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EDITORIAL

The Pontificate of Pope Francis is characterized by the word “mercy”. The very motto he chose to mark his pontificate was “miserando atque eligendo” meaning that his election as Pope was a merciful act of God. In his inaugural address to the XXIV Synod, Session 2, the Major Archbishop Mar George Alencherry pointed out that “this is a paradigm shift in Episcopal and Priestly ministry which Pope Francis has inaugurated and has challenged immensely every Christian and also non-Christian. The Holy Year of Mercy and his two encyclicals, *Lumen Fidei* and *Laudato si* and the Apostolic Exhortations, *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia*, have given a new direction in the vision and mission of the Church”. The celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy (December 8, 2015 - November 20, 2016) was carried out in the whole Church in full vigour. In the words of the Major Archbishop in his inaugural address to the XXIV Synod, Session 1, “more than on celebrations, the emphasis for the Year of Mercy is on the observance of the fundamental virtue of mercy that the Holy Father wishes to inculcate in Christian life and activities especially in the pastoral practice of the Church. The Church in India too and our eparchies in particular have taken deep interest in awareness creation and organization of activities for the Holy Year of Mercy.”

The theme of “mercy” reverberated also in the Major Archbishopial Assembly held at Sahrudaya College of Engineering & Technology, Kodakara in the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda during the XXIV Synod, Session 2, from 25-28 August 2016. The Synod had chosen the triple themes of ‘Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants’ for the Assembly and had its lineamenta entitled: The Responses of the Church to the Challenges of Today - Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family, and Mission of Migrants. In fact the theme of simplicity gained greater prominence in the discussions during the Assembly than the other two themes. The instrumentum laboris of the Assembly highlighted

the fact that “for people of all walks of life and religious affiliation, every parish, religious house and institution should become a welcoming place where they experience the providence and protection of the Father, forgiveness and mercy of the Son and the loving communion of the Holy Spirit.” Again mercy is seen to be the thread that runs through all the three themes of the Assembly: Simplicity in life is not merely for the sake of simplicity, but motivated by the genuine desire to imitate the Lord who emptied himself for the sake of the other and compassion for those who lack everything by becoming merciful as the Heavenly Father is merciful. This is the one quality which every Christian family is specially called to witness – to make the face of Christ accessible to everyone through their lives. The mission of the migrants cannot be limited to construction of institutions, but more than that it is projecting the face of the merciful God wherever they are planted in the providence of God.

The canonization of Mother Teresa on 4 September 2016 was indeed a high point of the celebration of the Year of Mercy. In his homily during the canonization ceremony, Pope Francis declared that “Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that “the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable”. It is a proud moment for all Indians when Mother Teresa was canonized as St. Teresa of Kolkata, inviting every Indian to emulate her example of mercy. The Syro-Malabar Church too marked the event with special thanksgiving prayers in churches and participating in the national events of commemoration in Kolkata, Delhi and Trivandrum.

In this year of mercy, the Syro-Malabar Church too received some special blessings in the area of pastoral care of her migrant faithful. On 28th July this year, the election of Fr. Joseph (Benney Mathew) Srampickal, as the Bishop of the eparchy for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Great Britain with Preston as its See and

Mgr. Stephen Chirappanath, as the Apostolic Visitor of Europe with Episcopal rank was announced. Besides strengthening our efforts for providing pastoral care to our faithful in the diaspora, it gives a better opportunity for us to bear witness to the merciful face of the Father, living our faith tradition more effectively in these parts of the world. As the Syro-Malabar Church is gearing herself up for the forthcoming jubilee of her elevation to the Major Archiepiscopal status, we can hope for greater juridical perfection as well as much more effective evangelization mission and pastoral care activities.

These were some of the important themes and events that engaged the attention of the two sessions of the XXIV Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church. In this issue of the Synodal News (Vol. 24, Nos. 1 – 2, December 2016) we have included documents relating to the two Sessions of the XXIV Synod held in the year 2016. Besides, there are Pastoral Letters and Circulars, Documents related to important ecclesiastical provisions and other usual items. It is hoped that these items will help the readers to be informed of the major events and discussions in the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church.

XXIV Synod (2016)

Session I

07 – 12 January 2016

XXIV SYNOD (2016) SESSION 1 7-12 JANUARY 2016

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Cordial welcome to all of you to the present Session of the Synod!

Having been spiritually refreshed by the joyful experience of ordaining the new priests of our Church, we are assembled to have the Synodal experience of praying, reflecting and making decisions for the good of the Church and the society. Let us thank the Lord for the gift of 281 new priests this year (144 diocesan and 137 religious priests of whom 28 will be ordained in the coming months) for our Church. We will have the New Priests' Day celebration someday after Easter once the post Easter ordinations are also over. On Nov. 6, 2015, we had the first ever meeting of the Deacons of our Church here at Mount St. Thomas, organized by the Synodal Commission for Clergy. 165 Deacons participated in it. This coming together of Deacons gave them greater consciousness of being part of the hierarchical service of the church as persons who have received the Major Order of Diaconate. It may be good that our Synod reflects on the ways and means by which we can promote the pastoral relevance of diaconate ministry in our Church.

Yesterday we celebrated the feast of Denaha and by the decision of the previous Synod, we have entered into the celebration of the Syro-Malabar Mission Week, and I feel that all our Archeparchies, Eparchies, Exarchate and Migrant Communities

have taken up the celebration with the fervour and enthusiasm it deserves.

Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil CMI, has helped us to make an immediate preparation for this session of the Synod. Citing a few experiences both from his priestly and Episcopal ministry he brought home to us that the present missionary context is one of trials and sufferings both for the missionaries and the newly baptized. The two important points he presented were: 1) Prayer is the most effective means to receive the spiritual strength to witness Christ during times of trials and 2) it is the united effort, empowering one another of the missionary personnel, guided by the Bishop is the best way of missionary functioning.

I welcome in a special way, Bp. Joseph Kodakallil, Bp. Jose Kalluvellil, Bp. Antony Kariyil CMI and Bp. Prince Antony Panengadan, who attend this Synod for the first time, as full members of the Synod. The will of the Apostolic See to provide adequate and appropriate provisions for our migrant communities is singularly manifested by the establishment of the new Exarchate in Missis-sauga, Canada, which of course has to develop in due course to a full-fledged Eparchy. When I welcome the new Bishops my thoughts naturally turn to the bishops emeriti: Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC and Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI.

As a person of ascetical life with his zealous leadership Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel successfully completed 14 years shepherding the Eparchy of Satna. He has been instrumental for the development of St Ephrem's Theological College integrating the values of our ecclesial traditions and Mission thrust into the formation of seminarians. He took special attention in making this seminary financially viable by enlisting the contributions from voluntary donors. Being a person of deep faith and particular devotion to Mother Mary he did his Episcopal ministry with great confidence in God and special concern and care for all. Reminding us of the historical abdication of office by Pope Benedict XVI he retired from his office on 27 August, 2014 to dedicate himself to a life of prayer and reflection.

With the bifurcation of the Eparchy of Adilabad from the Eparchy of Chanda on 23 July 1999 Bishop Joseph Kunnath was appointed the first Bishop of this Eparchy. He has served the Eparchy for 16 years with determination and commitment. His plans and actions always reflected the priority of proclaiming the Gospel, following the footsteps of Bishop Januarius, “periphery to center and center to periphery”. He always exhorted priests and the religious to be loyal to the liturgy where the faith is celebrated and to regular house visiting and family prayers where the faith is shared. Being the first Bishop of the Eparchy he took many initiatives, one of which was the translation of the liturgical texts into Telugu language within the short span of time. Within a couple of years he succeeded in establishing the basic infrastructure of the diocese such as: the bishop’s house, minor seminary, pastoral centre etc. Reading the signs of time that favoured a direct evangelization, he invited many congregations and priests from the Eparchy of Palai to propel the missionary activities of the Church in Adilabad. The long sixteen years of shepherding truly paved the way for constructive reforms and laid a strong foundation for the young Eparchy.

I also remember with gratitude the two administrators, Very Rev. Fr George Mangalappilly of Satna and Very Rev. Fr. George Alukka of Mandya who administered the respective eparchies in the best way possible when the Eparchial Sees were vacant.

The Apostolic See has announced the glad news that Mother Teresa of Kolkata will be canonized in September this year. Recently, we received the information from the Congregation for the Cause of Saints that Fr. Joseph Vithayathil, founder of Holy Family Congregation has been approved as Venerable on the basis of the heroic virtues he practiced during his life.

One of the key points of discussion during this session of the Synod will be the upcoming Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, the lineamenta of which is prepared and has to be finalized during this session itself.

The whole Church has started in full vigour, the celebration of the Holy Year of Mercy. More than on celebrations, the emphasis for the Year of Mercy is on the observance of the fundamental virtue of mercy that the Holy Father wishes to inculcate in Christian life and activities especially in the pastoral practice of the Church. The Church in India too and our eparchies in particular have taken deep interest in awareness creation and organization of activities for the Holy Year of Mercy. As I informed you by an earlier letter, the Chapel in Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad is also designated a Church to which the faithful can make pilgrimage and obtain the indulgence granted by the Holy Father to the Holy Door during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The conclusion of the celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life is scheduled to be on 2 Feb. 2016 for which the Synod has given the directive to have special functions on eparchial levels.

The first Catechetical Congress conducted by our Church from November 25- 27, 2015 at Mount St. Thomas proved to be a great event that created a wider sense of Catechetical consciousness and spirit of communion among all the delegates assembled from the eparchies and the diaspora communities of our Church. The commission deserves our appreciation and applause.

Let me bring to your attention that Archbishop Kuriakose Kunnassery has completed 60th Year of his priestly ordination. Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy and Bishop Mathew Vattakuzhy will complete this year the 60th Year of Priestly Ordination. Bishop Joseph Kodakallil begins the silver jubilee year of priestly ordination this year. Let us offer our wishes and prayers to these brother bishops.

As we are aware, every Synodal session is an ecclesial act in which the celebrations of the Holy Qurbana, the Liturgy of the Hours, personal prayer, deliberations and decisions in the Synodal sittings and other related activities, altogether give us an experience of our leadership role in the Church and society. The

Church was born by the power of the Holy Spirit, The same Spirit is empowering us in all our ecclesial activities. Let every act of the Synod be led by this guiding principle and let us be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit. May our prayers during the days of the Synod bring upon us God's blessings and let us enter the Synod invoking the mediation of Holy Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas our Apostle, St. Geevarghese and all the Saints of the Church, especially St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal and Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Blessed Mariam Thresia and Blessed Kunjachan Theverparampil.

With these words I declare the First Session of the XXIV Synod 2016 open.

Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad
7 January 2016

George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

XXIV SYNOD (2016), SESSION 1

07 – 12 JANUARY 2016

REPORT

The XXIV Synod (2016), Session 1 began with a recollection preached by Bishop Joseph Kollampampil CMI, at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer for some time and Holy Qurbana of the Bishops, with the Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry being the main celebrant. The formal sitting of the Synod began at 2.30 p.m. with a prayer by the Major Archbishop after which he proceeded with the inaugural address.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: In his inaugural address the Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Joseph Kollampampil CMI, who, with his reflections, helped the Bishops to make an immediate preparation for this session of the Synod. Citing a few experiences both from his priestly and Episcopal ministry, the preacher brought home to the Bishops that the present missionary context is one of trials and sufferings both for the missionaries and the newly baptized. The Major Archbishop thanked the Lord for the gift of 281 new priests this year (144 diocesan and 137 religious priests of whom 28 will be ordained in the coming months) in the Syro-Malabar Church.

The Major Archbishop welcomed all the Archbishops and Bishops, and in a special way Bishop Joseph Kodakallil, Bishop Jose Kalluvilil, Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI who are attending the Synod for the first time as full members of the Synod. The Major Archbishop thanked the Bishops emeriti: Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC and Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI, recalling their great contributions in their pastoral ministry in their respective eparchies.

The Major Archbishop pointed out the importance of the Year of the Consecrated life which is going to be concluded and the Holy Year of Mercy which the Holy Father Pope Francis declared for the observance of the fundamental virtue of mercy. The first Catechetical Congress conducted by our Church proved to be a great event that created a wider sense of catechetical awareness and spirit of communion among the participants. Invoking blessings of God, he declared the first session of the XXIV Synod 2016 open.

Participants: The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Mar George Alencherry (Major Archbishop), Mar Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Mar Andrews Thazhath (Trichur), Mar Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Mar George Njaralakkatt (Tellicherry), Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Faridabad), Mar Joseph Powathil (Archbishop Emeritus, Changanacherry), Mar George Valiamattam (Archbishop Emeritus, Tellicherry), Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy (Archbishop Emeritus, Trichur), Mar Dominic Kokkatt CST (Emeritus, Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pallikapampil (Emeritus, Palai), Mar James Pazhayattil (Emeritus, Irinjalakuda), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar George Punnakottil (Emeritus, Kothamangalam), Mar Thomas Chakiath (Emeritus Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakeel VC (Emeritus, Satna), Mar Jacob Manethodath (Palghat), Mar Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Mar Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Mar Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Mar Joseph Kunnath CMI (Emeritus - Adilabad), Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam Angamaly), Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil (Idukki), Mar Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Mar Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Mar Anthony Chirayath (Sagar), Mar Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Mar Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Bhadravathi), Mar Bosco Puthur (Melbourne), Mar Remigio Inchananiyil (Thamarassery),

Mar Raphael Thattil (Auxiliary, Trichur & Apostolic Visitor in India), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), Mar John Vadakel CMI (Bijnor), Mar Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), Mar George Madathikandathil (Kothamangalam), Mar George Rajendran SDB (Thuckalay), Mar Jacob Muricken (Auxiliary, Palai), Mar Joseph Kollampampil CMI, Mar Jose Puthenveetil, Mar Ephrem Nariculam (Chanda), Mar Joy Alappatt (Auxiliary, Chicago), Mar Joseph Kodakallil (Satna), Mar Jose Kalluvellil (Exarchate of Mississauga, Canada), Mar Prince Antony Panengadan (Adilabad) and Mar Antony Kariyil CMI (Mandya).

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The Synod approved the designation of the following persons to the various offices and committees for the conduct of the present session.

Moderators: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST (Convener), Bishop Jose Porunnedom and Bishop Anthony Chirayath.

Tellers: Bishop Jose Kalluvellil, Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

Committee for the Media: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Convener), Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath.

Committee for the Pastoral Circular: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

Liturgical Celebrations: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan.

Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous Synod held in August 2015. The Synod reviewed the implementation of the decisions.

Finalizing the Agenda: The Secretary read out the provisional agenda and the Synod approved it with a few additions.

With these additional items, the finalized agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Sharing of the visit of Major Archbishop and the Chairman of the Migrant Commission in Dubai.
2. Reporting on the outcome of the Synodal Delegation's visit in Kuwait.
3. Briefing on the Exarchate of Canada.
4. Briefing by the Apostolic Visitor in India.
5. ASSM.
6. Briefing on the Synod on Family in Rome.
7. Proposals for the XV Ordinary General Assembly of Synod of Bishops in Rome.
8. Inclusion of the theology of Laity and Family and the theology of Consecrated Life in the curriculum of the Major Seminaries.
9. General guidelines on the principles for sending priests for Ecclesiastical Higher Studies.
10. Report of the Seminary Visitation.
11. Briefing on the meeting with the Chairmen & Members of Synodal Commission, Bishops who were formators in the Seminaries and with the Major Seminary Rectors.
12. St Ephrem's Seminary, Satna.
13. *Motu Proprio* *mitis et misericors Iesus*: Reform on the canonical procedure for the declaration of nullity of marriage.
14. Registration of Catholic Parish Churches as societies to get Income Tax Pan and Exemption.
15. Request to start the Cause of Mother Mary Celine.
16. Request for Legal Status of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) in Syro-Malabar Church.

