayer, poverty, the goal of the Society, obedience and the Rule. It is interesting to note that after the year 1972, he had no more publications. Jesús Granero wrote on various themes of the Constitutions such as the Formula of the Institute, formation, community, the General Congregation and the vows. Other important authors during this period included George Ganss, Maurizio Costa, Gervais Dumeige, Ignacio Iparraguirre, Manuel Ruiz Jurado and Jesús Irurrioz. Other authors who have important publications to their credit include John Futrell, Hugo Rahner, Stanislaus Olivares, Mario Gioia, Laszlo Luckas, Bertrand Margerie and André Ravier.

The theme with the greatest number of publications referred to ‘mission’. An important observation is that until the year 1968 there were no publications regarding this theme. However from the year 1971 onwards we find there were many publications with the most fruitful period being 1974-1978. After reaching an all-time high in 1978, it dropped in 1979 and this trend would continue into the next decade. A cursory glance at the bibliography regarding ‘mission’ indicates an attempt to understand ‘mission’ from a historical as well as from a contextualized perspective. Two important seminars on mission were held – one in Bilbao (1975) and another in Rome (1976). Besides this, magazines such as The Way Supplement (1977) and CIS (1979) had special issues on the topic of ‘mission’.

The second topic of importance was the theme of ‘obedience’. As seen in the preceding section, ‘obedience’ was a theme which had drawn the attention of various authors. However during this period we find that this topic elicited a great degree of interest, especially during the years immediately after the Second Vatican Council. It can be observed that of the 30 publications related to this theme during the entire period, 21 publications occurred between the years 1966-1973. It is noted that there was a marked decrease in the number of publications on this theme after 1973 with this trend continuing into the next chronological period. The third theme was ‘the Formula of the Institute’ which has been an important theme all through the century. During this period we find that there were various publications with a notable increase after the year 1975. It is observed that 16 of the 25 publications took place during the years 1974-79. The fourth important theme consisted in ‘text’ and it can be seen that there was a spurt in publications in the years immediately after the Second Vatican Council. The year 1967 in particular draws our attention with 10 bibliographical entries. These include
the various translations of the Constitutions that were published. ‘Governance’ was also an important issue with the majority of the publications (13 of 22) taking place during the years 1968-1971.

Various important events took place during this period with the Second Vatican Council being the most important of them. Within the Society of Jesus, Fr. Pedro Ar-rupe was the new Superior General and was entrusted with the task of implementing the mandate of the Second Vatican Council to religious orders. He had the task of ensuring that this mandate was implemented within the Society of Jesus. The invitation of the Council to return to the carism of the founder/foundress ignited the interest in the original foundational texts of the Society of Jesus and this in some way explains the interest in publishing translations of the Constitutions. The issues of obedience which had been simmering for some time came out into the open. The understanding that religious life was no longer a privileged way of following Christ, led to a certain degree of confusion about the identity of a religious vocation. The complex situations led to a mass exodus of men and women from religious orders. The years after 1968 were years of tremendous confusion in many of the traditionally Catholic countries. The changed understanding of the human person and the concomitant concern regarding issues such as obedience can be seen from the fact that the same period saw the highest number of publications on the theme of ‘obedience’. Another event that would have far reaching consequences was the 32nd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus. The decision to intrinsically link the propagation of faith with the option for justice was to have wide-ranging ramifications. There would be a paradigm shift in the understanding of the mission of the Society of Jesus and this would once again create a great deal of reflections and publications related to theme of mission – a process that is amply evident in the graph. Other factors that influenced this period include the tensions of the Cold War, the rapid secularization of many developed countries, the constant conflicts in the Middle-East, the emerge of Islamic fundamentalism, the violent struggles in S. America and Africa and the consistent fall in vocations to religious orders.

This is a brief analysis of the five major themes that dominated the publications related to the Constitutions during this period. However considering the fact that it was a period when a great amount of literature was produced, a second part is devoted to five more themes. At the end of the analysis of the second part there will be a few concluding remarks.
As indicated earlier, this period (1960-1979) was an extremely fruitful period. The earlier section indicated the five major themes. However other important themes also need to be mentioned and these include – ‘General Congregation’, ‘Formation’, ‘Discernment’, ‘Community’ and ‘Poverty’. Various authors have attempted to understand the genesis, spirituality and juridical dimensions of the General Congregation. The important authors included Francisco Egaña, Jozef Roeck, Gervais Dumeige, John Futarrell and John Padberg. The interest to adapt formation to the changed context is indicated in the publications on the theme ‘formation’. Writings about admission, novices, and various stages of formation until the stage of tertianship can be found during this
period. Special interest can be seen in the original intent of the various components of formation and an attempt to effect great integration between formation and the apostolate. Various authors include Estanislao Olivares, Anthony Ruhan, Jesús Granero, Gervais Dumeige and Mario Gioia. The third theme ‘discernment’ was commented upon. Special emphasis was placed on communal discernment and hence in this context we find overlaps between the first and second theme because the General Congregations was understood as a means of communal discernment. Besides some of the above mentioned authors, two authors who have important publications include Antonio Baruffo, Maurizio Costa and Manuel Ruiz Jurado. During the years 1970-1972 we find significant publications about ‘community’. There seems to be an interest in various dimensions of community life and these include teamwork, the role of the superior and the historical understanding of a community. Besides some authors mentioned above, others include Javier Osuna, Richard de Smet, G. Cruchon, Simon Decloux, André Ravier and Jesús Granero. ‘Poverty’ too was a theme that was important after the year 1970 and the authors included Miguel Fiorito, Jesús Granero, Miguel Mendizábal, Hugo Rahner, Günter Switek and Michael Dortel-Claudot. Some writings focused on individual and institutional poverty, the apostolic dimension of poverty and some articles dwelt on the 12th decree of the 32nd General Congregation.

Analyzing the graph we find that the line which indicates the publications on poverty is consistent from 1965. During none of the years does it appear as being more dominant than other themes, but publications concerning the General Congregations appear with consistent frequency. It must also be noted that during this period, two important General Congregations took place (1965-66 & 1974). The graph regarding formation indicates that the interest in formation increased during the second part of this period, especially after 1974. Discernment too became an important theme after 1970 with the maximum publications being seen in the year 1973 – the year before the 32nd General Congregation. The most striking line in the graph is the one on ‘community’ with a great deal of interest being observed during 1969-1972. These were incidentally the years of crisis in the Society in the traditionally Catholic countries. The line on ‘poverty’ shows few publications during the first part of this period (1960-70). However after the General Congregation in 1974, we find a greater interest in the same. The graph reflects a similar pattern as seen in the previous section where it can be said that the period 1969-1978 was one of profound reflection and investigation. This is amply evident in the volume of publications during this period.

The interest for the theme ‘General Congregation’ can be understood because the paradigm shifts effected in the Society of Jesus took place through the deliberations of these Congregations. The understanding of mission and religious life was no longer a matter of merely living one’s individual conviction, but it was a collective process. This led to greater emphasis on community life and a collective process of discernment. The urgency to respond to a new generation – a generation which was the product of a new environment and had grown up in a society which did not adhere to traditional norms as in the past, led to an important renewal of the process of formation. The time-tested and classical mold of formation was being questioned in traditionally Catholic countries
and had resulted in a massive exodus from religious life. Within a matter of few years, some Provinces of the Society of Jesus lost almost all their men in formation. This crisis necessitated a serious rethinking of formation and is seen in the various reflections and publications of the same. The ‘option for the poor’ as a specific option during the 32nd General Congregation led to a serious rethink of the future course of action as far as the elite institutions of the Society of Jesus were concerned. The tension between wanting to be faithful to this mandate and the attempt to respond to traditional ministries which were at times elitist can be seen in the reflections on the theme of ‘poverty’. All in all this was a time when the Society of Jesus had to confront complex issues and this forced it to reflect and rethink about its traditional way of proceeding - a way of life that had crystallized over many decades, even centuries. The intense struggle is reflected in the immense literature that was published during this period.

