

# CONTENTS

<i>Abstract</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xiii
<i>Foreword</i>	xv
<i>Gratitudes</i>	xix
<i>Prologue</i>	xxiii
Chapter 1: Defining Key Concepts	1
1. Christian Spirituality as an Academic Discipline	1
2. What Makes Spirituality “Christian”?	4
3. Spirituality as a Contemporary Academic Discipline: Antecedents	7
4. Method of Spirituality	10
5. The Definition and Meaning of Contemplation	13
6. Definition of Mysticism	16
7. Meaning of Christian Mysticism	19
8. Description of Prophet	20
9. Prophetic Mysticism	22
Chapter 2: The Pilgrim Journey of Thomas Merton the Contemplative-Prophet	25
1. Childhood and Teenage Years	26
2. Young Adulthood and the Stirrings of Vocation	38
3. Monastic Journey: Four Phases	52
3.1 A New Life at Gethsemani (1941-1949)	53
3.2 The Discernment of Vocation (1950-1955)	58
3.3 The Role of Novice Master and Turn to the World (1956-1965)	65

3.4 Life in the Hermitage and Journey to Asia (1966-1968)	69
4. The Final Journey	73
Chapter 3: The Contemplative Spirituality of Thomas Merton	79
1. The Essential Element of Contemplation	80
2. The Characteristics of Merton's Contemplation	83
3. Influence of Merton's Understanding on Contemplation	91
4. Important Themes in Merton's Contemplation	98
Chapter 4: The Prophetic Spirituality of Thomas Merton	111
1. Merton's Prophetic Call	112
2. The Roots of Merton's Prophecy	114
3. The Influence of the Contemporary Prophets	117
4. Reading the Signs of the Times	121
5. Prophetic Contribution to the Church	133
Chapter 5: The Relevance of Thomas Merton's Spirituality for the Consecrated Life in India	141
1. The Goals of Consecrated Life in India as Gospel Witness	142
2. The Internal and External Challenges to the Consecrated Life in India	148
3. The Relevance of Merton's Spirituality for the Consecrated Life in India	167
4. Renewing the Stimulation of Prophetic Actions	175
<i>Epilogue</i>	193
<i>Bibliography</i>	199
<i>Index</i>	219