17. Report regarding the recognition for the Consecrated Virgins.
18. Report on the meeting conducted on 16 November 2015 regarding networking of the social ministry of Syro Malabar Church.
19. Preparation of musical notations for the chanting of prayers in Qurbana and also for the songs in Syriac tunes.
20. Revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana: Discussion based on the observations of the bishops.
21. Regarding the installation ceremony of a new bishop.
22. Regarding the construction of ramp in the Churches for the sick and physically challenged
23. The lineamenta for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
24. Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Year of the Major Archiepiscopal Status of our Church during the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly-2016.
25. Defining the role of different forums and associations by clarifying their relation to the Commission for Family and Laity.
26. Projects of AKCC.
27. Financing of the Commissions of Syro-Malabar Church.
28. The viability of the project to construct in the curia property a pastoral animation centre with modern facilities.
29. Presentation of the text book for the Solemn Reception of Holy Communion.
30. Regional mission consultations at Kottayam, Aluva and Tellicherry.
31. Conferral of Vaidikaratnam on Fr. Jose Thachil of Ernakulam-Angamaly.

32. Draft letter on the declaration of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara as the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church.
33. Forthcoming CBCI meeting.
34. Socio Political Issues, including reservation.

Sharing of Information by the Major Archbishop:

The Major Archbishop briefed the Synod of the recovery of Fr Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor after the treatment at Vellore and the treatment of Bishop Simon Stock Palathara CMI due to a stroke. Major Archbishop welcomed Fr Paul Robin Thekkath, from the Eparchy of Sagar as Vice Chancellor II.

The Major Archbishop proposed having an In Camera session and another session for sharing among: 1) the Mission Eparchies, 2) Eparchies within Kerala, 3) Eparchies within proper territory outside Kerala, 4) Eparchies outside India. He informed the Synod that the SD sisters will be completing their service in the Curia by the month of July, to whom we shall express our formal gratitude at the end of the present session of the Synod. The CSN sisters have agreed to take over service in the curia and a few of them are already present during these days. At the request of the Major Archbishop, Bishop Jose Porunnedom read out the clarification of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches regarding the use of the title 'Metropolitan of All India'. In the letter the Congregation expressed its non-objection to the use by the Syro-Malabar Church of this title, which entails no juridical faculties. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod of his letter sent to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints regarding the founder of CMC. The Major Archbishop invited all the Bishops to participate in the blessing of the renovated St Hormis Church Angamaly on 10 January.

Visit of Major Archbishop and the Chairman of the Migrant Commission to Dubai: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST presented the highlights of the visit of the Major Archbishop and Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral

Care of Migrants to Dubai from 19 to 21 November, 2015. The visit was at the invitation of Bishop Paul Hinder, Vicar Apostolic of the Apostolic Vicariate of Southern Arabia, for a celebration organized by SMCA, Dubai. Bishop Vadakel informed the Synod that the visit facilitated a dialogue with Bishop Paul Hinder and his close collaborators to sort out several pastoral problems of the Syro-Malabar Community. Bishop Vadakel observed that the Syro-Malabar Community in the region is not yet allowed to conduct catechism classes according to the tradition and syllabus of our Church. This has been brought to the attention of Bishop Paul Hinder who promised that he would try to find a solution. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the visit was fruitful and Bishop Paul Hinder was susceptible to our suggestions which included granting of official approval to SMCA.

Synodal Delegation's visit to Kuwait: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara briefed the Synod on the visit to Kuwait of the delegation consisting of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Bishop Jacob Manantheodath and Bishop Raphael Thattil. He said that the delegation was warmly received by Bishop Camillo Ballin and his team. The delegation could discuss with Bishop Ballin and his collaborators the pastoral concerns of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Gulf region, especially in the Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia. At the request of our community, Bishop Ballin had already increased the number of Qurbana for the Syro-Malabar Community and had given more facilities for Catechism Classes. Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara elaborated other points of discussion on which there was a general agreement between Bishop Ballin and our delegation. Bishop Jacob Manantheodath and Bishop Raphael Thattil also shared their experience of the visit. The Synod requested Archbishop Kuriakose to present on the following day, precise and concrete form of the substantially agreed points of discussion. Accordingly, Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara presented in another sitting of the Synod, concrete proposals arising from the dialogue between the delegation and Bishop Camillo Ballin: erection of

personal parishes, pastoral care in Saudi Arabia, recognition of the SMCA. It was also proposed to continue the dialogue with the Apostolic Vicars, if the Synod deemed it necessary. After a brief discussion, the Synod entrusted Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST to go to the Gulf to meet Bishop Camillo Ballin and get an agreement signed highlighting the points presented.

Briefing on the Exarchate of Canada: Bishop Jose Kalluvelil, the exarch of Mississauga presented a brief report on the present situation of the Syro-Malabar Exarchate in Canada. The Major Archbishop congratulated Bishop Kalluvelil on his efficient leadership through which a lot of development has been achieved within a short period of time.

Briefing on the Eparchy of Mandya: Bishop Antony Kariyil, CMI presented a brief report on the pastoral situation of the eparchy of Mandya after the extension of the territory of the eparchy and his installation as its new bishop.

Mission Week Celebrations and ASSM: Bishop Raphael Thattil, the Apostolic Visitor informed the bishops that sufficient attention has been given to the Mission Week Celebrations and expressed his hope that it would create an impact among the people of our Church. At his suggestion, the Synod agreed to the change of name of the Association of Syro-Malabar Supporters of the Mission (ASSM) to make it more appealing. As requested by the Apostolic Visitor, the Synod agreed that the Syro-Malabar parishes within the proper territory shall give opportunities for mission appeal once a year.

Apostolic Visitation: Bishop Thattil briefed the Synod of the experiences of his visitation to several Syro-Malabar Migrant Centres. He said that the situation is challenging, at the same time hopeful. We need to engage ourselves more decisively to provide pastoral care for our people wherever needed. He observed that in the migrant communities, there are 16 parishes and 85 Eucha-

ristic Centres, out of which 10 parishes and 45 Eucharistic Centres are in the Chennai Mission. Fifty two Priests are working in the migrant centres, out of which 30 are in Chennai Mission. The migrant centres are divided into 8 regions, spread over 24 States of India, having approximately 1,50,000 Syro-Malabarians. The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude to Bishop Raphael Thattil and to Fr. Joseph Pulavelil MST for their strenuous efforts.

Synod on Family in Rome: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath briefed the Synod of the conduct of the Synod on Family in Rome and the contribution of the three Syro-Malabar delegates. The Major Archbishop had an opportunity to preach a homily and present his intervention on the need of pastoral accompaniment of the families in the background of the present day challenges like individualism, feminism, hedonism, 'use and throw' culture and lack of proper sex education. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath spoke about the Pastoral Challenges of the Syro-Malabar Migrants and Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt spoke about the Role of the Elders in the Family. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath observed that the vision of the Syro-Malabar Church on family is well presented in the Synod and several participants in the Synod appreciated our contribution. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and the Major Archbishop also shared their experiences of the Synod. In spite of the negative propaganda, the Synod in general was an occasion for the Church to reinforce its teachings on family and its relevance.

Theme for the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome: The Major Archbishop invited the bishops to suggest possible themes for the proposed Synod. After some discussion, the Synod agreed to propose the theme 'Importance of Faith Formation in the Context of Contemporary Crisis of Faith'.

New Subjects for the Curriculum of the Major Seminaries: After some discussion, the Synod decided to request Major Seminaries to include in their curriculum, theology of the laity, theology of the consecrated life and gender equity.

Guidelines on the Principles for Sending Priests for Ecclesiastical Higher Studies: Bishop Jacob Manethodath, Convener of the Committee presented guidelines for the higher studies of priests/candidates to priesthood. After elaborate discussion and appropriate improvements, the Synod approved the guidelines for the use of bishops of our Church.

Consultation on Seminary Formation: Bishop George Madathikandathil presented the report of the consultation on the seminary formation held at Mount St. Thomas on 09 December 2015. The Synod discussed various aspects of the seminary formation. Towards the end, it was suggested that the Major Archbishop designate a committee to study various aspects of this report and the reports of the visitation to the seminaries and present the main points in the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Seminary Commission for St. Ephrem's, Satna: In the place of the existing ad hoc Committee for St Ephrem's Theological College, Satna, the Synod elected Bishop Joseph Kodakallil (Chairman), Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST and Bishop Raphael Thattil, members of the Seminary Commission.

Rector for St. Ephrem's, Satna: The Synod elected Fr Joseph Ottapurackal as Rector of St Ephrem's Theological College, Satna.

Financial Assistance for St. Ephrem's, Satna: There was a request for better financial assistance for St. Ephrem's College, Satna. One suggestion was to designate parishes where the staff is ready to go to make people aware of supporting the seminary and finding sponsors. The Synod was of the opinion that it is better to coordinate such project through ASSM.

Motu Proprio: Mitis et Misericors Iesus: Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jose Chiramel to the Synod. After a brief introduction by Archbishop Mathew Moolakatt OSB, the General Moderator for the Administration of Justice, Fr. Jose Chiramel explained to the Synod different practical aspects arising from the promulgation of the Motu Proprio: Mitis et Misericors Iesus.

Registration of Catholic Parish Churches as Societies: Secretary of the Synod welcomed Mr. Romid, Chartered Accountant of the curia. Mr. Romid clarified the eventual problems which we may encounter in this area and suggested possible solutions in the following points.

There was a proposal before the Synod that in order to get Income Tax exemption (12 A Registration) and PAN Card for all the parishes/churches under an eparchy, it is good (a) to register the eparchy as one Society incorporating all the parishes under it and (b) to have one PAN Card for all the parishes. Mr. Romid said that this is not advisable. However, Societies or preferably Trusts will have to be registered for institutions and other organizations because of several legal reasons.

In Kerala, the Income Tax department used to recognize eparchies, parishes, convent etc., as deemed Trusts (under Canon Law) and issue 12 A Registration and PAN Card without registration as Trusts or Societies. But recently, the Income Tax Officers started to insist on submitting Deed of Trust or Memorandum of Association of Societies, in spite of the fact that the Income Tax law does not demand it. In this situation, following the advice of Mr. Romid, it was proposed to follow the matter legally by challenging the matter in the civil court. The Synod decided to take legal follow up with the help of experts and with the financial assistance of the Synod, for which an ad hoc Committee was nominated with Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

Mr. Romid advised that ecclesiastical authorities will have better control of Trusts than Societies and Companies; but in order to decide on the matter, the nature of the institution have to be looked into. Mr. Romid also clarified the implications of the recent legislation / amendments related to FCRA registration. Mr. Romid promised to give the details in writing to all the bishops.

Request to Initiate the Cause of Mother Mary Celine: Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath presented the request of the

Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly to obtain the favourable opinion from the part of the Synod to initiate the Cause of Mother Mary Celine, the first Superior General of the unified CMC. There was some discussion on the matter in which several bishops supported the idea. It was also mentioned that there should be a formal mechanism for the scrutiny of such requests before being presented in the Synod. During the discussion it emerged that the Synod in 2008 had taken a decision to entrust the Committee for Canonical Questions to prepare norms of procedure for initiating the Cause for the Canonization. The discussion concluded with the proposal that the Committee for Canonical Questions, after verifying the development of the assigned work, will present the matter in the current session of the Synod itself. In a subsequent sitting, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, the then Convener of the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions read out clarifications given on the matter by the Committee in 2009 (Cf. Synodal News 2009, pp. 48-49). As requested by the Synod, in a later sitting, Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Convener of the Committee for the Canonical Questions informed the Synod that a complete documentation on the life of Mother Mary Celine CMC is at the disposal of the Synod. After a brief discussion, the Synod gave its favourable opinion to begin the process of beatification of Mother Mary Celine CMC.

Request for Legal Status of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) in the Syro-Malabar Church: In the light of the request of the Franciscan Provincial Ministers presented by Fr. Raphie Paliakara OFM Cap., for Legal Status of the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) in the Syro-Malabar Church, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath briefed the Synod of its canonical implications. There was a long discussion on the matter in which it was highlighted that being a lay organization, the Synod has to support and encourage them, even though there are canonical questions involved. Finally it was suggested that the Synod will take up the matter after hearing the view of the applicants. In a later sitting, the secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jose Ponnore OFM Cap

who presented a short statistical report of the Syro-Malabar SFO which has 7374 professed members, active in 290 parishes in ten Eparchies. Fr. Ponnore read out the request of the four Franciscan Provincial Ministers for legal status of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Syro-Malabar Church and permission for formulating its prayers according to the Syro-Malabar liturgical tradition. After discussing the matter, the Synod advised the applicants to prepare with the help of legal experts, statutes for the Syro-Malabar units of SFO and present it to the competent authorities in Rome for approval with the recommendation of the Major Archbishop. The Synod requested them to redraft the prayer of the SFO according to the Syro-Malabar liturgical tradition and present it to the Major Archbishop for the nihil obstat.

Recognition for the Consecrated Virgins: Bishop George Madathikandathil, presented a draft on the nature, purpose and requirements for officially recognizing consecrated virgins in our Church. During the discussion, canonical, ecclesiological, theological and financial questions came up. The Synod accepted in principle the proposals and requested the Committee, consisting of Bishop George Madathikandathil (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Anikuzhikattil to formulate a more precise by-law and present it in the following Synod.

Networking of the Social Ministry of Syro Malabar Church: Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop in charge of the networking of the Social Apostolate of the Syro-Malabar Church, presented a brief report of the meeting on 16 November 2015, of the directors of Social Ministry of the eparchies. There was enthusiastic participation from almost all the eparchies of our Church. Fr. Michael Vettikatt from the Archeparchy of Kottayam has been appointed as the coordinator of the networking of the social ministry of our Church for which a central committee also was formed. The main purpose of the networking is to better coordinate various activities and projects of the eparchies and the religious congregations of our Church. It may also help to promote marketing of agricultural products.

Musical Notations for the Chanting of Prayers in Qurbana: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Malpan Mathew Vellanickal to present his paper on Musical Notations for the Chanting of Liturgical Prayers. Fr. Vellanickal observed that almost all the Churches of ancient liturgical tradition have their own mode of chanting the liturgical prayers. Hence it is high time that the Syro-Malabar Church develop musical tradition of plain chanting of liturgical prayers. He presented a few examples of chanting of the prayers and promised that by the Synod in the month of August 2016, he will be able to present completed version of the chanting of the prayers of the Holy Qurbana. The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude to Malpan Vellanickal for his efforts.

Revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana: Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Pauly Maniyattu and Fr. Francis Pittappillil. After initial introduction by Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy, Fr. Pauly Maniyattu read out the observations received from the eparchies regarding the areas of revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana. In the discussion that followed, the bishops were of the opinion that there are several points on which there is a general agreement, despite a few divergent opinions. The Synod agreed upon the procedure to follow up the matter. The Synod requested the Commission for Liturgy to gather suggestions on the revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana from the Eparchies which have not yet provided them. The special committee consisting of the Commission for Liturgy, and Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Punnakottil shall study the observations and indicate areas of convergence and suggest ways and means to solve the divergences. Their studied opinion shall be presented in the forthcoming session of the Synod after which it shall be forwarded to the Central Liturgical Committee for its study and suggestions. The Major Archbishop thanked Fr. Pauly Maniyattu and Fr. Francis Pittapillil for their service.