These two sections (3.4.1 & 3.4.2) have made an attempt to analyze the publications related to the Constitutions during this period. There were many more publications, which have not been commented upon and this paper has limited itself to the 10 major themes. Before moving on to the next phase, some concluding remarks to this crucial period will be highlighted.

3.4.3 Concluding remarks

The graph indicates the number of yearly publications during the period 1960-1979. Before making any concluding remarks it is important to note that the increase in the number of publications primarily took place in the years following the Second Vatican Council. This was followed by another increase in the years preceding the General Congregation with the number peaking in the year of the Congregation (1974). A gradual decline followed and this tendency would continue into the 1980’s. The next graph will demonstrate this point.

The complexity of this period leads one to divide this stage into four different periods. The first consists in the initial years- a period when the Second Vatican Council was in progress. During this period we find few publications which were continuations of earlier themes. However from the year 1965 we find a sudden increase in publica-
tions with greater importance being given to themes such as publishing translations and analysis of the original texts. The theme of obedience also finds prominence during this period. The third period is prior to the 32nd General Congregation and during this period, themes such as obedience, governance, the General Congregation and discernment seems to have gained importance. The final period is after the 32nd General Congregation. We see that after 1974 the earlier mentioned themes diminish in importance and the themes of mission, the Formula of the Institute and poverty gain importance.

We thus see a consistent shift in the themes over the period of 20 years and they reflect the changing contexts in the world, the Church and the Society of Jesus. As the decade of the 1970's would come to an end we find that many of the themes of the last period would continue to be important during the 1980's. This new epoch would be unique and present its own challenges and the bibliography would reveal the attempts to deal with the new context by taking recourse to the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus.

3.5 1980-1999

![Graph showing the distribution of themes from 1980 to 1999.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Spirituality</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Religious Life</th>
<th>FI</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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</table>
The most significant observation on analyzing the data during the period 1980-1999 is that there is an absence of any bibliography during the years 1983-1987. Furthermore, the theme of spirituality which in some way had been present during the preceding years, moves on to be the most dominant theme during this period. Important authors during this period include Manuel Ruiz Jurado, Joseph Veale, Maurizio Costa, Herbert Alfonso and André Jaer. Besides important books and articles, an issue of *The Way Supplement* (1988) was dedicated to the Constitutions. An attempt had been made to understand the historical background which constitutes the spirituality of the Constitutions, especially its apostolic spirituality. The theme of mission which was the most important theme after the 32nd General Congregation continued to be important with various publications of the same. Some authors who wrote on the spirituality of the Constitutions related their work to the theme of ‘mission’. Publications which can be highlighted include a translation of Antonio Aldama’s work into English and other works by Jesús Corella, Parmananda Divarkar and the former Superior-General Peter Hans Kolvenbach. Sustained interest in the text continued to be seen in the publications of new or revised translations of Constitutions and the complementary norms during the period 1990-99. Important and well acclaimed translations were published in Spanish and English. Other themes that were important included ‘religious life’, ‘the Formula of the Institute’ and ‘introduction’ to the Constitutions. It must be noted that Antonio Aldama’s commentaries on the Formula of the Institute and Part VI of the Constitutions ‘Religious Life’ were highly acclaimed and translated into English. Some authors who dealt with the theme of ‘introduction’ include Edward Malatesta and Howard Gray who have important articles in *The Way Supplement*. There is also an important publication by Santiago Arzubialde and Jesús Corella as well as other publications by Jesús Sariego and Joseph Munitiz.

Before analyzing the graph it is important to remember that there were no major publications during the years 1983-1987. In the graph we find that ‘spirituality’ is the dominant line. From the year 1988 it was evenly spread to the end of the century with important publications emerging at regular intervals. In the year 1988 there were four publications which made it the highest point in the graph. The line indicating the theme ‘mission’ was also an important theme with periodic publications. Similarly the line indicting ‘text’ manifests a consistency of interest from the year 1991 onwards. The Formula of the Institute on the other hand generated interest in the first part of the 1980’s, but hardly finds mention during the 1990’s. On a much lower scale, the theme of ‘introduction’ also demonstrates a regularity of interest during the entire period.

The twenty years that have been analyzed in this section have been a period of important occurrences in the Society of Jesus. The period from 1981 to 1983 was a period of confusion with the stroke of the then Superior-General, Fr. Arrupe. The election of Fr. Kolvenbach as his successor took place in 1983. During these years a serious attempt was made to integrate the mandate of the 32nd General Congregation. In the year 1994, the 34th General Congregation took place where the faith-justice mandate included the dimension of culture and dialogue. All these factors helped in understanding the Constitutions as the source of spirituality and the basis for mission. Added to these events it must
be said that this period saw the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe, the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, massive migrations and globalization, the revolution in internet and communications and the emergence of the United States as the only super-power. This period also saw the commencement of important ventures such as the Jesuit Refugee Service, initiatives in the realm of inter-religious dialogue and ecumenism, further advancements in the promotion of faith and justice and attempts to network among non-Catholic organizations around the world. All these efforts point to an attempt that has been made by the Society of Jesus to be faithful to its original spirit and at the same time trying to fulfill the mandate of the Church and the various General Congregations. The various publications on ‘spirituality’, ‘mission’ and ‘Formula of the Institute’ reveal the same intent.

3.6 2000-2009

The last period that is analyzed in this paper covers a brief period of 10 years and it is evident that the number of publications is rather limited. It apparently seems that the majority of publications have been on mission. However it must be pointed out that these publications refer to ‘mission’ within the context of the Society of Jesus at large and do not necessarily pertain to ‘mission’ as specifically presented in the Constitutions. Spirituality has continued to be an important theme with important publications during this decade. Besides an English translation of André Jaer’s book (and more recently a Spanish translation), other authors include Bernard Carrière, Carlos Coupeau and Peter Schineller.
Governance and identity are important themes and it would be important to underline an article by Elias Royon on governance. Introductory articles on the Constitutions can be found in the Historical Dictionary of the Society of Jesus (Manuel Ruiz Jurado) and the Dictionary of Ignatian Spirituality (Carlos Coupeau). The theme of ‘Governance’ has seen publications in the latter half of the decade (2006-2008). ‘Identity’ on the other hand has seen occasional publications with the year 2003 dominating the timeline. The decade also saw some publications providing good introductions to the Constitutions and these publications have been evenly spread out.

A detailed observation reveals that the focus of publications primarily related to an inquiry of its spirituality. This is in keeping with a changed understanding of the Society of Jesus as far as its structure, purpose, way of proceeding and governance is concerned. More and more emphasis is given to dialogue, communal discernment and an awareness of those elements that constitute our core identity. This search was amply evident in the process that took place in the 35th General Congregation and is also reflected in the publications that have taken place during this decade.

The events of the external world have also influenced this search. There has been a greater participation of the laity and civil society in ministries that have been traditionally managed by religious orders – e.g. the apostolate of education and health. The increase in means of communication and questions raised about the meaning of religious life in the 21st century has led to a process of a desire to re-discover the roots and foundational carisms of religious orders. For those in or associated with the Society of Jesus, one of the foundational documents has been the Constitutions and hence we find this desire to discover the primordial spirit of founders of the Society of Jesus. It has also been observed that greater participation of the laity has ignited a renewed interest in the Constitutions. This interest has been ignited for a variety of reasons, ranging from its utility as a tool for management to its contribution in the field of art and personal development. Due to this we find introductions which would help a lay reader come to grips with this unique text.

The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus has never been a text confined to the exclusive domain of the Society of Jesus. Down the centuries it has aroused the curiosity of a variety of groups. However in the 21st century, with the dissemination of information on a rapid and massive scale, this unique document is being interpreted in a variety of ways – ways hitherto unheard of. This paper has tried to analyze the publications of the Constitutions within the confines of the Society of Jesus and tried to see the major interests, trends and perspectives. However this text, more than ever before is being interpreted and analyzed by non-Jesuits and non-religious. These include people who are not religious, not Catholics and at times persons who are non-believers. All of them find the Constitutions as a text that responds to their search and hence it continues to ignite interest in the 21st century, in creative and surprising ways as never before.