Installation Ceremony of Bishops: Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath briefed the Synod of the repetition of a few ceremonies in the Episcopal Ordination and installation of Bishops. After some discussion, the Synod entrusted the Commission for Liturgy to prepare texts for the installation of bishops along with the Episcopal Ordination and as a separate ceremony as well. Some of the bishops pointed out that the Synod had previously decided on the matter in this regard.

Construction of Ramp in the Churches: The Major Archbishop presented the Synod a request from various corners on the need of constructing ramp in the Churches taking into consideration the need of sick or physically challenged people. The Synod decided to request all concerned to construct ramps in the Churches and buildings of public utility for this purpose.

The lineamenta for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: Fr. Shaji Kochupurayil MCBS was welcomed by Bp. Pauly Kanoorkadan, Chairman of the Committee for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. Fr. Kochupurayil presented the main points of the lineamenta, which has the general title "The Response of the Church to the Challenges of Today", with a specification of "towards a witnessing Church in the Family and Society". After a long discussion of the different aspects of the lineamenta, the Synod suggested to change the subtitle 'Family, Simplicity and Migrants' to 'Family, Life Style of the Church and Migration'.

Major Archiepiscopal Jubilee: The Synod briefly discussed the forthcoming Jubilee of the Major Archiepiscopal Status of the Syro-Malabar Church, which will be inaugurated during the coming Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. This matter will be highlighted in the circular of the Major Archbishop on the occasion of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.

Different Forums and Associations and their Relation to the Commission of Family and Laity: Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath presented the proposals of the Commission for Family and Laity regarding various Forums, so that eventual conflicts could be avoided among various associations and move-

ments in the Church. The important proposals among them are: 1) Children's forum and youth forum need not be part of the Commission for Family and Laity, 2) Farmers' forum can work with INFARM, 3) The Chairman Bishop will report on the seven forums and the other two commission members will report on Family and Women and Catholic Congress. The Bishops were generally in agreement with the proposals put forward by Bishop Adayanthrath. However, some of the bishops observed that there might be conflicts between the Commission for Family and Laity and Catholic Congress, if both of them go ahead with their forums. Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil informed the Synod that the Catholic Congress shall take care of this issue while revising its by-laws.

Projects of Catholic Congress: Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil presented different aspects of the activities of Catholic Congress and its projects. He said that most probably the revised by-law of the Catholic Congress can be presented in the forthcoming session of the Synod for the final approval. As a whole, Catholic Congress is getting more active in most of the Eparchies by having new units. However, in some of the eparchies, greater encouragement could be given for the advancement of Catholic Congress. Bishop Remigiose requested the Bishops to appoint directors wherever they are not yet appointed. Regarding the microfinance project of Catholic Congress, Bishop Remigiose said that it could be a great success if sufficient encouragement is given. He said that microfinance of Catholic Congress is a project for common people for which proper checks and controls are envisaged. Its development will help the community at large. Bishop Remigiose was hopeful that in the coming years, good leaders will emerge from the grass root level through the activities of Catholic Congress. There followed detailed discussion about various aspects and activities of Catholic Congress, especially the microfinance. A few bishops remarked that there is confusion and conflict of interest between the activities and projects of Catholic Congress and of other associations like Vincent de Paul Society.

Some others remarked about the age limit for the membership in Catholic Congress. A few Bishops expressed their apprehension about the political involvement of Catholic Congress which could eventually cause polarization in our community. Others were of the opinion that too much stress on the community in the narrow sense will cause communal overtones. Some of the bishops highlighted that the role of Catholic Congress is to empower our community with Christian values. Several bishops expressed that the project of microfinance, for better reception in our parishes and eparchies, needs more clarity regarding its nature, purpose and mode of operation. Towards the end of the discussion Bishop Inchananiyil offered to present a clear picture of the microfinance of Catholic Congress on the following day. In a subsequent sitting, Bishop Remigio Inchananiyil made certain clarification about the Micro Finance Programme of the Catholic Congress, which was followed by discussion. Towards the end, the Synod requested Bishop Inchananiyil to present a detailed report of the programme in the following session of the Synod.

Crisis in the Agricultural Sector: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he has received a memorandum signed by several bishops of our Synod requesting to include the issue of the crisis of farmers in the agenda of the present session of the Synod. After seeking the mind of the Synod, it was incorporated into the agenda. In a later sitting, the Major Archbishop read out the Memorandum signed by 9 bishops regarding the crisis faced by the farmers. After discussing in detail various problems faced by the farmers, the Synod expressed its solidarity to the suffering farmers and decided to lobby with government authorities on the issue.

Financial Management of Various Commissions: Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission for Finance, presented before the Synod, financial constraints of some of the Commissions and Committees which do not have sufficient financial sources. During the discussion it emerged that the Eparchies

have to bear the T.A. of the participants. However it was suggested that those who are coming from distant places are to be provided with T.A. from the centre. We have to find out resources for the expenses of food and accommodation and other expenses, which are now met by the curia. The Commissions which have substantial income are already sharing their profit with the curia. Towards the end of the discussion, Bishop Arackal promised to present in the next session of the Synod, a detailed and substantiated statement on the issue.

Construction of a Pastoral Centre in the Curia Premises: Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Finance Commission, presented the general ideas regarding the feasibility of constructing a pastoral centre in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia premises, which will be useful at the same time profitable for the financial needs of the running of the curia. After discussing the matter on its various aspects both positive and negative, a committee consisting of Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, was constituted to study the feasibility of constructing a pastoral centre or other facilities like a ware house in the curia premises or elsewhere. Later Bishop Mathew Arackal informed the Synod that the Committee had a meeting in which they found that it was not feasible to construct a pastoral centre or a ware house in the curia premises.

Presentation of the Text Book for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Solemn Reception of Holy Communion: Bishop Jacob Manantheodath, Chairman of the Commission for Catechesis, presented the text book for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Solemn Reception of Holy Communion for Children and the Synod decided to approve it.

Guidelines for the Retreat Centres: During the tea break "Guidelines for Retreat Centres" was released by the Major Archbishop presenting its first copy to Bishop Thomas Chakiath.

Syro-Malabar Anthem: Bishop Pauly Kanookadan and Fr. Peter Kannampuzha presented the text and the audio of the

proposed Syro-Malabar anthem. The Synod proposed a few corrections and requested Bishop Pauly Kanookadan to present the improved version in the August Synod.

Route to the Roots - in the footsteps of St. Thomas: Fr. Kannampuzha introduced to the Synod, "Route to the Roots - in the footsteps of St. Thomas", a unique spiritual and cultural pilgrimage to experience the heritage, traditions and folklore of Christians in Kerala which will create a love for the Mother Church among the faithful. This project is launched with the blessings of the Major Archbishop. It is jointly organized by St Thomas Christian Museum, Mount St Thomas, Major Archbishopal Curia, Kakkanad and Magi Pilgrimages.

Consultation on Mission ad gentes Today: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, presented the programme of the three Regional Mission Consultations scheduled to take place in the month of May 2016 and requested the bishops to take part in it and send twenty delegates from each eparchy.

Request for the Title Vaidikaratnam: Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath briefed the Synod of the exemplary priestly ministry of Fr. Jose Thachil, especially in the field of priestly formation, and requested the Synod to honour him with the title Vaidikaratnam. After some discussion, several bishops supported the request and with due recommendation of the Special Committee for Honours and Titles, the Synod decided to honour him.

Declaration of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara as the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara read out a draft letter addressed to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches seeking his advice on an appropriate title to be conferred upon St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara. The Synod discussed on the feasibility of sending such a letter to the Congregation. Several bishops were of the opinion that it is up to our Church to honour St. Chavara with an appropriate title. We may eventually request the Apostolic See for conferring a title on St. Chavara by the Universal Church. Towards the

end of the discussion, Synod constituted a Committee consisting of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, Malpan Mathew Vellanickal, Fr. Joseph Pamplany, three representatives from CMI and one representative from CMC in order to explore the possibility of conferring the title 'the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church' on St. Chavara in the light of the letter of the Prior General of the CMI and to define criteria for declaring a Saint 'Father of the Church' and present it in the Synod of August, 2016.

Discussion on the CBCI Meeting: The Major Archbishop invited the Synod to share their opinion for the preparation of the forthcoming plenary assembly of the CBCI at Bangalore scheduled from 2-9 March 2016. During the discussion, the Synod shared various aspects of the concerns of our Church in view of the CBCI meeting.

Inter Church Council Meeting: The Major Archbishop invited all bishops to participate in the forthcoming meeting of all Kerala Bishops of the Episcopal Churches, who are members of the Inter Church Council, scheduled for 10 March 2016 at CSI centre, Kottayam.

Condolence on the Demise of Prof. Mgr. Pierre Yousif: On 8 January, the Synod expressed its condolence on the demise of Prof. Pierre Yousif of Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, who was a great scholar and professor of many of our priests and religious including several bishops and offered prayers for him.

Re-dedication of the Renovated St Hormis Church (Kizhakkepally) Angamaly: On Sunday 10 January 2016, the Major Archbishop rededicated the renovated St Hormis Church (Kizhakkepally), Angamaly in the presence of several bishops and a large number of priests, religious and laity. Being the Church where Mar Abraham the last East Syrian Bishop in the Malabar Church is buried, this is considered as an ecumenical pilgrim centre for all the believers mainly of the St Thomas Christian tradition.

Announcement of the Auxiliary Bishop of Kanjirapally: At 4:30 pm, on Tuesday, 12 January 2016, in the presence of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and a large number of Clergy, religious and laity, the election of Fr. Jose Pulickal as Auxiliary Bishop of the eparchy of Kanjirapally was announced. The Major Archbishop and Bishop Mathew Arackal conferred upon the Bishop-elect Episcopal insignia. Archbishop Joseph Powathil congratulated the Bishop-elect with a bouquet and Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam felicitated the new bishop. The formal meeting started with a prayer by the Major Archbishop. Fr. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Vice-Chancellor-I welcomed the audience and Fr. Paul Robin Thekkath, Vice-Chancellor-II read out the appointment letter.

Major Archbishop welcomed bishop-elect Jose Pulickal, who came to the Synod Hall to invite the bishops for his Episcopal Ordination. Bishop Mathew Arackal invited the bishops for the Episcopal Ordination of his Auxiliary scheduled for 2.00 pm, on 4 February 2016 at Kanjirapally.

Scrutiny of the Decisions of the XXIV Synod (2016), Session 1: The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XXIV Synod (2016), Session 1 and gave its final approval.

Conclusion of the Synod: The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present session and gave the concluding address. In his concluding address the Major Archbishop referred to the main items that were discussed during the current Session. He expressed his satisfaction about these several points of agreement reached during the discussion on the revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana and pointed out that we may have to proceed progressively with patience and collegial understanding, starting with the points that indicate signs of common agreement, and continue to strive for reaching consensus on those issues that still defy solution. While thanking the Commissions and their offices for the well drafted lineamenta of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly 2016, the Major Archbishop observed that the themes were relevant in the present context of

the Church. He hailed the rededication of St. Hormis Church at Angamaly as an event that helped to evoke a unique moment in the history of the Marthoma Christians as it inaugurated a new age of ecumenism and Church unity in the life of the Church in India, especially among the Churches that inherit the tradition coming from St. Thomas the apostle. He referred to the election of Fr. Jose Pulickal as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally as a joyful event and expressed the hope of receiving rightful ecclesiastical jurisdiction for the remaining communities for the Syro-Malabar faithful in India and ecclesiastical provisions for the effective pastoral care for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf Countries. Drawing the attention to the burning issues faced by our people in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the High ranges, and the plight of the farmers due to the fall in prices for the agricultural products, the Major Archbishop emphasized the need to strengthen our lay people and the associations like Catholic Congress to fight for the causes of the Church in the Public and also before the State and Central governments. The Major Archbishop concluded his message thanking all those who helped in one way or other for the efficient functioning of the Synod. Invoking God's blessings upon our Church, the Major Archbishop declared the XXIV Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church (2016), Session 1, closed at 6.00 p.m. on 12 January 2016.

Bosco Puthur, Secretary
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Mount St. Thomas,
12 January 2016

XXIV SYNOD (2016) SESSION 1, 7-12 JANUARY 2016

DECISIONS

1. To award the title Vaidikaratnam to Fr. Jose Thachil, a priest from the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
2. To request the Commission for Liturgy to gather suggestions on the revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana from the Eparchies which have not yet provided them.
3. To request the special committee, consisting of the members of the Commission for Liturgy, and Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Punnakottil, to study the observations received from the eparchies regarding the areas of revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana and to indicate areas of convergence and suggest ways and means to solve the divergences and to present their suggestions in the forthcoming session of the Synod.
4. To change the name of the Association of Syro-Malabar Supporters of the Mission (ASSM).
5. To give opportunities for mission appeal once a year in all the Syro-Malabar parishes within the proper territory.
6. To approve the text book for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Children and Solemn Reception of Holy Communion.
7. To take legal follow up, with the help of experts and with financial assistance by the Synod, challenging the stand of the income tax officers who insist on submitting Deed of Trust or Memorandum of Association of Societies for issu-

ing the 12 A Registration and PAN Card, in spite of the fact that the Income Tax law does not demand it, for which an ad hoc Committee was nominated with Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

8. To approve the Guidelines for Higher Studies of priests/candidates to priesthood, for the use of bishops of our Church.
9. To constitute a Committee of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, Malpan Mathew Vellanickal, Fr. Joseph Pamplany, three representatives from CMI and one representative from CMC, in order to explore the possibility of conferring the title 'the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church' on St. Chavara in the light of the letter of the Prior General of the CMI and to define criteria for declaring a Saint 'Father of the Church' and present it in the Synod of August 2016.
10. To accept in principle the proposals regarding the recognition of Consecrated Virgins in the Syro-Malabar Church and to request the Committee, consisting of Bishop George Madathikandathil (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil to formulate a more precise by-law and present it in the following Synod.
11. To give favourable opinion to begin the process of Beatification of Mother Mary Celine CMC.
12. To entrust Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST to go to the Gulf to meet Bishop Camillo Ballin and get an agreement signed regarding erection of personal parishes, pastoral care in Saudi Arabia and recognition of the SMCA.
13. To request Major Seminaries to include in their curriculum, theology of the laity, theology of the consecrated life and gender equity.

14. To request all concerned to construct ramps in the Churches and buildings of public utility taking into consideration the need of sick or physically challenged people.
15. To propose to the Major Archbishop to designate a committee to study various aspects of the report of the consultation on the seminary formation as well as the reports of the visitation to the seminaries and present the main points in the forthcoming session of the Synod.

Bosco Puthur, Secretary
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Mount St. Thomas,
12 January 2016

XXIV SYNOD (2016) SESSION 1

07-12 JANUARY 2016

CONCLUDING ADDRESS

OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

The present session of the Synod is coming to a close and I am happy to note that we had very fruitful discussions and deliberations on many aspects of our ecclesial life and ministry. One positive sign is regarding the revision of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana. There evolved several points of general agreement, despite the fact that divergence on certain basic matters is still lingering in the thought patterns of the Church, especially among priests and bishops, which is being reflected also in our discussions. We have to be patiently and with collegial understanding, continue to strive for reaching consensus on those issues that still defy solution. In this attempt of revision we may have to proceed progressively starting with the points that indicate signs of common agreement i.e. by moving from the less difficult to the more difficult points of existing divergence of opinions.

An important event that awaits us during this year is the fourth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly to be conducted during the course of the August Synod. The decisions that we have taken in this session will help us a lot to make the Assembly successful. The lineamenta is well drafted and the themes are relevant in the present context of the Church. Let us be thankful to all the members of the committee who have done the preparatory work. I also thank all the Commissions and their offices for the amount of sacrifice they take for the effective functioning of the curia.

The rededication of St Hormis Church at Angamaly was an event that helped to evoke a unique moment in the history of the Marthoma Christians, namely the 32 years of Episcopal ministry of the last East Syrian Metropolitan Mar Abraham of revered memory. It has inaugurated a new age of ecumenism and Church unity in the life of the Church in India especially among the Churches that inherit the tradition coming from St Thomas the Apostle.

The election of Fr Jose Pulickal as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally gives us added joy and let us congratulate him on his election. Let us hope and pray that the provisions we have prepared in this session may come out fruitfully with the propitious approval from the Apostolic See.

We hope to receive rightful ecclesiastical jurisdiction for the remaining communities of the Syro-Malabar faithful in India. We have to struggle hard to obtain ecclesiastical provisions for the effective pastoral care for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf countries by our own priests and our pastoral organization.

Let me draw your attention to the burning issues faced by our people settled in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas in the High Ranges, and the plight of the farmers due to the fall in prices for the agricultural products. We have to strengthen our Lay people and the associations like Catholica Congress to fight for the causes of the Church in the public and also before the State and Central governments.

Finally let me express my gratitude to all those who helped us in the conduct of the Synod, especially Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Synod Secretary, the Moderators Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Bishop Jose Porunedom and Bishop Anthony Chirayath who have diligently guided the proceedings of this Session of our Synod. I express my gratitude in a special way to Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, who even during his illness guides the activities of the curia with his suggestions and directions over the phone. I thank also Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer,

who carefully and painstakingly manages the financial affairs of the curia. My special thanks is due to both the Vice Chancellors: Fr. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal and Fr Paul Robin Thekkath. I thank also the resident and non-resident Secretaries of the Commissions, other priests functioning for the Curia, SD and SH Sisters and other members of the Staff and their helpers who sincerely serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. Fr George Danavelil of the Eparchy of Palai has been rendering commendable service in the curia for the last six years as Secretary of the Commission for Catechesis. He has successfully completed his assigned responsibility and is going back to his Eparchy this month. I sincerely thank him and wish him every success in his future ministries.

The next Synodal Session is scheduled for Monday, 22 August from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 03 September 2016.

While thanking you for the love and concern you show towards me and the wholehearted support you give for my humble service, I entrust our Synod, the priests, the religious and the lay faithful of our Church to the protection of Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas, our Father in faith, St. Alphonsa, St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, St Euphrasia and the Blessed of our Church.

With these words I formally declare the First Session of the XXIV Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

12 January 2016
Kakkanad

George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

XXIV Synod (2016)

Session II

**22 August – 02
September 2016**

XXIV SYNOD (2016) SESSION II

22 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Cordial welcome to all of you to the present Session of the Synod!

Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI has helped us with his reflections on leadership service by us Bishops, taking inspiration from the leadership of Jesus and of the Apostles in the early Church. He explained in a very unique way how secular leadership in the institutes in society can be understood in the line of Church leadership. His own personal experience as a leader in many of the institutions of the Church has helped him to merge the leadership exercise in the Church and the society. Let me express sincere gratitude of the Synod for the insights and intuitions that Bishop Antony Kariyil gave us, as an effective start for our Synodal Session.

The sad and sudden demise of our dear Bishop James Pazhayattil is the first incident that comes to my mind when we begin this Synodal Session. He was an endearing person to all of us Bishops and to all those who had contacts with him. Even after the retirement he did not miss the CBCI, KCBC and our own Synod meetings. He intervened in all these meetings when he felt it would be necessary from his part for the good of the Church. As far as our Church is concerned his office as assistant to Major Archbishop Cardinal Antony Padiyara, from June 7, 1995 to Jan-

uary 18, 1997, was a unique historical service. In this capacity he was acting for the person of Major Archbishop on all important occasions and he was meticulously supervising the construction work of this edifice of the Curia.

I would like to reveal a personal note regarding my first relationship with him, when he was Secretary General of KCBC and myself, Deputy Secretary as director of POC. It is then that I discovered the softness and the serenity of mind in his dealings with others. He was a gentleman in every sense of the term. With great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus his advice to all who approached him, was "trust in Divine Providence and go ahead in all Confidence". Bishop Pazhayattil had a peaceful adieu from the world. I could visit him on one of his last days and he spoke to me with great satisfaction of the medical care that he received. Gracefully he accepted the final call of the Divine Master and the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda gave a solemn funeral service which he merited as the first fatherly Bishop of the Eparchy. Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, with the priests and lay leaders of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda organized the funeral functions with great dignity and decorum. All the Bishops of our Church and many Bishops of the Latin Church and the Malankara Catholic Church, in one way or other, expressed their solidarity with the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda at the time of the funeral service. Let us, as bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, express our heartfelt condolences and continue to pray for his eternal repose.

Recently the Apostolic See has erected a new Syro-Malabar Eparchy at Preston in Great Britain and appointed Fr. Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal as its first Bishop. At the same time an Apostolic Visitor of Episcopal rank for Europe in the person of Msgr. Stephen Chirappanath also has been appointed. Both the Bishops-elect, although not as full members, are attending the Synod and I do welcome them joyfully to the present session of the Synod. Bishop Jose Pulickal is coming to the Synod for the first time after his Episcopal Ordination as full member of the

Synod. Let me offer to him and to the new Bishops-elect hearty congratulations, best wishes and prayers.

It is also a matter of joy for us to have another Son of our Church, Archbishop Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal, appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea. Our hearty congratulations to the new Nuncio! Let me express our appreciation to Archbishop Kuriakose Kunnacherry, Archbishop Mathew Moolakatt and Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril and the people of God of the Archeparchy of Kottayam, for having offered a Bishop for the service of the Universal Church.

We know that the growth in the ecclesiastical structures does not necessarily mean the real growth of the Church as the Lord would desire from us. The growth in faith formation and the faith witness of the people is more important than the realization of the ecclesiastical structures. It is true that the jurisdictional structures for our migrant communities will be a great help to realize the faith formation and faith witness of the people. Therefore, our first and foremost duty both in the traditional eparchies and in the new ones is to strengthen the faith witness of our people and thereby pave the way for evangelization by attraction which Holy Father Pope Francis has advocated.

The visit of Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York for just one day in the greater Cochin region created a wave of enthusiasm among the people he met. He visited the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Archbishop's House in Ernakulam, St George Church, Edapally and Marian Shrine at Vallarpadam and had an official meeting with the CNEWA personnel, as the agency belongs to the Archdiocese of New York. He made a fraternal visit also to Major Archbishop of the Malankara Catholic Church, Cardinal Baselios Mar Cleemis, in Trivandrum, where he officiated as Chief Guest the 63rd Feast of Commemoration of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios.

The paradigm shift in Episcopal and Priestly Ministry which Pope Francis has inaugurated is a challenge for all of us. He has

become a sign of contradiction in the present time of the Church. The Holy Year of Mercy and his two encyclicals, *Lumen Fidei* and *Laudato si'* and the Apostolic Exhortations, *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia*, have given a new direction in the vision and mission of the Church. It is up to us to take the message of his pontificate to the people of God entrusted to our care. We also have to become identified with the message of the Church by advocating an 'evangelization by attraction' which he proposes.

On 25th evening we will begin the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, the fourth ever since our Church became *sui iuris* with Major Archiepiscopal Status. The preparations for the same have been carefully monitored by the Episcopal Committee of Bishops: Bishop Pauly Kannokadan (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Rajendran. Let us hope and pray that the Assembly will lead the Church to more meaningful witness of life in all the levels of our Church.

Although we expected to have Cardinal Leonardo Sandri during this session of the Synod to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee celebration of our church's elevation to the status of Major Archiepiscopal Church, it has not worked out as such. The proposal from the Cardinal prefect himself was that he could come in January 2017 to join us for the Jubilee celebration. It would seem that this accidental deferral of time is more appropriate as the Silver Jubilee Year starts only on 16 December 2016. Therefore, an inauguration in January holds good.

The team of Sisters from the SD Congregation completed their term of service here in the Curia and we gave them a meritorious farewell. The new team of Sisters is from the Congregation of Sisters of Nazareth and they have started their service with full vigour and enthusiasm.

As we are aware, every Synodal session is an ecclesial act in which the celebrations of the Holy Qurbana, the Liturgy of the Hours, personal prayer, deliberations and decisions in the Synodal sittings and other related activities, altogether give us an ex-

perience of our leadership role in the Church and society. The Church was born by the power of the Holy Spirit, The same Spirit is empowering us in all our ecclesial activities. Let every act of the Synod be led by this guiding principle and let us be instruments in the hands of the Holy Spirit. May our prayers during the days of the Synod bring upon us God's blessings and let us enter the Synod invoking the mediation of Holy Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas our Father in faith, St. Geevarghese and all the Saints of the Church, especially St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal and Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata, Blessed Mariam Thresia and Blessed Kunjachan Theverparampil.

With these words I declare the Second Session of the XXIV Synod 2016 open.

Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad
22 August 2016

George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

XXIV SYNOD (2016), SESSION II MONDAY, 22 AUGUST – FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT

The XXIV Synod (2016), Session 2 began on Monday, 22 August 2016 with a recollection preached by Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer for some time and Holy Qurbana of the Bishops with the Major Archbishop George Alencherry being the main celebrant. The formal sitting of the Synod began at 2.30 p.m. with prayer by the Major Archbishop after which he proceeded with the inaugural address.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: In his inaugural address, the Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, for his reflections on the leadership services by the Bishops, taking inspiration from the leadership of Jesus and Apostles in the early Church. From his own personal experience as a leader in many institutions, he explained in unique way how secular leadership can be understood in line with the Church leadership. The Major Archbishop commemorated Bishop James Pazhayattil as an endearing person to all who came into contact with him. The service of Bishop James as assistant to the Major Archbishop Cardinal Antony Padiyara was recalled as a unique historical service to our Church. The Synod in silence prayed for the repose of Bishop James. The Major Archbishop welcomed to the Synod the two Bishops-elect, Fr Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal for Great Britain, Msgr Stephen Chirappanath, Apostolic Visitor with Episcopal rank for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Europe and Bishop Jose Pulickal, Auxiliary of Kanjirapally who participates for the first time in the Synod as full-fledged member. The Major Archbishop expressed the joy of the nomination of Msgr

Kurian Mathew Vayalunkal as Archbishop and his appointment as the Apostolic Nuncio to Papua New Guinea. Expressing hope of the possibility of establishment of ecclesiastical provisions for the Syro-Malabar migrants in India and in the Gulf, the Major Archbishop formally declared the Second Session of the XXIV Synod (2016) open.

Participants: The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Mar George Alencherry (Major Archbishop), Mar Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Mar Andrews Thazhath (Trichur), Mar Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Mar George Njaralakkatt (Tellicherry), Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Faridabad), Mar Joseph Powathil (Archbishop Emeritus, Changanacherry), Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil (Emeritus, Palai), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar George Punnakottil (Emeritus, Kothamangalam), Mar Simon Stock Palathra CMI (Emeritus, Jagdalpur), Mar Thomas Chakiath (Emeritus Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Mathew Vaniakizhake VC (Emeritus, Satna), Mar George Valiamattam (Archbishop Emeritus, Tellichery), Mar Jacob Manethodath (Palghat), Mar Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Mar Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Mar Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Mar Joseph Kunnath CMI (Emeritus - Adilabad), Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam Angamaly), Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil (Idukki), Mar Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Mar Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Mar Anthony Chirayath (Sagar), Mar Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Mar Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Bhadravathi), Mar Bosco Puthur (Melbourne), Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamarassery), Mar Raphael Thattil (Auxiliary, Trichur & Apostolic Visitor in India), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar Pauly Kannoorkadan (Irinjalakuda), Mar John Vadakel CMI (Bijnor), Mar Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), Mar George Madathikandathil (Kothamangalam),

Mar George Rajendran SDB (Thuckalay), Mar Jacob Muricken (Auxiliary, Palai), Mar Joseph Kollamparampil CMI, Mar Jose Puthenveettil, Mar Ephrem Nariculam (Chanda), Mar Joy Alappatt (Auxiliary, Chicago), Mar Joseph Kodakallil (Satna), Mar Jose Kalluvellil (Exarchate of Mississauga, Canada), Mar Prince Antony Panengadan (Adilabad), Mar Antony Kariyil CMI (Mandya), Mar Jose Pulickal (Auxiliary, Kanjirapally), Msgr Stephen Chirappanath (Apostolic Visitor-designate, Europe and Fr. Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal (Bishop-elect, Great Britain).

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The Synod approved the designation of the following persons to the various offices and committees for the conduct of the present session:

Moderators: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST (Convener), Bishop Jose Porunnedom and Bishop Anthony Chirayath.

Tellers: Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, Bishop Jose Pulickal and Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan.

Committee for the Media: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Convener), Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath.

Committee for the Pastoral Circular: Archbishop Kurikose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

Liturgical Celebrations: Bishop Pauly Kannoorkadan.

Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous Synod held in January 2016. The Synod reviewed the implementation of the decisions.

Finalizing the Agenda: The Secretary read out the provisional agenda and the Synod approved it, with a few additions. With these additional items, the finalized agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Points for the revision of the Holy Qurbana sorted out by the Committee of Bishops.
2. Abridged version of the Anaphora of Mar Nestorius.
3. Draft of the liturgical text of the Betrothal.
4. Text for the Guidelines of the Preaching of the Gospel.
5. The new Roman Document In Missa In Cena Domini.
6. Model of the liturgical vestment for the celebration of baptism and the sacramentals.
7. Regarding the movement SRM (Spiritual Revival Ministry) in Bangalore.
8. Sannaradhana (Infant Jesus Ministry) of Dr Leena in Ramanathapuram.
9. Sharing by Bishop Raphael Thattil, Apostolic Visitor
10. Regarding the implementation of the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar Knanaya Faithful outside the proper territory.
11. Discussion on the issues in Kuwait Syro-Malabar Community.
12. Report on the visit of Bishops' delegation to Kuwait.
13. Sharing on the three regional mission consultations completed at Kottayam, Aluva and Tellicherry.
14. Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: two discussions, one before the Assembly and the other after for evaluation.
15. Discussion on the need of amending certain provisions in the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
16. Presentation of report on the 12 A Registration and PAN Card.
17. Jesus Youth.
18. Long term work plan for various commissions.

19. Report on the Financial Management of the Various Commissions.
20. Reports of Various commissions.
21. Division of Mangalapuzha Seminary Property at Thuthiyoor.
22. Extension of Cemetery in the Compound of St Joseph's Pont. Seminary, Mangalapuzha.
23. Report on the Seminary Visitations.
24. Report on conferring the title 'the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church' on St. Chavara.
25. Discussion on the draft of the handbook on Ecumenism.
26. Bye-laws for the Consecrated Virgins.
27. Approval of the Statutes of Catholica Congress.
28. Palliative Care and Environment Conservation.
29. Concept Design of St Thomas Christian Museum.
30. Anthem of Syro-Malabar Church.

Report on the Meeting of Syro-Malabar Bishops During CBCI in Bengaluru: At the request of the Major Archbishop Fr Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Major Archiepiscopal Vice Chancellor-1, read out the report of the meeting of the Syro-Malabar Bishops during CBCI in Bengaluru, 2-9 March 2016. After short discussion the Synod approved the following decision of the meeting:

To give permission to Bishop Raphael Thattil, the Apostolic Visitor, to visit all the Syro-Malabar Archeparchies and Eparchies with prior information, to speak to the faithful about the work of the Apostolic Visitation and to make Mission Appeal.

CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath briefed the Synod on the discussions from the meeting of CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization, held

on 20 August 2016 in Mumbai. The meeting attended by Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (representing the Major Archbishop), Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, was to a certain extent fruitful for the realization of our long cherished goal of establishing an Eparchy in Tamil Nadu and another one for the rest of India. Archbishop Andrews informed the Synod that in the coming days the Major Archbishop will receive the report of the meeting.

Episcopal Ordination of the Bishops-elect: Fr Joseph (Benny Mathew) Srampickal for Great Britain and Msgr Stephen Chirappanath, Apostolic Visitor with Episcopal rank for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Europe, thanked the Synod for being instrumental for their appointment and invited the Bishops to their Episcopal ordinations on 9 October at Preston and on either 30 October or 1 November, 2016 in Rome, respectively.

Title of the New Eparchy in Great Britain: The Major Archbishop read out a letter from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches regarding the title of the new Eparchy in Great Britain, as a response to the query sent by him. The Congregation stated that the title selected for the New Syro-Malabar Eparchy is simply, "Eparchia Magnae Britanniae Syro-Malabarensium" (Eparchy of Great Britain of Syro-Malabar Faithful or Eparchy of Great Britain of Syro-Malabars).

Regional Group Discussions: At the suggestion of the Major Archbishop the Synod decided to hold in one of the sittings of the Synod Region wise discussions in the following four groups, namely, 1) Eparchies in Kerala, 2) Eparchies within the proper territory outside Kerala, 3) Other Eparchies in India and 4) Eparchies and Exarchy outside India.

Press Release Regarding the Government Policy Against the Self-financing Educational Institutions: Several Bishops suggested that the Synod prepares a press release protesting against the Government policy of taking over 100% seats in self-financing Medical Colleges ignoring the previous agreements with

the management of minority institutions and not granting permission to the self-financing colleges to start new courses recognized by the university. Accordingly on 23 August, a press release was read out and approved by the Synod for publication.

Statutes of Jesus Youth: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented before the Synod some observations of the Statutes of Jesus Youth. Due to lack of time it was agreed upon that discussion of the subject will be taken up on the following day.

The discussion on the Jesus Youth in the background of its recognition by the Pontifical Council for Laity as a Private International Association continued from the previous day. 27 Bishops participated in the lively and fruitful discussion. Concluding the discussion, the Major Archbishop said that our church, being *sui iuris*, shall have a common strategy regarding such pastoral issues. He said that we have to own our people and each eparchy shall strive to insert the members of Jesus Youth in the main stream of the community. The Major Archbishop shall write in due time to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches informing our concerns and giving suggestions for amendment in the Statutes of the Jesus Youth. It was further suggested to hold, during this session of the Synod, a dialogue with the leaders of the Jesus Youth for better understanding and cooperation. A committee consisting of the following members was formed for the purpose: 1) Bishop Raphael Thattil (Convener) 2) Archbishop Andrews Thazhath 3) Bishop Joseph Pandarassery 4) Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt 5) Bishop Bosco Puthur 6) Bishop Jacob Angadiath and 7) Bishop Jose Kalluvilil.

In a later sitting, Bishop Raphael Thattil briefed the Synod the result of the dialogue on the statutes of Jesus Youth between the leaders of Jesus Youth and Bishops delegated by the Synod for the purpose. Bishop Thattil said that the leaders of Jesus Youth were ready to listen to what the Bishops had to say and expressed their willingness to work along with the hierarchy and to be loyal to the particular church to which they belong. They

said that they had presented to Rome elements pertaining to the Eastern Churches to be part of the Statutes, although they were not included in the final text. The Bishops informed them that in due time our hierarchy shall approach the Apostolic See with our proposals for the amendment of the Statutes, taking into consideration the CCEO. The Jesus Youth leaders promised that any amendments by the Apostolic See in the Statutes based on the proposals of the Syro-Malabar Church will be acceptable to them. The Synod entrusted Bishop Raphael Thattil, Convener, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Pauly Kannookadan to continue the dialogue with Jesus Youth leaders and to present in the next session of the Synod a document of understanding.

Palliative Care and Environmental Conservation: Bishop Mathew Arackal brought to the attention of the Synod on the need to give greater emphasis for palliative care and environmental consideration. He said that the ministry in these two areas is of great relevance to our society today and it is a very relevant venue for ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation. Several Bishops intervened in the discussion, sharing the initiatives of several organizations in their eparchies engaged in this ministry. Our youth organization can be made more active in these fields. Visiting sick and elderly people at their homes and giving them urgent medical and palliative care, promoting organic farming, producing vermiculture, reducing the use of plastic and thermocol can be done with financial help from MP and MLA funds, with the patronage of local administrative bodies and cooperation of volunteers from other religions. This is also a great opportunity for indirect evangelization. At the end of the discussion it was decided to request Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Jose Pulickal and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil to prepare concrete action plan regarding the palliative care mobile services. It was further decided to request Bishop Thomas Chakiath (Convener), Bishop Jose Pulickal and Bishop Jose Porunnedom to prepare a handbook on environmental protection and civic culture for the education of the people, especially of the youth and children.

Title 'the Father of the Syro-Malabar Church' on St. Chavara: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara presented before the Synod the study of the committee on the criteria for declaring a Saint 'Father of the Church' in the Syro-Malabar Church sui iuris and exploring the possibility of conferring the title 'Father of the Syro-Malabar Church' on Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara of the Holy Family. After a brief discussion the Synod requested the Episcopal Members of the Committee to present their considered opinion on the matter in the following Session of the Synod.

Syro-Malabar Church Year Book- 2016: The Major Archbishop presented a copy of the new edition of the Syro-Malabar Church Year Book- 2016 to the members of the Synod and expressed his gratitude to Fr Paul Robin Thekkath who worked for its revised edition.

Directory of the Eparchy of Chicago: The Major Archbishop introduced the directory of the Eparchy of Chicago and congratulated the Bishops and the Eparchy on the recruitment of 11 Seminarians from the USA.

Sharing by Bishop Raphael Thattil, the Apostolic Visitor: Bishop Raphael Thattil presented a detailed report of the various activities of the Apostolic Visitation in India. He expressed his gratitude to all who helped and cooperated in the activities of the Apostolic Visitation which although, challenging and difficult, is very promising and fruitful for the faithful in the migrant communities. In spite of the negative attitude from different quarters Bishop Thattil shared his happiness at the enthusiasm of our people as well as the hard work of several priests. He said that the mother Church has to be more mission oriented and show greater generosity towards Apostolic Visitation by adopting mission centres, financing Mission Stations and helping to train priestly candidates for the diaspora. The Synod requested the eparchies in Kerala to help the Apostolic Visitation for buying land and constructing churches in the migrant centres. The Synod requested the Major Archbishop to write again to the Holy See to expedite

its decision on establishing proper ecclesiastical structures for the Syro-Malabar community in Chennai.

Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar Knanaya Faithful outside the Proper Territory: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB presented before the Synod concerns regarding the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar Knanaya Faithful outside the proper territory and requested the Synod to express its support for constituting parishes and missions for the community wherever there is a sizeable number of faithful. There was a very fruitful discussion on the subject which clarified various aspects of the issue. Concluding the discussion the Major Archbishop said that the Knanaya Community is an integral part of the Syro-Malabar Church and the Church will take positive measures for the adequate pastoral care of the Knanaya communities in the newly established eparchies. The proposal of Archbishop Moolakkatt will be taken up by the Synod at an appropriate time.

Chairman and Bishop Member of the Board of Directors of LRC: The Synod elected Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Chairman of the Board of Directors of LRC and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, the Bishop Member, both for another term of three years.

Election of the Secretary of the Synod: Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI was elected Secretary of the Synod for a term of five years.

Changes Made in the Composition of Certain Commissions: The Major Archbishop announced in the Synod certain changes he intended to make in the composition of certain Major Archiepiscopal Commissions:

- a) Commission for Ecumenism: Bishop Joseph Kodakallil is appointed Member of the Commission for Ecumenism in the place of Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC
- b) Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life: Bishop Jose Porunnedom (Chairman) Bishop Jose Chittooparambil

- CMI, Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy, (Members) are appointed for another term of five years.
- c) Commission for Finance: Bishop Mathew Arackal (Chairman), Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI are appointed as members of the Commission for Finance for a period of five years. Bishop Antony Kariyil is holding this office for the first term.
 - d) Committee for Public Affairs: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Convener), Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Jose Porunnedom and Archbishop Joseph Powathil (Members), are appointed for another term of three years.
 - e) Committee for Canonical Questions: Archbishop Kuria-kose Bharanikulangara, (Convener), Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Paul Alappatt (Members), are appointed for another term of three years.
 - f) Commission for Family, Laity and Life: Following the spirit of Pope Francis, as suggested by the Major Archbishop, the Synod decided to rename the Commission for Family and Laity as Commission for "Family, Laity and Life". Bishop Jose Pulickal is appointed Member of this Commission in the place of Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, with special responsibility of Kudumbakootayma, Mathruvedi and Family Apostolate.

Discussion on the Reception of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*: The Major Archbishop asked the Bishops to submit a report on the reception of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* in the Eparchies as the Apostolic See has requested for such a report. The Synod had a long and fruitful discussion on the matter in which twenty three Bishops intervened. One Bishop said that it is too early to prepare a report on the reception of the Apostolic Exhortation as its translation has come out only recently. The appropriate time for

such a report would be the occasion of the first anniversary of the exhortation. Some Bishops reminded that the already existing pastoral initiatives in our church have to be incorporated in the report. Another suggestion was that the Synod shall form a committee to prepare an action plan for the parishes and institutions for the diffusion and implementation of the important points of the Exhortation.

There was a suggestion to organize region wise conferences to popularize the content of the Apostolic Exhortation. The main themes of the Exhortation are to be incorporated into the syllabus of the pre-marriage course. Another suggestion was to popularize it through discussion in the family units. The children and youth could be introduced to the main topics of the Apostolic Exhortation through essay competitions and quiz programmes. Study classes on the document are to be given to priests, religious and seminarians. Another suggestion was to bring out a shorter version of the document so that it can be easily accessible to people. Modern social media could be made use of to popularize the relevant points of the Apostolic Exhortation.

Priests are to be updated about their pastoral responsibilities in view of a better Family Apostolate. Priests are to be advised to accompany the families especially those who are going through difficult situations. The priests, through family visits, can bring back to the mainstream the families who are estranged from the Church. Family Apostolate is to be strengthened and Home Mission Programme is to be intensified and revived especially through the cooperation of the Women Religious. During the family visit pastors should take initiative to interact with each member of the family individually, besides the encounter with the whole family.

As a practical step toward implementation of the Exhortation there was a suggestion to the pastors to take initiative to rectify those marriages which are at present illicit or irregular.

There was a suggestion to organize classes for the newly wedded couples, to those who have completed five years and ten

years of married life. Retreat and study classes are to be given on parenting. The pre-marriage counseling (namaskaram kelkal) is to be made more effective and fruitful, when needed with the help of exemplary married couples. Pro-life campaign of the Church is to be intensified and the pastors are to come forward to honour and help those parents who have more children.

Our Church has to be more aware of the situations of widows and those people who are unable to marry because they could not find suitable partners. It is advisable that Bishops write a pastoral letter on the Apostolic Exhortation and its practical relevance to the family. The Major Archbishop could organize a seminar at the Major Archiepiscopal level on the occasion of the anniversary of the exhortation to evaluate the reception of the document and implementation of its teachings.

Towards the conclusion of the discussion the Synod decided to entrust the formulation of the action plan to a committee consisting of Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, co-opting experts if needed and submit it in the following session of the Synod.

Guidelines for the Revision of the mutuae relationes: The Major Archbishop reminded the Bishops of a circular sent to them requesting suggestions for the revision of the directives for the mutual relations between Bishops and Religious in the church. The Synod, after some discussion, entrusted Bishop George Madathikandathil (Convener), Bishop Paul Alappatt and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST to compile suggestions of the Bishops for the revision of the mutuae relationes and present them to the Major Archbishop.

Reception to Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas, S.F.X.: On Thursday, 25 August 2016, the Secretary of the Synod welcomed Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas S.F.X, the first resident Bishop Secretary General of CBCI. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the new Secretary General of the CBCI is a competent

man who is appointed to help all the three sui iuris Churches in order to strengthen the Church in India and assured him in the execution of his office the full cooperation and support of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Major Archbishop honoured Bishop Theodore Mascarenhas with a shawl. During the discussion several Bishops expressed their appreciation of the warm personality of Bishop Theodore and augured him every success in his important but challenging task. In his response Bishop Theodore informed the Synod that he is a supra-ritual man and will remain so in his office of the Secretary General of CBCI. He said that Syro-Malabar Church is also his church. The Church in India has to show its unity in diversity. He said that he is aware of the difficulties and challenges lying ahead and requested the support of all the Bishops.

Reception to Rev. Fr. Oscar Turion L.C., Rector, Mater Ecclesiae: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that Rev. Fr. Oscar Turion L.C., Rector of Mater Ecclesiae, Rome, who was expected to have interaction with the Synod on 1 September, will not come due to visa problems.

Report on the Seminary Visitations: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Illathuparampil, Rector of Mangalapuzha Seminary and Msgr Antony Nariculam. After a brief introduction by Bishop George Madathikandathil, Fr Mathew Illathuparampil presented before the Synod "Concrete Suggestions made on the basis of the Visitation Reports" of seventeen Major Seminaries. He said that a committee consisting of seven members, after several sittings, consolidated twenty-five concrete suggestions for immediate implementation. After the reading out of the suggestions, there followed a long and fruitful discussion on the ways and means for implementing the findings. At the end of the discussion the Major Archbishop suggested the following action plan. 1) The Major Archbishop shall convene a meeting of the Rectors, Vice-Rectors, Presidents and Prefects of Studies of the Major Seminaries to share with them the results of the visitation. 2) The Major Archbishop shall dialogue with the Rector

and other officials and Staff of each Seminary on pertinent points from the reports that concern their Seminary. 3) On grave and delicate points, the Major Archbishop shall demand competent authorities to take appropriate measures on the matter. The Synod endorsed the suggestions and requested the Major Archbishop to go ahead with the matter. The Synod also entrusted Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to formulate a method for evaluating formators and professors in the Major Seminaries and present it in the following Session of the Synod.

Report of the Synodal Major Seminaries: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Illathuparampil (Rector Mangalapuzha), Fr Emmanuel Attel (Rector Kunnoth), Fr Joseph Ottaapurackal (Rector, Satna) and Fr Joy Ainiyadan (Rector, Vadavathoor).

1. St Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha: Fr Mathew Illathuparampil, the Rector presented the report of the Seminary for the academic year 2015-16. The report appreciated the leadership given to the Seminary by the Synodal Commission for the Seminary. During the academic year the Seminary had 246 students (112 for Philosophy, 134 for Theology) hailing from 26 eparchies and 6 religious congregations. And the Seminary is served by 19 Resident Staff and 40 Visiting Professors.

Following the widely accepted four pillars of formation, namely, Spiritual, Intellectual, Human and Pastoral, the Seminary was able to give adequate formation for the future priests of our Church. And the Seminary gives sufficient opportunities to the students to develop their intellectual and pastoral aptitudes. The Seminary is going through financial deficit in the last academic year. It is worth mentioning that Laymen's Retreat Association which celebrated its centenary installed for the benefit of the Seminary a Solar Power Plant with a capacity of 30 Kilowatts. The report mentioned about the developments regarding the division of the property of the Seminary at Thuthiyoor, now jointly owned by Mangalapuzha and Carmelgiri Seminaries.

2. Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth: Fr Emmanuel Attel, the Rector, presented the report of the Seminary which proudly mentioned that in the last fifteen years of its functioning, the Seminary has given to the Church 146 priests. The total strength of the Students is 155 including a few religious day scholars, hailing from 20 eparchies and 8 religious congregations. The formation stresses on the spiritual, intellectual, human, missionary and pastoral dimensions. One of the remarkable features of the liturgical life of the seminary is that everyday all the Staff members join the concelebration. The Seminary is trying to raise funds from the parishes to overcome the deficit. Seminary needs to complete the construction of the building for the library which still needs Rs. 1.5 corers. Besides, there is the dire need of a permanent auditorium. The Rector expressed his gratitude to the Seminary Commission and the Synod of Bishops for the paternal solicitude of the Bishops towards the Seminary.

3. St Ephrem's Theological College, Satna: Fr Joseph Otapurackal, the Rector presented the report of the St. Ephrem's Theological College. He expressed his gratitude to the former Rector, Fr Thomas Kochuthara who did a yeomen service to the Seminary. Besides the spiritual and intellectual formation, the Seminary stresses pastoral and missionary dimensions. A special feature of the Seminary is that the whole Seminary Community celebrates together with the local community the Holy Week and the Easter. The Statutes and the Trust Deed of St Ephrem's Theological College were approved by the Synod in 2016. Accordingly Synodal Commission was constituted with Bishop Joseph Kodakallil (Chairman), Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST and Bishop Raphael Thattil (Members). In the Silver Jubilee of the Seminary the report proudly mentions that so far 279 priests were formed in the Seminary. The report expressed gratitude to Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC through whose initiative Seminary benefited from financial contributions.

4. St Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor: Fr Joy Ainiyadan, the Rector, presented the report of the St. Thomas Ap-

ostolic Seminary. The report says that the Seminary Community structured in the pattern of the ideal community of Jesus and his disciples which is modeled on the perfect community in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Seminary has 20 Resident Staff and 267 Students, hailing from 23 Eparchies and 10 religious congregations. The Seminary tries to impart integral formation to its Students, visualized by the Charter for priestly Formation in the Syro-Malabar Church. The report proudly mentions of the numerous publications of books and articles by the Teaching Staff.

General Discussion on Seminary Formation: There was suggestion that it would be more convenient and useful if all the seminaries adopt the same format for reporting, making use of the different dimensions of priestly formation and special features of each seminary. After necessary clarifications on the report of the four seminaries, in the general discussion the Major Archbishop said that Satna Seminary is the only Synodal Mission Seminary of our Church. Hence all our Mission Eparchies should own it, send their students to it and assist it with financial help. As advocated by *Amoris Laetitia*, it would be advisable that the seminaries strive for a family oriented formation. There need to have constant dialogue between staff and students in order to bridge the age gap and possible misunderstandings. The seminary formation has to take into consideration the global and missionary dimension of our Church. At the same time, allotting sufficient time for study and reflection, the intellectual formation should be fostered. There was some observation on improving the emotional maturity of our students so that they can interact with all section of people, especially women.

There was some reflection on the question of continuing with the degree courses before the Philosophy studies. Some bishops thought that it is financially difficult for some eparchies to send their students for graduation. Others said that it was after a long time of reflection and discernment that we decided to send our students for graduation and now it will be not advisable to reverse

that decision. At the end of the discussion, the general opinion was to continue with the present arrangement.

There was a suggestion that it would be helpful to make use of graphic designs to present the variation in the number of students when preparing the report of the seminaries. Another suggestion was that seminaries in the proper territory of our Church could send their seminarians to Satna Seminary for classes on Missiology and Mission exposure. As far as possible, all the seminaries are advised to take a uniform pattern for holidays. So also some sort of common understanding is to be envisaged regarding the mode of exams and marks in the seminaries. Evaluation of the students needs to be more precise, clarifying the positive and negative elements of the students and it should reach the respective bishops at least by January. There was also a suggestion that the staff and students should come together more often for meals and prayer. The seminary commissions need to take more time for the visit and evaluation of the seminaries. The study of Scripture should be so oriented as to enable the students to pray the Bible. The human formation has to enable the students to grow in affective maturity, humility, charity and obedience. Young priests need to be made aware of being more helpful, polite and loving. Married lay people could be invited to take classes on marriage and family life. The seminarians are to be made aware of the document issued by CBCI and KCBC on gender equality.

The Synod decided to request the seminaries to constitute Formation Consultation Council, incorporating lay people and religious men and women.

After a long discussion, the Synod decided to request the seminary commissions to present before the Synod their annual report of their respective seminaries and entrusted Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam to prepare a common format for the commission's report.

The Major Archbishop expressed deep gratitude of the Synod to the Rectors and Staff of the four Seminaries for their selfless service towards the formation of our future priests.

Land for the Syro-Malankara Church for Cemetery at Mangalapuzha: As requested by the eparchy of Muvattupuzha of the Syro-Malankara Church, and recommended by the Rector of the seminary and seminary commission, the Synod gave its consent to sell five cents of land from the property of Mangalapuzha Seminary campus for the use of the already existing cemetery.

Programme and Instrumentum Laboris of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Fr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil MCBS presented before the Synod detailed schedule of the programme of the Assembly. After some discussion the Synod approved it. Thereafter, the draft of the Instrumentum laboris of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly was presented. The Synod, with a few modifications, approved the text of the Instrumentum laboris, of which English, Malayalam and Hindi versions will be made available at the Assembly. The Major Archbishop expressed the appreciation of the Synod for the meticulous preparation for the Assembly under the leadership of the committee.

Congratulations to the Organizers of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: The Major Archbishop echoed the great appreciation of the Bishops regarding the excellent conduct of the fourth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly at Sahurdaya College of Engineering and Technology, Kodakara in the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda. The Major Archbishop congratulated the Episcopal Committee for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, especially its convener Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and its Secretary Fr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil MCBS for the flawless organization. The Major Archbishop further expressed his gratitude to the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, the Sahrudaya College, priests from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and all those who have, in one way or other, contributed to the success of the event. The Major Archbishop thanked the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda for generously financing the expenses of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.

Evaluation of the Proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Tony

Neelankavil, Fr Francis Eluvathingal and Fr Martin Kallungal, (members of the drafting committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly), Fr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil MCBS, (Secretary of the Assembly) and Fr Joby Maprakavil MST (Program coordinator). After an introduction by Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Convener of the Committee, Fr Tony Neelankavil, Fr Francis Eluvathingal and Fr Martin Kallungal presented the proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly based on the three major themes: Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants. In the discussion that followed, the Synod decided to request the Committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly with the help of Fr Tony Neelankavil, Fr Francis Eluvathingal, Fr Martin Kallungal, Fr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil MCBS, and Fr Joby Maprakavil MST to short list between fifteen to twenty most important proposals according to priority and present them to the Synod on the coming Friday. In the light of the discussion which would take place on Friday a circular will be prepared by the Major Archbishop. In the name of the Synod the Major Archbishop expressed gratitude to the Drafting Committee and the Secretary and Program Coordinator of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly for their cooperation in the success of the Assembly.

In continuation of the discussion of the previous day, Fr Tony Neelankavil, Fr Martin Kallungal and Fr Francis Eluvathingal, members of the Drafting Committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, presented shortlisted suggestions regarding the three themes of the Assembly, Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants and a few general suggestions. In the discussion that followed, it was decided to authorize the Committee for Major Archiepiscopal Assembly to publish on-line, with a note of approval of the Major Archbishop, the suggestions of the Assembly, presented in the Synod. The Synod also decided to request the Major Archbishop to issue an exhortation on the proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.

Statement of Accounts of Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Antu Alappadan,

Director, Sahrudaya College of Engineering & Technology, Fr. Joby Pozholiparampil, Proto-Syncellus, Fr. Varghese Arikkatt, Finance Officer, and Fr. Clement Chirayath, the Chancellor, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda. Fr. Antu Alappadan presented the Statement of the Receipts and Payments of the Assembly. The total expense of the Assembly is Rs. 29,09,763.00. This amount was collected through donations from Banks, Churches, Religious Congregations and individual persons. An amount of Rs. 6,75,000.00 was made available to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for meeting the expenses for the preparations of the Assembly and an amount of Rs. 1,75,000.00 will be set apart for meeting further expenses for printing the Acts of the Assembly, Execution of the resolutions of the Assembly, etc. Fr. Joby Maparakavil MST made a power point presentation of the evaluation of the Assembly by the participants. In general all appreciated the organization, food and accommodation, hospitality, time management, in-put sessions and group discussions.

The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and the entire team of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda for the excellent organization of the Assembly, especially for having met the whole expense of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.

Amendments to the Statutes of the Assembly: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the present Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly permits nomination of only limited number of people. As many who would be able to make significant contribution to the Assembly could not be nominated as per the provisions of the present Statutes, it was decided to request the committee for Canonical Questions to suggest amendments of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and present it in the August 2017 session of the Synod.

Facilities for Youth and Cancer Patients in Trivandrum: Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam informed the Synod that the Archeparchy of Changanacherry has started St John Paul II Youth Centre at Kazhakoottam, Trivandrum, near the Techno Park, for the benefit of young people coming there for job and studies. He

further informed the Synod about the Lourde Matha Care Home in Trivandrum, where cancer patients can have free lodging. At this point information was given that Vincentian Congregation and Sisters of the Destitute conduct similar facilities in Trivandrum.

Yoga: As yoga became popular there has been increasing differences of opinion on the Christian understanding of yoga. Hence the Synod decided to entrust Commission for Doctrine to study the Christian understanding of yoga, taking into consideration similar study by KCBC, and present it in the following Session of the Synod.

Ecumenical Directory: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Cherian (Joby) Karukaparampil, Secretary of the Commission for Ecumenism. After initial remarks by Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman of the Commission, Fr Joby presented draft of Call to be United: Ecumenical Directory of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church. During the discussion Bishops suggested a few improvements of the text. Finally, the members of the Synod were requested to forward their observations and corrections when they receive soft copy of the draft. The Synod requested the commission to study with the help of experts, "points to be clarified" proposed by the commission and present it in the January Session of the Synod.

Liturgical Matters:

a. Draft text of the Betrothal: Fr Francis Pittappillil read out the draft text of the Betrothal. It was followed by a detailed discussion in which several Bishops intervened making relevant corrections and suggestions for the improvement of the text. Towards the end, the Synod requested the Commission for Liturgy to study the matter thoroughly in the Special Committee, with the help of the language experts and to present the revised draft in the following Session of the Synod.

b. Revision of the Holy Qurbana: Fr Pauly Maniyattu read out the proposals for the revision of the Qurbana, agreed

by the Special Committee for Liturgy from those received from the Eparchies. Each of the Bishops from the Special Committee made brief comments on the proposals and said that there was consensus in the Committee regarding the above proposals. Several Bishops intervened in the discussion to clarify different points of the proposals. Due to lack of time further discussion on the matter was deferred. In a later sitting, it was decided, after a brief discussion, to request the Special Committee of Bishops for Liturgy to prepare a draft text of the Qurbana based on unanimous suggestions and observations by the Committee of Bishops and present it in August 2017 Session of the Synod.

c. Washing of feet in the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday: In an earlier discussion the Major Archbishop had sought the mind of the Synod regarding washing the feet on Maundy Thursday in the light of the document *In Missa In Cena Domini*. As there are theological and cultural issues in this ceremony, due to lack of time, the discussion was deferred. In a later sitting, during the discussion on liturgical matters, Fr Francis Pittappillil, Asst Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy, presented a study on the biblical and liturgical tradition of the washing of the feet. In a lively discussion that followed about twenty five Bishops participated. After considering various dimensions of the issue the Synod deferred the matter to the January 2017 Session. The Commission for Liturgy was asked to present it in the following Session of the Synod with more details.

d. The Homiletic Directory: In the light of the Homiletic Directory issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of Sacraments in 2015, as proposed by the Major Archbishop, Fr Francis Pittappillil, presented the general schema of the draft of the *Suvisesha praghoshana margarekha* (Homiletic Directory) of the Syro-Malabar Church prepared by the Commission for Liturgy. After a brief discussion the Synod gave its approval to go ahead with the project of the Homiletic Directory and to request the Commission to make available the revised

draft to the Bishops before the next Session of the Synod. In a later sitting, Bishop Thomas Elavanal, Chairman, Commission for Liturgy informed the Synod that soft copy of the Suvishesha praghoshana margarekha (Homiletic Directory) of the Syro-Malabar Church prepared by the Commission for Liturgy will be made available to all the Bishops and hard copy to those who need it. It was decided that the Bishops shall forward the suggestions regarding Suvishesha praghoshana margarekha (Homiletic Directory) of the Syro-Malabar Church by 15 November 2016 to the Chairman, Commission for Liturgy so that they could be presented in the January Session of the Synod. Bishop Thomas Elavanal, presented a copy of the English version of the Liturgy of Hours to all the Bishops.

e. Lectionary: Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy sought the permission of the synod to reprint Lectionaries in Malayalam as they are out of print. After a brief discussion the Synod gave its consent for reprinting the Lectionaries.

f. Abridged version of the Anaphora of Mar Nestorius: Bishop Thomas Elavanal, Chairman, Commission for Liturgy, introduced to the Synod two drafts of the abridged form of the Anaphora of Mar Nestorius. After some discussion the Synod decided that Bishops shall forward their suggestions on the two drafts of the abridged form of the Anaphora of Mar Nestorius at least before 15 November 2016, to the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy, so that the Special Committee of Bishops can study and present it in the January Session of the Synod.

g. Dress Code for the Permanent Deacon: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, sought the mind of the Synod about the possible dress code of the Permanent Deacons in our Church. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that this subject needs further study. Hence it was decided to request the Commission for Liturgy to study about the possible dress code for the Permanent Deacons, to be presented in the following Synod.

Reports of Commissions, Committees and Departments:

1. Report of the Commission for Liturgy: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, the Secretary and Fr Francis Pittappillil, Assistant Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy. After a brief introduction by Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, Chairman of the Commission, Fr Pauly Maniyattu presented the report which highlighted the main activities of the Commission for the year 2015-16.

2. Report of the Commission for Catechesis: The Secretary of the synod welcomed Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt, the Secretary of the Commission. Fr. Poochakkatt read out the report of the Commission of the year 2015-16. Bishop Jacob Manathodath expressed the gratitude of the Commission to Fr George Danavelil, its Secretary for the past five years. During the discussion that followed it was observed that the doctrinal content of the catechism text is excellent. However, it needs to be experiential and action oriented. There was also suggestion to make use of the Channels of Shalom and Goodness TV to popularize the content of the Catechism text. The Major Archbishop expressed thanks to the Commission and its Secretary.

3. Report of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Shaji Kochupurayil MCBS, the Secretary of the Commission who presented the report of the Commission. The commission expressed its joy that it could render some service in facilitating the establishment of the Eparchy of Great Britain and the appointment of the Apostolic Visitor in Europe. During the discussion it was mentioned that the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf Countries has to be sorted out with urgency. It was remarked that in some of the Gulf Countries the expression "Malayalam Qurbana" is being used instead of Syro-Malabar Qurbana and this has to be brought to the attention of the concerned authorities by the Commission. It was observed that the Commission has to provide priests for pastoral care in African countries like Nigeria, Tanzania, Ghana etc.