3.7 Conclusion:

The chronological analysis of the bibliography during the 20th century throws up some important conclusions. In this section we shall begin by seeing the variations in
publications during the course of this period. This will be followed by a brief summary of important years during this time period. Significant shifts in terms of interests and themes during these specific years and their lasting influence will be indicated. Finally an attempt will be made to see the correlation between the publications and significant events of the 20th century.

The following graph indicates the volume of publications during the last century. This is indicative of the cumulative interest related to various themes of the Constitutions during the 20th century.

The graph indicates a gradual increase in the number of publications during the first half of the 20th century. A significant increase can be observed during the 1930’s when the MHSI brought out three important critical editions related to the Constitutions. The second significant increase took place during the 1960’s, a period during which the Second Vatican Council took place. This reached a peak during the next decade (1970’s) when the changes wrought about by the Council and the paradigm shift effected by the 32nd General Congregations resulted in the maximum number of publications. The next decade (1980’s) was significant because of a dramatic decline in the number of publications. It is necessary to recall that during these years the Society of Jesus went through a period of crisis. The zeal to implement the mandate of the Council and the 32nd General Congregations caused convulsions within the Society. Added to that the stroke and incapacitation of the then Superior-General Fr. Pedro Arrupe, the intervention of the Vatican in the governance of the Society and the conflicts caused by various theological movements led to a prolonged phase of confusion. There was need for a stabilizing factor and an overtly zealous perspective gave way to the need for caution and prudence. The following decade (1990) was also a period when the Society attempted to stabilize itself by being faithful to the mandates received by it, without swerving to any extreme. During this period it must be recalled that the Society was led by an extremely prudent and efficient Superior General, Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach who headed the Society from 1983 to 2008. By the end of the 20th century, a semblance
of stability had been achieved and we once again discover the resurgence of publications in the first decade of the 21\textsuperscript{st} century (2000 - 2009).

As we look at the various time periods we find that there have been some years when important shifts took place.

- The year 1910 is significant because during this year we find two publications about ‘Rules’ and this interest in the Rules would continue for many more years with regular publications on the same theme.

- The year 1934 is significant for the theme ‘text’ because it is when the first critical edition of the Constitutions was published by the MHSI. This interest would continue and peak dramatically in the year 1967 when there would be 10 publications (texts and translations).

- The year 1956 is significant because of the presence of many publications related to ‘obedience’. Though there had been occasional publications during the preceding years, this year would stand out in terms of the number of publications. ‘Obedience’ would go on to become an important theme during the next time period (1960-79).

- The year 1969 was important for the themes of ‘General Congregation’ and ‘community’. Important publications on the GCs had begun to appear from the year 1967, but many publications in both the above mentioned themes were seen after 1969. While interest in the theme, ‘community’ was evident for a couple of years, interest in the theme ‘General Congregation’ persisted for a longer period of time.

- The year 1971 was an important year for the theme of ‘poverty’. Though there were publications on this theme during the preceding years, during this year, ‘poverty’ along with ‘obedience’ had the greatest number of publications. During the course of that decade, the theme of ‘obedience’ would be less dominant while ‘poverty’ would be a more dominant theme.

- The year 1974 was important for the theme of ‘mission’ because though interest for this theme was noticed immediately after the Council, it would become a dominant theme after the 32\textsuperscript{nd} General Congregation. This theme continues to be important even today.

- The year 1988 was important for the theme ‘spirituality’ because of the various publications that emerged during that year. This theme would continue to be an important theme with significant publications during the next 20 years.

As observed in the preceding chapter, the 20\textsuperscript{th} century has been a period of tremendous change and various publications during the course of this period reflect this change. The well-defined world order which existed at the turn of the century had its echo in the church and religious life. The church (and religious life) seemed to be immune to the historical consciousness which had been permeating other sciences. This perspective can be seen in the importance to the theme of ‘Rules’ during the beginning of the century. It must be also noted that this was a period when some important and valuable
commentaries and summaries of the Constitution were published. However this well-defined world order and isolation would not last too long with the onset of the World War and the Great Depression of the 1930. The church and religious life was also adapting itself to the newly emerging context and modern sciences were being used to interpret and understand sacred texts. In the case of the Society of Jesus, the foundational texts were being compiled into critical editions and being divulged on a large scale.

The Second World War and the subsequent fallout would have a lasting influence on all facets of humankind. The emergence of post-modernism and the rejection of ultimate truths would influence the Church and religious life. Added to that the changed understanding of the human person, the challenge to authority and the various social movements which promoted human dignity, social justice and gender equality would raise serious questions on the traditional way of understanding religious life. We thus see the emergence of themes such as ‘obedience’ during the 1950’s. The Second Vatican Council and the breakdown of traditional structures would lead to the emergence of reflections on new themes such as ‘governance’ and the ‘General Congregation.’ The challenge posed by the communist world, the civil rights movements, the greater sensitivity to issues of inequality and injustice is reflected in religious life as well. The need to identify with the poor, the marginalized and suffering would lead to the emergence of reflections on themes such as ‘poverty’ at the end of the 1960’s. These reflections would gain prominence during the following decade. The concept of mission would not be primarily a metaphysical/theoretical reflection upon the realities of the world but a reflection which would takes place in the context of an actual involvement with the people. The concept of mission would be one where there would be a dialogue between the text and the context. Mission would be the consequence of interplay between the call of Christ to realize the Kingdom of God and existential realities. This struggle to discover and respond to the call of Christ in a totally new world which was fast breaking away from the past, can be seen in the predominant space occupied by the theme ‘mission’ from the 1970’s.

An important process that was taking place in the second half of the 20th century was the process of ecumenism, dialogue and East-West collaboration. The world was being converted into a global village and the mission of the Society of Jesus had to respond to this new reality. We thus find more and more publications related to these themes – themes which find prominent mention in the decrees of the General Congregations. The technological revolution as well as the process of globalization has led to a constant process of adaptation and renovation during the past three decades. The pace of change is rapid and the Church as well as the Society of Jesus attempts to respond in an apt manner. This ongoing attempt to constantly adapt is beautifully illustrated by the publications on various themes during this century. The major shifts seen during the 20th century have been as follows:

Rule ➔ Text ➔ Obedience ➔ GC/Community ➔ Poverty ➔ Mission ➔ Spirituality

While observing these shifts it must be emphasized that the ‘The Formula of the Institute’ has always been a relevant theme throughout the century. At no point of time during the entire period of the 20th century, has this theme been sidelined. Time and
again people have returned to this foundational text of the Society in order to find inspiration and responses to the existential situations that they faced.

Finally it can be said that this chapter has attempted to analyze the bibliography related to the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus from a chronological point of view. This analysis has resulted in the emergence of some core themes which have had a transversal significance, while other themes have been dominant during a specific period of time. In the process of analyzing the chronological development, some important authors and their publications have been highlighted. Attention has also been drawn to landmark years when significant shift in thematic interests were seen and finally the correlation between important factors of the 20th century and the publications have been indicated.

The next chapter takes off from here and attempts to analyze the same bibliography from a different point of view in order to understand the thematic evolution. It will engage in a thematic analysis and try to see how each theme or a group of themes developed during the course of the entire century. It will be graphically possible to see as to how a particular theme gained in importance, diminished in importance or was consistently important during the course of the entire century. At times it will be possible to see to as to how a nuanced shift took place in the way an issue was focused. While all the themes that emerged during the classification of the bibliography will be presented, the detailed analysis will primarily refer to the major themes and trends.

4.0 Thematic Analysis

The preceding chapter presented a chronological analysis of the various themes related to the bibliography of the Constitutions. This chapter goes one step further and tries to see the variations in a particular theme or themes during the entire period from 1900-2009. For the sake of convenience, the various themes have been grouped into two sections. The first section is in conformity with the structure of the Constitutions and the second section consists in a homogenous grouping of themes which cannot be directly placed in the structure of the first section.