In the report it was mentioned that the Commission had conducted National Mission Consultations on “Syro-Malabar Church and Mission ad gentes today: The Prospects and Challenges”, at Vadavathoor, Thalassery and Kakkanad. Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara informed the Synod about the Mission Seminar scheduled for Oct 16-18, 2016 in Punjab and he invited all the Bishops to take part in it. The Major Archbishop expressed to the Commission the gratitude of the Synod.

4. Report of the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Sr. Vimal Jose CMC, Secretary of the Commission who presented the report, which, among other things, expressed the gratitude of the Major Superiors to the Major Archbishop and other Bishops for their paternal care and concern and encouragement, prayers and blessings. However the report mentioned that there exists a gap between the Hierarchy and the Religious. Hence the report requested the Synod to take up for consideration the views expressed by SMRC. During the discussion that followed the Synod requested Bishop Jose Porunedom, Chairman of the Commission, to interact with the representatives of the Major Superiors and understand their concerns and to present their suggestions in the next session of the Synod. The Synod shall discuss it and decide on the course of action for its execution. The Major Archbishop and Bishop Jose Porunedom expressed the gratitude of the Synod to Sr Vimal Jose CMC who served the Commission for the past five years.

5. Report of the Commission for Clergy: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Jimmychan Karthanam, the Secretary of the Commission for Clergy and invited him to present the report, in which he highlighted the activities of the Commission such as Seminar on Amoris Laetitia, Consultation on on-going formation for the clergy, Deacons’ get together and Golden and Silver Jubilarians’ get together. The report also put forward thirteen points on the on-going formation for the clergy for the consideration of the Synod. During the discussion it was mentioned that the

service of Fr Tom Pannalakunnel MSFS at Desham, could be made use of for empowering our clergy, especially those who are in crisis. There was also a suggestion to form a team of experts consisting of priests and nuns for pastoral on-going formation of the clergy. Concrete action plan on the on-going formation of the clergy has to be evaluated in the following Session of the Synod. The Major Archbishop expressed gratitude to the commission for clergy and its Secretary.

6. Report of the Commission for Doctrine: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Joseph Pamplany, the Secretary of the Commission and Fr. Francis Pittappillil, the Asst Secretary. Fr. Pamplany presented the report of the Commission in power point in which he highlighted the main activities and meetings conducted by the Commission during the year 2015-16. The two important concerns of this Commission were Spiritual Renewal Ministry (SRM) and Sannaradhana in Ramanathapuram.

a) Spiritual Renewal Ministry (SRM), Bengaluru: During the discussion that followed four possible errors in the movement were mentioned. 1) Extreme fundamentalism, 2) Unauthorized exorcism by the laity, 3) Erroneous Marian teaching and 4) Teaching on ancestral curse. Emeth is the official magazine of the SRM which is being circulated even among the Bishops. At the end of the discussion the Synod entrusted Bishop Joseph Kallaragatt, the Chairman of the Commission for Doctrine, to write a confidential letter to the Syro-Malabar Bishops indicating the danger of the movement and bring the issue to the attention of the CBCI Standing Committee.

b) Sannaradhana: With regard to the Sannaradhana of Dr. Leena, Ramanathapuram, following deviations were reported. 1) God has a daughter together with the Son Jesus, 2) Son of God will be born again through the daughter of God, 3) As Dr. Leena is the daughter of God she should be worshiped, 4) As Dr. Leena is the daughter of God she is sinless beyond any need of confession and therefore absolves the sins of the members of the group, 5) Salvation is restricted exclusively to those who worship the

daughter of God, 6) The group advocates millennialism 7) Two priests exercise priestly ministry without adherence to ecclesiastical authorities. At the end of the discussion it was decided to entrust the Doctrinal Commission, along with its secretary and Bishop Paul Alappatt, to present a study on Sannaradhana, movement led by Dr Leena, after having consulted Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, in the next Session of the Synod.

7. Report of the Commission for Ecumenism: The Secretary of the Commission for Ecumenism presented briefly the report of the Commission for the Year 2015-2016. The Major Archbishop thanked Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam and other members of the commission and its secretary for their activities for Ecumenism.

8. Report of the Commission for Youth: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Sebastian Kaippanplackal, the Secretary of the Commission for Youth who read out the report of the commission. The report appealed to the Bishops to take initiative to promote SMYM. The Synod requested Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril to write a circular to the Bishops to this effect. Fr Sebastian Kaippanplackal expressed the gratitude of the youth of our Church for the special recognition given to them in the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. The Secretary of the Commission presented to the Bishops the new logo and the flag of the SMYM. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission and its secretary for the good work they have done for our youth.

9. Report of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Adv. Jose Vithayathil, the Secretary, who presented its report by giving a brief history and activities of the Commission. In the report there was a suggestion to start a tri-monthly E-magazine by the Commission. The report placed on record the committed service of the former Secretary Mr. M. M. Jacob Mundackal. Bishop Mathew Arackal, the Chairman of the Commission, spoke about the need to bring the dalits to the mainstream of the society. During the discussion that followed, the following suggestions were made. 1) Different fo-

rums of the Commission shall work in perfect understanding with other Commissions. For example, the media forum shall function in close collaboration with the PRO of our Church. 2) We shall make sincere efforts to make use of the resources of the retired people of our community. 3) A Convention of the dalits could be organized in this Year of Mercy. Accordingly Synod decided to hold the Convention of dalits during an afternoon sitting in the January Session of the Synod 2017, at Mount St Thomas. 4) Commission shall find its own source of finance. The Major Archbishop clarified that the expression 'Synod' shall be used only for the Synod of Bishops of our church and 'Assembly' for Major Archiepiscopal/Eparchial Assembly. At the suggestion of the Major Archbishop the Synod requested the Commission for Family, Laity and Life to prepare plan of action for pro-life and present it in the following Session of the Synod. The Synod requested the Commission to present a detailed write up of the proposed E-magazine with its purpose and modalities and present it in the following Session of the Synod. The Major Archbishop congratulated Bishop Mathew Arackal and Adv. Jose Vithayathil for their committed service for the Commission.

- a) Report of the Mathruvedi: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Mrs. Giji Jacob Puliyamkunnel, the Secretary of Mathruvedi. The report placed on record its gratitude to the Synod for the approval of the bye-laws. The report also presented 10 point plan of action, the most important being Eliswa visit. Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Legate of the Mathruvedi explained that the Eliswa visit is very relevant in the contemporary society as it is to empower the expectant mothers through visits and counseling. The Synod requested Bishop Jose Pulickal to write, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, a letter to the Bishops about popularizing Eliswa visit. The Major Archbishop advised the Bishops of the Mission Eparchies to take initiatives to establish Mathruvedi in the respective eparchies. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Mathew Aniku-

zhikattil, Bishop Legate and Mrs. Giji Puliyamkunnel, the Secretary for their service for the Commission.

- b) Report of Kudumbakoottayma (Family Units): The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Lawrence Thaikkattil, General Convener, who presented the report. Thereafter, the following suggestions emerged. 1) The Family Units in all the eparchies function according to the Statutes approved by the Synod. 2) Starting of a E-News letter. 3) Training programmes in three zones. 4) On the occasion of the Family Day, a circular letter by the Major Archbishop, on the relevance of Family units will be most welcome. 5) Family Units are very fertile grounds for promoting vocations. 6) Campaign against drug addiction through Family Units. 7) Help through Family Units to boys who cannot find suitable brides. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, the Bishop Legate and Fr Lawrence Thaikkattil, General Convener, for their hard work.
- c) Report of Family Apostolate: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Joseph Kollakombil, the Secretary. During the discussion that followed Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil appreciated cooperation from the eparchies and requested to send more people for the programmes and meetings. He added that the introduction of Couples Ministry in the parishes would be an effective means to empower families. Bishop Pauly Kannookadan thanked the Family Apostolate for the survey it had conducted among our families in preparation for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
- d) Report of Catholic Congress: The Secretary of the synod welcomed Adv. Biju Parayannilam, Secretary of Catholic Congress who read out its report of the year 2015-16. In the report it was suggested that the Synod recognize activities of Catholic Congress as Mission work and that efforts shall be taken to spread the Catholic Congress to all the Eparchies especially in the Missions. The draft of the Statutes of Catholic Congress was submitted. After some

discussion the Synod gave its final approval to the Statutes and suggested that the political and social climate of other States should be taken into account while implementing its provisions. The Major Archbishop advised the members of the Catholic Congress that they shall study the history of the Church especially from its spiritual dimension and that they should foster mutual respect and a culture of dialogue in their meetings. During the discussion there was a suggestion to have a padayathra for the Catholic Congress members through the seven and a half Churches. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Remigio Inchananiyil, Bishop-legate and Adv. Biju Parayannilam for their dedicated service for the Commission.

At this moment the Major Archbishop expressed the deep gratitude of the Synod to Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil for his strenuous efforts to advance the different activities of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life, especially Catholic Congress, Mathruvedi, Kudumbakoottayma and Family Apostolate.

10. Report of the Commission for Vocations: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Shaji Kochupurayil MCBS, the Secretary of the Commission. He presented before the Synod the various activities of the Commission, especially the vocation survey. The report presented also ten points of suggestions for the promotion of vocation. During the discussion the Synod decided that the promotion of CML in the Syro-Malabar Eparchies shall be undertaken by the Commission for vocation. The Major Archbishop reminded that the parish priests are the primary vocation promoters and they should be properly motivated to promote all the vocations: diocesan, religious, both men, including brothers and women. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its service.

11. Report of the Committee for Public Affairs: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr George Madathiparampil, Secretary of the Committee for Public Affairs, who presented its report. The report made reference to the voting pattern of the re-

cent assembly election in Kerala. It expressed concern about the activities of the IS in our community including our educational institutions. It was suggested to involve Catholic Congress in the activities of the Public Affairs whereby we will be able to promote lay leadership of our community.

12. Report of the Committee for Higher Education: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr George Madathiparampil, Secretary of the Committee for Higher Education, who presented the report of the various activities of the Committee like the programmes conducted for Managers, Principals, Staff and Students in order to inspire them to improve academic standards as well as help them deepen their commitment to Christian values. During the discussion it was observed that special attention is to be paid to the poor in our community who find it difficult to get admission for their children in Catholic schools and colleges. The Major Archbishop thanked the Committee for its service.

13. Report of the Committee for School Education: In the absence of Fr Jacob Palackapilly, the Secretary of the Committee, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, convener of the Committee for School Education and Special Schools read out the report. During the discussion that followed the Bishops were advised to send dissenting note regarding the national policy on education of the Central Government.

14. Report of the Syro-Malabar Social Mission Network: In the absence of the Fr Michael Vettickat, Chief Coordinator of the Syro-Malabar Social Mission Network, Bishop Mathew Arackal, presented its report. In the first meeting held in November 2015, fifty eight Social Organizations participated with a view to knowing each other, understanding each others' good practices, learning from each other etc. Although Syro-Malabar Social Mission Network was named Spandanam, there was a suggestion to rename it as Spandan, but no decision was taken on the matter. The report mentioned that a convention is envisaged for October 2016 during which it is expected that its first news letter will be released. The Synod decided to give green signal to the Syro-Ma-

labar Social Mission Network. The Major Archbishop expressed his best wishes to Bishop Mathew Arackal and his team. The Synod placed on record its appreciation to Rev. Fr. Antony Kollanur, the Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor who had come forward with the concept of establishing Social Mission Network for the Syro-Malabar Church.

15. Report of the Internet Mission: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Joby Maprakavil MST, the Executive Director, who presented the activities of the Internet Mission in power point. The main activities of the Mission are web development, web application, web hosting, face book integration, designing management system and live streaming. Bishop Jose Porunedom expressed gratitude to those who already cooperate with the Internet Mission and requested the cooperation of others. The two important suggestions that came up during the discussion were electronic voting and paperless communication. It was agreed that we could implement immediately paperless E-communication whereas it is not yet time for introducing electronic voting system in the Synod. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Jose Porunedom and Fr Joby Maprakavil MST for their fruitful service for the Internet Mission.

16. Report of the PRO: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Jimmy Poochakkatt, the Public Relations Officer of the Syro-Malabar Church and Fr Mathew Chandrankunnel, Fr Abraham Kavilpurayidom and Mr. P.I. Lazar, Associate Public Relations Officers. The Major Archbishop and several Bishops appreciated the excellent work and coordination of the PRO team, especially the presentation of the position of the Church regarding the resolutions of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly on the Television channels. Fr Jimmy Poochakkatt presented before the Synod a short report of the functioning and activities of the Public Relations Office.

17. Report of LRC: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Peter Kannampuzha, the Executive Director of LRC. Fr Peter presented, along with the statements of account, the principal

activities of LRC namely research seminars, publications, Mar w-allah Syriac Academy and the Museum. Bishop Pauly Kannoorkadan, the Chairman of LRC, gave a briefing about the project of the new building of Museum for which the Major Archbishop is taking great interest. The total budget of the project is Rs. 8 crores for which the L'Oeuvre d'Orient of Paris has already given Rs. 36 lakhs and has promised further periodical substantial helps. After some discussion the Synod approved the project of the new building for the St Thomas Christian Museum. The Major Archbishop congratulated the LRC Board of Directors and Fr. Peter for the excellent work not only for LRC but also for the Curia in general.

18. Report of ASSM: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Joseph Pulavelil, the Secretary of ASSM to present the report. Some of the important programmes reported by the Secretary include: "Sponsor a Seminarian", "Sponsor a sister", "Preshitavaram" etc. During the discussion that followed it was decided to change the name of ASSM to Syro-Malabar Mission. It was suggested to continue to celebrate Preshitavaram and make a separate collection for helping the Syro-Malabar Missions. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Raphael Thattil and Fr Joseph Pulavelil for the committed service they do for the mission.

19. Report of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jose Chiramel, the President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal and invited him to present the report. Fr. Chiramel presented a detailed report of the various activities of the Tribunal giving statistical data of the marriage cases dealt with in the Tribunal. He noted that after the promulgation of the new motu proprio, Mitis et Misericors Iesus there is a notable decline in the cases that are being referred to the appellate tribunal. During the discussion that followed it was mentioned that in the present scenario there is a possible danger of laxity in the procedure in the Eparchial tribunals. Hence the Synod requested Archbishop Mathew Moolakatt OSB, General Moderator for Administration of Justice, to write to the eparchial

tribunals requesting them to safe guard the thoroughness of the legal procedure and to forward a soft copy of the judgment to the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal. The Bishops were requested to promote the journal Eastern Legal Thought. The Major Archbishop appreciated the work in the tribunal and expressed his gratitude.

20. Report of the Activities of the Curia: Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor, presented the report of the various activities of the Curia and visits of important guests to the Curia and main programmes of the Major Archbishop in different eparchies, mission centres and abroad. The Bishops appreciated the brief presentation.

21. Financial Report of the Curia: The Secretary welcomed Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer who presented the Statement of Accounts of the Receipts and Payments of the Curia from 1-4-15 to 31 -3-16. The report highlighted deficit of income and in order to make up the deficit the Synod decided to request the Major Archbishop to call a meeting of the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Commission for Finance and of other Commissions and departments to decide upon their share of contributions around 10% of their income to the Curia. Another suggestion was that the Eparchies abroad contribute \$2 per person towards sabhadinam collection. Bishops abroad expressed their willingness to cooperate with this suggestion.