The first part (i.e. the structural division) has been based on the outline provided in the table of contents of the book An Introductory Commentary on the Constitutions by Antonio Aldama. Despite great care in classifying the bibliography into one or another theme, the decision to place a particular publication in one or another theme is still a debatable decision. However an attempt has been made to be as objective and precise as possible while allocating a theme to a particular section of the structure. The second part (i.e. homogenous themes related to the Constitutions but not directly within its structure) consists in an analysis of other themes which are intrinsically linked to the Constitutions, but cannot be directly placed within the structure of the Constitutions. The need to create this section arose because of the presence of many themes which have a transversal significance to the Constitutions and cannot be assigned to a specific part of the structure.
While analyzing the different themes it must be kept in mind that they are not mutually exclusive and independent, but are often inter-related to one or more themes. Hence each theme needs to be understood in a global context. Due to this there have been occasions when one specific publication would simultaneously appear in two or even three themes. The themes have been graphically presented with each theme being assigned a different colored line. The variations of the lines would indicate the thematic development over the period from 1900-2009. With this brief overview let us now proceed to an analysis of the themes directly related to the structure of the Constitutions.

4.1 Themes directly related to the structure of the Constitutions.

The structure of Constitutions consists in the Formula of the Institute, the General Examen, the Preamble of the Constitution and 10 parts of the Constitutions. The themes that are directly related to these parts have been clubbed together and presented in the form of a graph. While presenting the data in the form of a graph, the detailed statistics will not be presented.

4.1.1 Formula of the Institute:

The Formula of the Institute consists in grouping the following themes: ‘Formula of the Institute (FI)’, ‘Identity’ and ‘Goal/Purpose’. As seen in the graph, ‘Formula of the Institute’ has been a dominant theme during the entire century. As indicated earlier, it was the dominant theme before 1900 too. The number of publications increased during the years of the Council and later on during the period surrounding the 32nd General Congregation. This interest continued until 1990 and even in the last few years, publications concerning the same have been forthcoming. The theme of ‘identity’ was absent in the first half of the 20th century. However publications on this theme can be seen in the period surrounding the 32nd General Congregations and later on during the last 10 years. The Goal/Purpose of the Society of Jesus is intimately linked to the Formula of the Institute and the publications in the beginning of the century deal with this theme. Publications on the same theme have re-surfaced during the 1970’s.

It is amply clear that the Formula of the Institute has been a crucial and foundational document for the Society of Jesus and during moments of major crisis and reflection,
people have turned to this document. The normal rhythm of the graph is disturbed from 1973 onwards and has still not stabilized because the Society of Jesus is in the process of re-discovering its identity in a changed context. It is true that the discovery of an identity is a process, but a prolonged period of instability does not augur too well for an institution. While it is true that the context in which we live is extremely complex, the experience of the past gives us the confidence that the Formula of the Institute contains the necessary flexibility and inspiration in order to help us re-discover our true carism and identity in the 21st century.

4.1.2 General Examen

The graph of the general examen takes into account publications related to the ‘general examen’ and ‘manifestation of conscience’. During the decade 1960-1970, we find that there were some publications about the ‘general examen’. However this was not a theme in the latter years. The ‘manifestation of conscience’ which was of some interest in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council (a period when the issue of ‘obedience’ had been dominant) once again became a theme of interest during the years of the 32nd General Congregation (1974-79) and in the last time period (2003-07).

4.1.3 Preamble of the Constitutions:

The most dominant theme related to the Preamble of the Constitutions is that of ‘spirituality’. However as seen in the graph, it is evident that despite the fact that there were some publications from the beginning of the century, it gained in importance from the 1970’s going on to become the most important theme in the subsequent years. The
second theme that dominates the graph is ‘rule’. As seen above, this theme dominated the first part of the 20th century, but faded into insignificance after the 1970’s. ‘Discernment’ too was a theme which was important during the years 1967-1979. A related theme ‘discreta caritas’ has been important with the appearance of some publications during the last two decades. It can be said that interest for these two themes (‘discernment’, ‘discreta caritas’) have been observed during the latter half of the 20th century. The theme ‘judicial’ too has not been of much interest with the presence of some writings during the beginning of the 20th century and later on in the years preceding the Second Vatican Council.

A cursory glance at the pattern which emerges in this graph indicates that the perspective related to the preamble to the Constitutions has undergone a radical shift. The dominant perspective of looking at the Constitutions as a ‘rule’ to be followed and primarily emphasizing the juridical aspect is evident during the first half of the century. However the interest to pursue this perspective almost dies out in the 1970’s and a new perspective emerges. The approach to look upon the Preamble (and in effect the entire Constitution) as an instrument of discernment and a way of proceeding characterized by ‘discreta caritas’ is evident in the growing number of publications after 1967.

4.1.4 Parts One & Two – Admission & Dismissal

The first part of the Constitutions deals with ‘admission’ to the Society of Jesus. The graph indicates publications dealing with the various types of vocations to which a candidate is admitted to as he enters the Society of Jesus. Before moving on to an analysis of the graph it is important to note that this graph only refers to publications, but makes no mention to exhortations and writings by various commissions and the Super-General giving guidelines about admission to the Society of Jesus. As seen in the graph, we find an enormous number of publications on the vocations to Brothers during the period preceding the Second Vatican Council. It is a well-known fact that the issue of vocation to become a coadjutor brother became rather complicated and confusing in the years after the Council. This confusion is amply reflected in the diminishing number of vocations to brotherhood. The 1960’s saw some important reflections and research regarding brothers and coadjutors. An attempt was made to understand the original carism and purpose of this unique vocation. Questionnaires were prepared, seminars were held and attempts to theologically understand this vocation were made. However the crisis in vocations and the complex situations post Vatican Council II led to a lack of
interest in this theme. As far as priesthood was concerned, we find some publications after the Council. The declaration of 2009 as the year of the priest, rekindled some interest in the priesthood. Talks and deliberations on the Jesuit vocation and priesthood were organized. However these events focused on the theme in general and not specifically priesthood in the context of the Constitutions.

The first part ‘admission’ is generally twined with the second part – ‘dismissal’. Some articles on the discernment and ‘discreta caritas’ in the process of dismissal have been encountered. However given the fact that the number of articles related to the second part is extremely limited, no specific graph has been generated for the same. Two articles that worth mention include one by Mario Gioia (1974) and Jesús Iturrioz (1974) and they can be found in the second section of this paper which presents the entire bibliography alphabetically and thematically.

4.1.5 Parts Three & Four – Probation of Novices & Formation

The total number of publications regarding novices is limited. The compilation of the bibliography indicates 13 publications directly related to the novices of the Society of Jesus. Though the number of publication is limited, the pattern of distribution is interesting. We find that these publications are spread out regularly over the entire century. Almost every decade has seen a publication. In keeping with the trends seen in other graphs, the period 1974 – 1988 has seen a spurt in publications. The even distribution of publications indicates that at all times, the probation of novices has been considered to be important within the Society of Jesus. Among the various publications, it can be seen that most of the articles attempt to understand the historical evolution of the novitiate, key elements in the training of novices and experiments as envisaged by St. Ignatius and the early Society.
The formation of scholastics has been an important theme, though the number of publications dealing with this theme was limited during the first half of the century. However the second half of this century saw a proliferation of writings with two important patterns. While the period immediately preceding the Council (1954-1963) saw some publications on ‘schools and colleges’, the period following the Council has seen many publications on ‘formation’. There are also various articles on ‘scholastics’ which specifically deal with issues of scholastics. However other articles reflect upon scholastics within the general framework of formation. As seen in other graphs, the importance of ‘formation’ was felt more acutely in the aftermath of the 32nd General Congregation. It is interesting to note that after the year 1974, the focus of publications is only on ‘formation’. The consistent effort seen in these publications is to return to the historical understanding and development of formation in the Society of Jesus and an attempt to adapt it in keep with the directives of the Second Vatican Council and the 32nd General Congregation.

Before proceeding to make a few comments about the publications on ‘formation’ it would be important to comment that the 20 odd publications contain some which are related to the earlier sections on admission and dismissal. The publications make an attempt to look at formation from various perspectives and these include the mission of the Society, social psychology, freedom and its juridical aspects. Special attention is also given to the period of tertianship. The Constitutions are the reference point/manual for formation and this point has been reiterated by authors such as Manual Ruiz Jurado and Simon Decloux.

4.1.6 Parts Five & Six – Incorporation and Religious Life of Incorporated Members

The issue of grades in the Society was important during a brief period (1968-1976). However it has ceased to be of much importance with hardly any important publication. This does not mean that the theme was not reflected upon. References to it can be seen in publications on other themes. Most of the publications try to discover the original intent of St. Ignatius and the early Society regarding the various grades within the Society of Jesus.

4.1.6.1 Part Six – Incorporation and Religious Life of Incorporated Members (a)

There is a great deal of publication regarding the Sixth Part of the Constitutions. In order to facilitate an adequate analysis, it has been divided into two parts.
The first graph deals with the general elements of religious life and includes themes such as ‘community’, ‘prayer’, ‘religious life’ and ‘superior’. Before proceeding to analyze the themes, it would be important to comment on the line representing ‘religious life’. As seen in the graph, this line displays an amazing consistency. However it must be indicated that the tag ‘religious life’ has been applied to a wide variety of publications and many of them overlap on to other themes. Due to the lack of homogeneity in the bibliography which makes up this theme, no specific comments will be made about this theme. The only statement which can be made is that it is a theme which has been of constant interest and this is manifest in the varied publications.

The understanding of ‘community’ within the context of religious life was not considered important until the Second Vatican Council. However from 1968 we find an enormous interest in the understanding of ‘community’. This interest came down in 1974 and the occasional publications indicate that this theme continues to be of interest – albeit at a much diminished rate. The theme of ‘prayer’ has always been important with occasional publications from the beginning of the 20th century. However we find a spurt in publications after the Second Vatican Council. In the beginning of the 1970’s it fades in importance and later on disappears from the scene altogether. This does not mean that there have been no publications on prayer. It only indicates that the Constitutions ceased to be the primary source in order to reflect on prayer in religious life. Despite this un-inspiring fact, the last decade has seen some publications, notable among which is the book by William Barry ‘Our Way of Proceeding’ – a book which presents a collection of sections from the Constitutions for prayer and reflection. The third theme is ‘superior’. It is interesting to note that there are hardly any publications on the theme ‘superior’ during the entire century, except during the years 1976-1977.
The importance of the vows in the context of religious life is amply illustrated in the graph. Before going into an analysis of the publications concerning each theme (‘vows’, ‘obedience’ and ‘poverty’) it would be important to make some general remarks. It is interesting to note that specific publications on the vows are not observed before 1940. During the initial years, we find publications on the vows of poverty and obedience. While the publications on ‘obedience’ dominate most of the graph, there is a brief period (1975 – 1977) when the publications on ‘poverty’ dominate. The theme ‘vows’ are generally related to one of the two above mentioned vows, though there are some publications which deal exclusively with this theme.

Moving on to a more detailed analysis of the theme, we find that ‘obedience’ has been a theme with a growing number of publications. The first period of extraordinary interest can be seen during the period before and during the Council. The year 1956 stands out with some important publications by Hugo Rahner, Burkhart Schneider, Jesús Granero and Pierre Blet. The period following the Second Vatican Council saw another spurt in publications with various publications during the next 10 years. In the 1980’s, the number of publications diminished a great deal, though occasional occurrences can be seen. The theme ‘poverty’ on the other hand has had a constant pattern with an exception being noticed during the years 1970-1978. This indicates that the theme of poverty has been considered important for the major part of the century. This importance acquired an added intensity during the 1970’s when the 32nd General Congregation in 1974 made a definitive option for the poor. This option and the reflection that followed were manifested in the increasing number of publications during this period. As far as the theme ‘vows’ is considered we find that the number of publications increased during the years 1968-1971 – turbulent years for religious life in some traditionally Catholic countries. It is also interesting to note that most of the writings on the
vows had been limited to the vows of ‘obedience’ and ‘poverty’. However we now have writings that deal with the vow of ‘chastity’ – for example a book by Thomas Hollweck in the year 2001.

Looking at the two numbers that deal with part six (Jesuit Religious Life) we can say that it was not considered important for the first half of the 20th century. The understanding of religious life, the vows, etc. had been well defined and there was no need of any specific reflection. However the extraordinary changes took place in the world, the church and religious life have altered this understanding a great deal. The Second Vatican Council took cognizance of the changed circumstances and redefined the understanding of religious life. A lot of soul-searching has taken place ever since and the bibliography reflects this process. The two graphs have a similarity in the sense that the period following 1965 is one of prolific publications – indicating an upheaval of extraordinary proportions within the realm of religious life.

4.1.7 Parts Seven & Eight – Apostolic Life & Union Among Members

The above graph indicates the themes that are related to the seventh part. These include the publications vis-à-vis ‘mission’, ‘fourth vow’ and ‘ecclesiology’. There is no doubt that the theme ‘mission’ has been the cause of an immense volume of publications – especially during the period after the Second Vatican Council. However in the years before the Council, the ‘fourth vow’ and the understanding of apostolic life in the context of the church (‘ecclesiology’) were important themes for reflection.

The line that indicates ‘mission’ dominates the entire graph. However it is interesting to note that not many publications were evident until the year 1971. The year 1974 would see the commencement of an enormous amount of publications. This year would coincide with the 32nd General Congregation, a GC which has been a watershed in the Society of Jesus’ understanding of mission. The volume of publications would peak to 6 in 1978. During this period important seminars were conducted on this theme. The subsequent decade (1980’s) would see a decline in publications and this can be partially
attributed to the situation that the Society of Jesus found itself during this period. The end of this decade and the following two decades would see a renewed interest in this theme and it must be stated that it continues to be one of most dominant themes today.

The other themes that pertain to this section include the ‘fourth vow’ and ‘ecclesiology’. In the years preceding the Council, these themes which were related to each other were the subject of much reflection and publication. The period after the Council saw an increased interest in the theme ‘fourth vow’ with many publications emerging during the decade of the 1970’s. However in the subsequent decades there were fewer publications and these included articles in various dictionaries. The lack of publications regarding the ‘fourth vow’ and ‘ecclesiology’ stands in stark contrast to the increasing interest in the theme ‘mission’.

The eighth part of the constitutions consists in the themes of ‘General Congregation’ and ‘union’. As seen in the graph, this theme has not been developed during the first half of the century. However from the 1960’s we find various publications of the theme. The General Congregation has been studied from various perspectives – historical, juridical and spiritual. It is also considered to be an important means of discernment. Publications have been seen in a consistent manner until the 1990’s. In the mid 1970’s some publications on the theme of ‘union’ also emerged. It is important to recall that this period coincided with the importance in the theme ‘community’. The graph reaffirms the trend being noticed in other themes that there is a great deal of reflection in the period after the Council. The desire to implement the directives of the Council led various religious orders to go back to their original carism and reflect on their way of proceeding. In keeping with this perspective it would be possible to say that publications indicate a re-discovery of the General Congregation as a privileged mode of union and mission within the Society of Jesus.
Occasional writings on the theme of ‘governance’ and ‘Superior-General’ can be seen in the first half of the 20th century. One of them includes an important article on the Superior-General by José Laburu in 1946. However in the period immediately preceding the Council and the subsequent years we find a great deal of writings on governance. This interest is in keeping with the Society of Jesus’ attempt to respond to the newly emerging contexts which include the mandate of the Council, the 32nd General Congregation, new forms of governance in the secular world, a changed anthropological understanding of the human person and wide ranging influences that affected religious life. The Society of Jesus’ struggle to adapt to a new world can be seen in the number of publications of the above mentioned theme.

Despite the wide ranging publications that deal with ‘governance’ it can be seen that there are hardly any publications on the Superior-General. There hasn’t been too great a confusion in terms of the Superior-General’s role within the structure and government of the Society of Jesus. Time and again this part of the Constitutions has served to delineate and clarify the role of the Superior-General in terms of governance and spiritual leadership. Another factor which has resulted in few publications could be the presence of outstanding Superior-Generals such as Frs. Pedro Arrupe and Peter-Hans Kolvenbach whose lives spoke more eloquently than words or publications.

The preservation and growth of the Society of Jesus is the theme of the last part of the Constitutions. The publications which come under the theme ‘reform’ have been included in this part. It must be commented at this stage that there have been some letters and documents (especially GC 34) which deal with the theme of vocation promotion. The decrease in the number of vocations has led to a great deal of soul-searching. Reflections and discussions have been undertaken in order to further the cause of preservation and growth of the Society. These discussions are indirectly reflected in publications which deal with the theme of ‘reform’. However serious publications on this theme are pertinent in view of the crisis that the Society of Jesus faces in the 21st century.
4.2 Themes indirectly linked to the structure of the Constitutions

4.2.1 Text and Commentaries

For a better analysis of the themes related to the text of the Constitutions and those not directly related to them, they have been divided into two parts. The first part which is presented in the graph displayed below contains themes that provide a background in order to better understand the Constitutions and these include themes such as ‘commentary’, ‘composition’, ‘hermeneutics’, ‘introduction’ and ‘summary’. The second part is related to themes that are directly related to the Constitutions as such and include themes such as ‘text’ and ‘translations’.

4.2.1.1 Text and Commentaries (a)

The theme which stands out among others in terms of publications is ‘introduction’. We find that there have been various introductions to the constitutions from the beginning of the century. As a matter of fact it has been found that some introductions had been published in the 19th century. However as in the case of many other themes, we find that the number of publications increased after the Council, peaking towards the end of the 1970’s. Occasional publications have continued to appear on a consistent basis during the last decade of the 20th century and the first of the 21st. A surging interest in the spirit of the Constitutions, especially within the Society of Jesus and the laity has led to the emergence of good introductions during the last twenty years.

Summaries and Commentaries are also spread out during the entire course of the 20th century, though the number of publications decreased over a period of time. Un-
like the theme of ‘introduction’ which presents a growing tendency, the themes of summaries and commentaries shows a declining trend with very few publications being noticed after the Council. The summaries and commentaries have given way to the emergence of publications related to themes such as ‘composition’ and ‘hermeneutics’. This is an indication of greater importance given to historical processes and interpretative understandings in analyzing a text. While publications on the composition of the text are more frequent, we also find occasional publications that try to achieve a hermeneutical interpretation of the same.

4.2.1.2 Text and commentaries (b)

Various publications on the text can be seen throughout the 20th century. The graph consists in the theme of ‘text’ and ‘translations’. The theme ‘text’ contains critical editions and photocopies of the original text of the Constitutions. It must be indicated that during the year 1934 the graph indicates one publication. However it was the year when the first of the four critical volumes of the Constitutions were published. As seen in the graph, there have been consistent publications on various themes related to the ‘text’ of the Constitutions. These could be articles regarding the text of the constitutions in general or articles referring to specific texts. The year 1967 shows a peak in publications and is bound to attract the attention of any reader. However it must be point that four of these publications were commentaries upon the translation of Francois Roustang’s translation of the Constitutions. Down the years we find that there are fewer and fewer publications on the ‘text’ while the number of ‘translations’ has increased.

While commenting on the translations it must also be recalled that before the turn of the 19th century, the Constitutions were available in Spanish, French and English. The period before the Council would see the translation of the Constitutions into German (1937). However after the Council we find a spurt of translations into German (a second time), French, Italian, Portuguese, English, Chinese and Polish. During the 1970’s we find a consistent stream of translations of the Constitutions into the vernacular. However during the 1980’s there were no translations. The 1990’s once again saw the publication of new translations which now contained the complementary norms.
4.2.2 Foundational Sources

Three foundational sources make up the constitutions and these include ‘scripture’, the ‘Spiritual Exercises’ and ‘other religious orders’. The adjoining graph indicates the publications which try to reflect on the Constitutions in the context of its foundational sources. While very little has been done in attempting to provide a scriptural basis for the constitutions, there have been some more efforts to understand as to how the experience of the Spiritual Exercises provide the foundational framework for a life animated by the Constitutions. The graph indicates that the year 1974 was an important year in this regard. During this year there was important Congress in Bilbao which explored the unity between the Spiritual Exercises and the Constitutions. It must however be recalled that of the seven publications which appear in the graph, five relate to the Congress mentioned above.

Though the influence of other religious orders is not displayed in the graph, it must be commented that there have been some efforts to understand the influence of other religious orders on the Constitutions of the Society. Notable among them is the work done by Aloysio Hsü who has important publications indicating the Dominican influence on the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus.

4.2.3 Important Personalities
There have been various publications vis-a-vis individuals who have been associated with the Constitutions. These include the companions of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Prominent among them are Jerome Nadal, Juan Polanco and Pedro Ribadeneira. The graph clearly indicates that of the various specific individuals associated with the Constitutions, the publications about Jerome Nadal dominate. The ‘Scholia’ of the Constitutions have been commented upon in a variety of publications. Added to it, there have been other important publications by José Calveras, Bertrand de Margerie, Philip En-dean and Adrien Demoustier.

Besides Nadal, Polanco too receives attention as is evident from the regular publications which are demonstrated in the graph. It is a well-known fact that the assistance of Polanco was crucial in redacting the draft of the Constitutions. Notable among the publications is an edited version of the Chronicon of Polanco published by the Institute of Jesuit Sources, Missouri (2004). At present a translation of the Cronicon in Spanish is underway. Publications that refer to Ribadeneira mainly deal with the Formula of the Institute. The theme ‘other’ includes publications related to Jesuits such as Laynez, Francis Borgia and Arrupe. While Laynez has an exhortation on the Examen of the Constitutions, there is an edition of the Constitutions which pertains to Francis Borgia. Urbano Valero has an article on Pedro Arrupe (2007), where he presents him as a ‘man of the Constitutions.’

4.2.4 Theology

Among the various publications it is possible to discover writings which deal with theological aspects of the Constitutions. The Christological and Pneumatological dimensions are explored in some publications. The theological dimension of obedience and the incarnational dynamics of the Constitutions are also explained in others. Writers who have attempted to provide a theological interpretation to the Constitutions include Hugo Rahner, García-Lomas, Ruiz Jurado, V. Catalá, Janos Lukacs and Martin Maier. The graph clearly indicates that greater importance has been given to the theological dimension after 1970’s. However the relatively few publications indicate the need of greater reflection and publication on the same.

4.3 Conclusion

The process of analyzing the bibliography of the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus from a thematic point of view has come to an end. The following table gives us an idea of the various themes that have dominated the past century. The themes have been arranged in order of their transversal importance and not on the basis of the number of publications. The presence of publications related to a particular theme for a longer time span indicates the ability of a theme to adapt itself to a variety of changing contexts.
A glance at the thematic map during the course of the entire century reveals that the theme ‘Formula of the Institute’ has been important throughout the century. Though this paper does not take into account the publications before 1900, it must be stated that even in the publications prior to 1900 the Formula of the Institute was the document that elicited the maximum amount of interest. The other themes which indicate a transversal interest are ‘text’ and ‘spirituality’. Evidence of interest in the theme ‘text’ is seen in the critical editions published in the 1930’s, translations in the 1960’s, 1970’s and in the 1990’s. While the number of publications for ‘text’ almost equal that of the ‘Formula of the Institute’, the publications for spirituality are relatively fewer, with a surge in interest in the last part of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. It must be noted that besides the publications specifically directed towards the spirit of the Constitutions, the commentaries and summaries that were published in the beginning of this century paid a great deal of attention to the spirit of the Constitutions. Publications related to the theme ‘introduction’ can be observed all along the 20th century. The increase in publications during the last few decades is probably an indication of growing interest in the Constitutions, both among Jesuits and non-Jesuit audiences.

The themes next in line include ‘mission’, ‘obedience’, ‘poverty’ and ‘Rule’. The theme with the maximum number of publications during the entire century is ‘mission’. The thematic map indicates that interest in this theme has increased after the Second Vatican Council. The period 1960-1979 indicates a surge in publications and along with the theme of ‘obedience’ presents the most dramatic shift during the entire century. While publications regarding the theme of ‘obedience’ declined after 1970’s, ‘mission’ continued to be an important theme. The theme ‘poverty’ manifests a pattern similar to that of obedience and diminished in importance after the 1970’s. The fourth theme which spans four time-periods is ‘rule’. We find that in the beginning of the 20th century it was one of the most important theme. During the initial decades we find a surge in interest, but towards the middle of the century, interest in the same diminished. Towards the end of the century, interest in this theme has died out totally.

The themes which spans three (rather two) time periods consist in the ‘General Congregation’, ‘religious life’ and ‘formation’. Before 1960, there is an odd publication related to these themes, but interest in these themes increased during the decades 1960-1980. While publications on the ‘General Congregation’ and ‘formation’ diminished a great deal after the 1970’s, interest in the theme ‘religious life’ continued into the 1980’s and 1990’s. Hardly any publications on these themes were evident during the last 10 years.

Two more themes which frequently occur are those of ‘history’ and ‘governance’. However they have not been included in this analysis because many of these publications
deal with the above mentioned themes in a secondary manner. Hence they have not been included in the analysis. The list of themes in the order of importance is given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>Polanco</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formula of the Institute</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obedience</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Superior General</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Juridical</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Priesthood</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Goal/Purpose</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Reform</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Ecclesiology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Congregation</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>General Examen</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brothers</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Coadjutores</td>
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<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Exercises</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Hermeneutics</td>
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<td>Ribadeneira</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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<td>Fourth Vow</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Scholastics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identity</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novices</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Francis Borgia</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Liturgy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
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<td>Laynez</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Manif. of Conscience</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Pedro Arrupe</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commentary</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Preservation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While some themes dominate the publications during the 20th century, it must also be said that the conspicuous absence or abrupt changes in the patterns of publications as far as other ‘themes’ are concerned, draws the attention of any observer. Some of these themes are highlighted below.

The graph depicting the theme ‘brothers’ draws one’s attention to the fact that for all the attention it received during the 1960’s, it was not of substantial help in averting the crisis which would slowly lead to a definitive decline in the vocations to temporal coadju-tors (brothers). The theme of ‘grades’ hardly finds any mention, though an entire chapter of the Constitutions is devoted to it. Among the vows, the themes of ‘poverty’ and ‘obe-dience’ have been reflected upon. However the vow of ‘chastity’, one of the major causes of Jesuits leaving the Society of Jesus hardly finds mention. The ‘fourth vow’ was one of the distinctive features when the Society was founded. However over the course of time, the numbers of publications regarding this theme have diminished. The ecclesial dimen-sion of the Society of Jesus – a theme which is strongly emphasized in the Constitutions also remains on the sidelines. The last chapter of the Constitutions deals with the preservation and growth of the Society. Though it must be noted that the General Congrega-tions and the Superior-General have exhorted other members of the Society of Jesus to promote vocations, there is hardly any publication on this theme. There is also a glaring
scarcity of publications regarding Polanco, the efficient secretary of St. Ignatius who helped him to redact the Constitutions. Though we find occasional publications regarding Nadal, it can be said that the theme of ‘Polanco,’ the able secretary of St. Ignatius hardly receives the attention it deserves. The Society of Jesus’ Constitutions owe a great deal to other ‘religious orders’. With the exception of a few publications, we find that hardly any research has been conducted in this field. The scarcity of publications regarding theme of ‘theology’ also strikes an observer. Very few publications have tried to delve into the theological foundations that provide the basis for the Constitutions.

Finally it can be said that the above conclusion indicates the important themes in terms of their transversal appeal as well as the attempts to indicate increasing or decreasing variations in thematic interests in the course of the 20th century. It also highlights themes which stand out for their lack of publication. During the period covered in this paper we find that the context of the world, the Church and the Society of Jesus has changed dramatically. The patterns of publications indicate the extent to which the context has been influencing the text. The uniqueness and versatility of the text, (i.e. the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus) allows it to be adapted to these new situations and provides insights to face contextual challenges. The variety of themes dealt with in these publications indicates the profound depth, wisdom and spirituality contained in the Constitutions.

Conclusion:

The process of analyzing the bibliography related to the Constitutions has thrown up many conclusions – some of which were on expected lines, and others have been surprising. There is no doubt that the scope of the bibliography is not all embracing, but confined to themes related to theological and spiritual matters. Besides as pointed out in the introduction, it is possible that some publications may have been left out – e.g. dissertation papers presented in universities or exhortations/letters which were meant for limited circulation. Despite these limitations, there is no doubt that the volume of publications that form part of this paper are sufficient to help us draw some definitive conclusions.

The most important conclusion is that the Second Vatican Council has been a defining moment in the history of the Society of Jesus and in effect of religious life within the Church. It has invited religious orders to actualize themselves to the new world of the 20th century. It has inspired a re-awakening and deepening of the original carism within religious congregations and led to a process of adapting of the same to a new and modern context. While on the one hand it has provided vitality and renewed vigor, it has also led to confusion and at time a difficult process of re-adjustment. This mandate of the Council deeply influenced the Society of Jesus, the largest male religious order of the time. It was in the backdrop of a sincere effort to respond to Vatican II that the 32nd General Congregation was held. This was to be a watershed in the history of the Society of Jesus. The Society’s understanding of itself (i.e. its identity), its mission and its very existence experienced a paradigm shift. Large scale re-structuring was necessary and
the Society struggled to affect the same. Every aspect of Jesuit life was affected during this period – formation, mission, community, discernment, governance, etc. The Society of Jesus went through a prolonged period of struggle in order to adapt itself to this changed environment. This change, like any profound change was not easy and the enormity of the challenge can be seen in the voluminous publications during the period 1960-1979. In the history of the Society, it was probably one of the two important challenges that it has ever faced (the other being the period of the suppression of the Society in 1773). It would be premature to claim that the process of adjusting to the mandate of the Council and GC32 has been complete. However with the passage of time some degree of stability has been achieved. The ongoing publications on core themes linked to the two events mentioned above indicate that the influence of these two events is being felt by the Society of Jesus even today.

It is evident that there have been years when some publications have set the trend. These landmark publications have allowed people to reflect upon the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus from a different point of view. These publications and contextual events would in turn lead to the emergence of a new area of interest which would be reflected in the publications related to particular theme/themes. The rise and fall of publications during the span of 110 years can be attributed to the two extraordinary events mentioned above, other important events within the world, church and the Society as well as a new way of life which is very different from the past. A noticeable fact is that during the past 30 years there has been a decline in publications. This can be attributed to the growing stability and clarity regarding the Society and religious life. But it could also be due to the fact that there are lesser individuals (Jesuits) who are engaged in research and publication due to the decline in vocations. Added to that modern means of communications which do not necessarily require or result in formal publications – e.g. blogs, websites, informal documents, etc., has also contributed to the process of declining publications.

A great deal has already been said about publications from a chronological and thematic point of view in the preceding chapters. It would be appropriate to briefly highlight some important points. The two important events, viz. the Second Vatican Council and GC32 have already been highlighted. However there have been other moments of importance. These include the publication of critical editions of the Constitutions by the MHSI, the various translations in the vernacular during the years after 1965, the emphasis on the theme ‘mission’ in the mid 1970’s and the interest in the themes of ‘spirituality’ in these last decades. The period of 1983-1987, during which we hardly find any publication is also a significant data. Moving on to the themes, we find that the themes of ‘Formula of the Institute’, ‘Text’ and ‘Spirituality’ have had transversal interest. Some themes such as ‘rule’, ‘religious life’, ‘obedience’ and ‘poverty’ are no longer of much interest. However on the other hand, themes such as ‘discernment’, ‘community’, ‘spirituality’ and ‘mission’ are gaining interest. The trend seems to be that in the future the Constitutions will be looked upon not primarily as a juridical text or a text to ordain the governance of the Society of Jesus, but an inspirational text – a text which will not only provide practical directives, but animate spiritual life within the Society of Jesus.
An observation of the bibliography and the corresponding themes indicate that the Constitutions cannot be understood in isolation. It can only be understood in the context of other foundational sources of Ignatian spirituality such as the Spiritual Exercises and the letters of St. Ignatius. These complementary sources give us a glimpse into the spirit that permeates the text of the Constitutions. It can also be noticed that any serious study of the Constitutions cannot be limited merely to its application within the Society of Jesus, but has to take into account the entire Ignatian family – laity, other religious congregations and those associated with Ignatian spirituality. The widening scope of the Constitutions is evident in publications by non-Jesuit authors during the past few years.

The challenge today lies in the ability to adapt the Constitutions for all those who desire to follow the Ignatian way of life. So far it has been limited to the Society of Jesus. However with the dwindling number of vocations to religious life and the increasing number of lay organizations associated with the spirituality of St. Ignatius, the challenge is to adapt the Constitutions in such a manner so that it becomes a way of life for all those who are part of the Ignatian heritage. This would necessarily involve two basic processes – a re-discovery of the spirit of St. Ignatius as expressed in the Constitutions and a creative and practical application to the modern day context. It is well known that the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus were not merely a theoretical charter which after being framed was applied to the members of the Society of Jesus. Rather it was a way of life which was written down and institutionalized. The experience of living the Ignatian way of life within ambits outside the realm of the Society of Jesus has been prevalent for a long time. These ambits include other religious congregations (both male and female), lay congregations and groups, etc. With the experience derived so far, it should be possible to design some framework by which the Constitutions can be widely applied to various groups in the 21st century.

Along with the fact that the bibliography related to the Constitutions indicates a growing need towards a greater understanding of its spirit and a creative adaptation of the same, it is necessary to realize that the Constitutions are part of a tradition within the Christian community – within the Church. While the Constitutions refer to a religious order and is intimately related to the tradition of religious life within the church, it is a well-known fact that religious life is never lived in isolation. Religious orders (their texts and spirituality) have been the source of many important spiritual movements down the centuries. The increase in publications with the theme ‘introductions’, indicates a growing interest in the Constitutions. The different forms of presenting the text could show as to how this text contains within itself the wisdom and tradition of the Christian faith. The text has the ability to combine the traditional and time tested experience of the Church with today’s context in order to help the subject have an experience of God. The success of lay movements within the church is reason enough to ask oneself as to how this text could be adapted in order to provide for a structured process of having the Ignatian experience of God.

The Constitutions of the Society of Jesus is an inspired text and is part of the corpus of Ignatian writings which are as versatile and relevant today as they were nearly 450 years ago. The constant ability to adapt to changing circumstances during the last century
shows the ability of the text to respond to a variety of situations. Time and again this text has been a reference point while facing unique and complex situations. While it continues to provide guidelines for the governance of the Society of Jesus, a religious body, its spiritual wisdom continues to illumine various other individuals and organizations.

Finally we can conclude by saying that the Constitutions have guided the Society of Jesus during the post Tridentine era when the understanding of religious life was rather well defined. It continued to be the source of inspiration during the tumultuous period surrounding the Second Vatican Council and GC 32. The ability of the text to adequately respond to these varying situations gives us the confidence that it will continue to respond to new realities that will emerge and have to be faced by all who share the Ignatian carism during the 21st century.

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# Classification according to Sources and Themes

## Table of contents

### SOURCES

**Primary Sources** ......................................................................................... 80

**Secondary Sources:** .................................................................................... 82

**Other Sources:** ............................................................................................ 95

### THEMES

Part one: themes directly related to the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus ...................................................................................................................... 108

1.1 Formula of the Institute ............................................................................. 108

1.1.1 Formula of the Institute ................................................................. 108

1.1.2 Goal/Purpose ...................................................................................... 111

1.1.3 Identity ............................................................................................... 111

1.2 General Examen ......................................................................................... 112

1.2.1 Manifestation of Conscience .............................................................. 112

1.3 The Preamble to the Constitutions ............................................................ 113

1.3.1 Discernment ......................................................................................... 113

1.3.2 Discreta Caritas ................................................................................... 113

1.3.3 Rule .................................................................................................... 114

1.3.4 Spirituality (Constitutions) ................................................................. 115

1.3.5 Spirituality (General) ......................................................................... 116

1.3.6 Juridical .............................................................................................. 116

1.4 The different parts of the Constitutions .................................................... 117

1.4.1 Part One – Admission ....................................................................... 117

1.4.2 Part Two – Dismissal ......................................................................... 118

1.4.3 Part Three – Probation of Novices ..................................................... 119

1.4.4 Part Four – Formation of Scholastics ................................................ 119

1.4.5 Part Five – Incorporation into the Society ......................................... 121

1.4.6 Part Six – Religious Life of the Incorporated Members ....................... 121

1.4.7 Part Seven – Apostolic Life of the Incorporated Members ..................... 130

1.4.8 Part Eight – Union Among the Members ......................................... 134

1.4.9 Part Nine – The Superior General .................................................... 136

1.4.10 Part Ten – Preservation and Growth of the Society ............................ 136
Part two: themes indirectly related to the structure of the Constitutions .......................................................... 139
  2.1 Bibliography .............................................................................................................................................. 139
  2.2 History ...................................................................................................................................................... 140
    2.2.1 History (Constitutions) .................................................................................................................... 140
    2.2.2 History (General) ........................................................................................................................... 140
    2.2.3 Composition ....................................................................................................................................... 142
  2.3 Text and Commentaries ............................................................................................................................ 143
    2.3.1 Introduction ....................................................................................................................................... 143
    2.3.2 Text - Translation ............................................................................................................................... 144
    2.3.3 Text - Other ....................................................................................................................................... 144
    2.3.4 Summary .......................................................................................................................................... 145
    2.3.5 Commentary ..................................................................................................................................... 146
    2.3.6 Hermeneutics .................................................................................................................................... 146
  2.4 Foundational Sources ............................................................................................................................... 147
    2.4.1 Scripture .......................................................................................................................................... 147
    2.4.2 Spiritual Exercises .............................................................................................................................. 147
  2.5 Important Personalities ............................................................................................................................. 148
    2.5.1 Nadal ................................................................................................................................................. 148
    2.5.2 Polanco .............................................................................................................................................. 149
    2.5.3 Ribadeneira ....................................................................................................................................... 149
    2.5.4 Others .............................................................................................................................................. 150
  2.6 Theology ..................................................................................................................................................... 150
  2.7 Other ......................................................................................................................................................... 150

Appendix
Appendix 1. (General - SJ) (Author, Title, Publication and Year) ...... 151
Appendix 2. (General) ................................................................................................................................. 157
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THEMES

Part one: themes directly related to the Constitutions
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1.1 Formula of the Institute

1.1.1 Formula of the Institute

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1.1.3 Identity


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1.2 General Examen


1.2.1 Manifestation of Conscience


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1.3.1 Discernment


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1.4 The different parts of the Constitutions

1.4.1 Part One – Admission

1.4.1.1 Brothers


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1.4.2 Part Two – Dismissal


1.4.3 Part Three – Probation of Novices


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1.4.4.3 Education


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1.4.5 Part Five – Incorporation into the Society

1.4.5.1 Grades


1.4.6 Part Six – Religious Life of the Incorporated Members


1.4.6.1 Community


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1.4.7 Part Seven – Apostolic Life of the Incorporated Members


1.4.7.1 Mission


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1.4.8 Part Eight – Union Among the Members


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1.4.10.2 Reform


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2.3 Text and Commentaries

2.3.1 Introduction


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2.3.5 Commentary

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2.3.6 Hermeneutics


2.4 Foundational Sources

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2.4.2 Spiritual Exercises


2.5 Important Personalities

2.5.1 Nadal


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2.6 Theology


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2.7 Other


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**APPENDIX**

**Appendix 1. (General - SJ) (Author, Title, Publication and Year)**


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