Honours and Titles: The Major Archbishop briefed the Synod that at present only three Titles are given by the Church to outstanding personalities in our Church. They are Malpan, Vaidikaratnam and Sabhataram. It seems that there are more people who deserve to be honoured but do not come within the parameters of the above three Titles. Hence there was suggestion to institute a few more Titles and Honours. Although there were some suggestions like Satguru, Karmayogi. Karunikan, Paremakkal Thomakathanar Award, Mar Joseph Kariyattil Award, Nidhiri Manikathanar Award and Preshita Award, due to lack of

time the discussion was inconclusive. It was suggested that conferring award would be more preferable than conferring honours. Therefore, the Synod requested the Committee for Honours and Titles to write to the Bishops seeking their suggestions for further honours, titles, awards and present them in the following Session Synod.

Letter from the Rota Regarding Free Legal Defense and Course for Bishops on the Reform in the Matrimonial Matters: The Major Archbishop gave the information regarding a letter from the Dean of the Roman Rota that a fund will assure free legal defense, both of parties and of the Bond in the Roman Rota defraying the high costs of the Holy See and at the same time it will be of assistance to the Bishops of the poor Churches in the defense and promotion of justice through the formation of experts. At the request of many Bishops a course for Bishops on the reform in the matrimonial matters will be held in Rome on 17 and 18 November 2016.

Discussion on the Issues in Kuwait Syro-Malabar Community: The Synod discussed recent confusion regarding liturgical matters in the Syro-Malabar community in Kuwait. At the conclusion the Synod came to an understanding that the celebration of the liturgy in the diaspora communities shall be according to the already existing decision of the Synod, with due liturgical catechesis. The Major Archbishop exhorted the Bishops that priests shall be sent to the diaspora communities only with the understanding with the Major Archbishop and the Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. In the discussion that continued in a later sitting, the Major Archbishop read out the letter which he intends to send to the delegation who had met him on the occasion of the sabhadinam. In the letter the Major Archbishop has stated that now he understands that the mode of liturgical celebration would have been acceptable if it were introduced after sufficient preparation and catechesis to the people. He reminded them of the decision of the

Synod that the mode of celebration of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana shall only be the one approved by the Synod of Bishops as given in the Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the migrants.

Bishops' Delegation to Kuwait: Archbishop Kuriakose Bhanikulangara presented the report of the meeting of the Synodal delegation with the Apostolic Vicars Bishop Camillo Ballin and Bishop Paul Hinder in Abu Dhabi on March 17, 2016. Following points were discussed in the meeting. 1. Possibility of creating personal/ritual parishes, 2. Appointment of Diocesan priests, and 3. Syro-Malabar Catholic Association, SMCA. In general the situation did not appear to be satisfactory.

Forthcoming Synodal Sessions: The Synod decided to fix the time for the following Synodal Sessions:

Monday, 9 January, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m. Saturday, 14 January 2017

Monday, 21 August, 10. 00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 1 September 2017

Monday, 8 January, 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Saturday, 13 January 2018

Monday, 20 August, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 31 August 2018

Monday, 7 January, 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Saturday, 12 January 2019

Monday, 19 August, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 30 August 2019

Deepika: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that there is an increase in the circulation of Deepika especially because of the activities of Deepika Friends Club (DFC). However, Deepika needs further financial support. Major Archbishop requested the Bishops to buy shares or encourage others from our community to do so.

Long Term Work Plan for Various Commissions: Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Moderator of the Sitting, introduced the topic stating that there are some Commissions with long term work plans whereas some others do not have them. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that all Commissions shall have long term plans. Together with the report each Commission shall present action plan and budget estimate too.

Report on the 12 A Registration and PAN Card: Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, on behalf of the Committee appointed for taking legal follow up to challenge the stand of the Income Tax Department making registration of individual churches and convents as separate Trusts mandatory for issuing the 12 A Registration and PAN Card, briefed the Synod on the follow up actions taken by the Committee in this regard. After some initial probe in the matter, three of our chartered accountants, Mr. Jose Pottokaran, Mr. L. Kuriakose and Mr. C.J. Romid met a prominent lawyer from Chennai, who after having heard our case, has agreed to take it up when the case comes for hearing in the High Court. The advocate is convinced of our position that each individual church or convent needs not register itself as separate trust for getting 12 A Registration and PAN Card, but can remain as part of the diocese or the Provincialate or Generalate and be eligible for the above documents.

Syro-Malabar Anthem: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Fr Peter Kannampuzha, the Executive Director of LRC, presented the recorded audio version of the Syro-Malabar Church anthem with musical accompaniment and without. The Synod approved it. The Major Archbishop expressed the gratitude of the Synod to Bishop Pauly Kannokadan and Fr Peter Kannampuzha for their strenuous efforts in producing the anthem. At the request of the Bishops it was informed that the anthem will be produced in other relevant languages.

In the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly when the question came up with regard to the use of Syro-Malabar Anthem, it was

informed that answer to this question will be given after discussion in the Synod. Hence it was decided that Anthem shall be sung everywhere on the St. Thomas Day. Singing Anthem on other occasions is left to the discretion of each eparchy. Syro-Malabar Anthem does not replace Papal Anthem or National Anthem.

Scrutiny of the Decisions: The Secretary read out the decisions of the XXIV Synod, Session 2, including the decisions of the last day. After a brief discussion the Synod gave its final approval with some modifications.

Conclusion of the Synod: The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present session and gave the concluding address. The Major Archbishop in his concluding message appreciated the sense of openness and oneness manifested in this Session of the Synod. He appealed the Synod to make good use of this new spirit of cordiality and build upon it the ever desired unity and communion of our Church. He expressed his hope that this will be kept in the mind of the Synod in our attempt to revise the Text of the Holy Qurbana and other liturgical Texts. The Major Archbishop congratulated and thanked the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly Committee of Bishops headed by Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Rajendran and the entire team from Sahrudaya College of Engineering and Technology, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, and the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the successful conduct of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. He assured the Knanaya community that they will be helped to feel one in the Syro-Malabar Church by pastoral care being provided as far as possible by their own priests, with due respect to the directives given by the Apostolic see. Major Archbishop recalled with gratitude the meritorious service of His Excellency Most Rev. Salvatore Penacchio, our Apostolic Nuncio who will leave India in October this year for his new appointment in Poland.

The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude also to the remarkable service of Bishop Bosco Puthur who had served the

Synod as Secretary for the past five years. He appreciated the way in which Bishop Bosco has been proposing the minutes of the Synodal Sittings, monitoring several programmes and celebrations of the Synod. He welcomed Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the new Secretary. While congratulating the new Bishops elect, Fr. Joseph Srampickal and Mgr. Stephen Chirappanath, the Major Archbishop assured full cooperation and support for their forthcoming Episcopal ordinations and future apostolate. Expressing his gratitude to all who have helped to make this Synod successful, the Major Archbishop formally closed the Second Session of the XXIV Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church at 6.00 p.m. on 2 September 2016.

Bosco Puthur, Secretary
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Mount St. Thomas,
2 September 2016

XXIV SYNOD (2016), SESSION II 22 AUG TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

DECISIONS

1. To give permission to Bishop Raphael Thattil, the Apostolic Visitation, to visit all the Syro-Malabar Archeparchies and Eparchies with prior information, to speak to the faithful about the work of the Apostolic Visitation and to make Mission Appeal.
2. To request the eparchies in Kerala to help the Apostolic Visitation for buying land and constructing churches in the migrant centres.
3. To approve the schedule of the programme of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
4. To approve the instrumentum laboris of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
5. To authorize the Committee for Major Archiepiscopal Assembly to publish on-line, with a note of approval of the Major Archbishop, the suggestions of the Assembly presented in the Synod.
6. To request the Major Archbishop to issue an Exhortation on the proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
7. To request the committee for Canonical Questions to suggest amendments of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and present it in the August 2017 session of the Synod.
8. To hold in one sitting of the Synod Region wise discussions in the following four groups, namely, 1) Eparchies in Kerala, 2) Eparchies within the proper territory, outside Kerala,

- 3) Other Eparchies in India and 4) Eparchies and Exarchy outside India.
9. To publish a press release protesting against the Government policy of taking over 100% seats in Self-financing Medical Colleges and not granting permission to the self financing colleges to start new courses recognized by the university.
 10. To entrust the formulation of the action plan of the reception of the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* to a committee consisting of Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, co-opting experts if needed, and submit it in the following session of the Synod.
 11. To entrust Bishop George Madathikandathil (Convener), Bishop Paul Alappatt and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST to compile suggestions of the Bishops for the revision of the mutuae relationes and present them to the Major Archbishop.
 12. To request Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Jose Pulickal and Bishop Remegiose Inchananiyil to prepare concrete action plan regarding the palliative care mobile services.
 13. To request Bishop Thomas Chakiath (Convener), Bishop Jose Pulickal and Bishop Jose Porunnedom to prepare a handbook on environmental protection and civic culture for the education of the people, especially of the youth and children.
 14. To request the Episcopal Members of the Committee on the criteria for declaring a Saint 'Father of the Church' in the Syro-Malabar Church *sui iuris* to present their considered opinion on declaring St Kuriakose Elias Chavara Father of the Syro-Malabar Church, in the following Session of the Synod.

15. To request the Major Archbishop to convene a meeting of the Rectors, Vice-Rectors, Presidents and Prefects of Studies of the Major Seminaries to share with them the results of the visitation.
16. To request the Major Archbishop to dialogue with the Rector and other officials and Staff of each Major Seminary on pertinent points from the reports that concern their Seminary.
17. To request the Major Archbishop, on grave and delicate points regarding the formation in the Major Seminaries, to demand competent authorities to take appropriate measures on the matter.
18. To entrust Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to formulate a method for evaluating formators and professors in the Major Seminaries and present it in the following Session of the Synod.
19. To request the seminaries to constitute Formation Consultation Council, incorporating lay people and religious men and women.
20. To request the seminary commissions to present before the Synod their annual report on their respective seminaries.
21. To entrust Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam to prepare a common format for the seminary commission's annual report to be presented before the Synod.
22. To give its assent to sell five cents of land from the property of Mangalapuzha Seminary campus for the use of the already existing cemetery, as requested by the eparchy of Muvattupuzha of the Syro-Malankara Church, and recommended by the rector of the seminary and seminary commission.
23. To request the Members of the Synod to forward their observations and corrections when they receive soft copy of

the draft of "Call to be United: Ecumenical Directory of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church".

24. To request the Commission for Ecumenism to study with the help of experts, "points to be clarified" proposed by the commission and present it in the January Session of the Synod.
25. To entrust the Commission for Doctrine to study the Christian understanding of yoga, taking into consideration similar study by KCBC, and present it in the following Session of the Synod.
26. To entrust the Commission for Doctrine, along with its Secretary and Bishop Paul Alappatt, to present a study on San-naradhana, movement led by Dr. Leena, after having consulted Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, in the next Session of the Synod.
27. To form a Committee consisting of Bishop Raphael Thattil (Convener), Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Bosco Puthur, Bishop Jacob Angadiath and Bishop Jose Kalluvellil to hold a dialogue with the leaders of the Jesus Youth for better understanding and cooperation.
28. To entrust Bishop Raphael Thattil, Convener, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Pauly Kannookadan to continue the dialogue with Jesus Youth leaders and to present in the next session of the Synod a document of understanding.
29. To write in due time to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches informing of our concerns and giving suggestions for amendment in the Statutes of the Jesus Youth.
30. To request Archbishop Mathew Moolakatt OSB, General Moderator for Administration of Justice, to write to the eparchial tribunals requesting them to safe guard the thoroughness of the legal procedure and to forward a soft copy of the judgment to the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal

31. To request Bishop Jose Porunnedom to interact with the representatives of the Major Superiors and understand their concerns and to present their suggestions in the next session of the Synod.
32. To make the promotion of CML in the Syro-Malabar Eparchies the responsibility of the Commission for Vocation.
33. To give green signal to the Syro-Malabar Social Mission Network.
34. To request the Committee for Honours and Titles to write to the Bishops seeking their suggestions for further honours, titles, awards and present them in the following Session Synod.
35. To rename the Commission for Family and Laity as Commission for "Family, Laity and Life".
36. To request the Commission for Family, Laity and Life to present a detailed write up of the proposed E-magazine with its purpose and modalities and present it in the following Session of the Synod.
37. To request the Commission for Family, Laity and Life to prepare plan of action for pro-life and present it in the following Session of the Synod.
38. To request Bishop Jose Pulickal to write, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life, a letter to all the Bishops about popularizing Eliswa visit.
39. To hold a Convention of dalits during an afternoon sitting in the January Session of the Synod 2017, at Mount St Thomas.
40. To give the final approval to the Statutes of the Catholic Congress.

41. To involve Catholic Congress in the activities of the Public Affairs whereby we will be able to promote lay leadership of our community.
42. To change the name of ASSM to Syro-Malabar Mission.
43. To approve the project of the new building for the St Thomas Christian Museum.
44. To request the Commission for Liturgy to study the draft text of the betrothal thoroughly in the Special Committee, with the help of the language experts and to present the revised draft in the following Session of the Synod.
45. To request the Special Committee of Bishops for Liturgy to prepare a draft text of the Qurbana based on their unanimous suggestions and observations and present it in August 2017 Session of the Synod.
46. To defer the discussion on the washing of feet in the Liturgy of Maundy Thursday requesting the Commission for Liturgy to present the matter in the following Session of the Synod with more details.
47. To give its approval to go ahead with the project of the Homiletic Directory and to request the commission for Liturgy to make available the revised draft to the Bishops before the next Session of the Synod.
48. To give consent for reprinting the Lectionaries.
49. To request the Bishops to forward the suggestions regarding Suvisha praghoshana margarekha (Homiletic Directory) of the Syro-Malabar Church by 15 November 2016 to the Chairman, Commission for Liturgy so that they could be presented in the January Session of the Synod.
50. To Request the Bishops to forward their suggestions on the two versions of the Anaphora of Nestorius at least before fifteenth November to the Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy, so that the special committee of Bishops can study and present it in the January Session of the Synod.

51. To request the Commission for Liturgy to study about the possible dress code for the Permanent Deacons, to be presented in the following synod.
52. To request the Major Archbishop to hold a meeting of the Chairmen and Secretaries of the Commission for Finance and of other Commissions and Departments to decide upon their share of contribution around 10% of their income to the Curia, in order to make up the deficit of the income of the Curia.
53. To fix the time for the following Synodal Sessions:
 Monday, 9 January, 10.00 a.m.- 6.00 p.m. Saturday, 14 January 2017
 Monday, 21 August, 10. 00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 1 September 2017
 Monday, 8 January, 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Saturday, 13 January 2018
 Monday, 20 August, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 31 August 2018
 Monday, 7 January, 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. Saturday, 12 January 2019
 Monday, 19 August, 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. Friday, 30 August 2019
54. To approve the anthem of the Syro-Malabar Church.
55. To designate St. Thomas Day on which the Syro-Malabar Anthem is to be sung everywhere and to leave to the discretion of each eparchy to designate other occasions, without making it a substitute for Papal Anthem or National Anthem

+ Bosco Puthur, Secretary
 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
 Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Mount St. Thomas,
 2 September 2016

XXIV SYNOD (2016) SESSION 2 22 AUGUST- 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

CONCLUDING ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops, Bishops and Bishops-Elect,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Coming to the close of this Synodal Session let us thank God for all the blessings and helps He has bestowed on us during these days. Together with the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly this Session of the Synod has been a time of blessing in which the Lord has taken us further to a greater step of unity and credibility in the Church. The Synod and the Assembly manifested greater sense of openness and oneness. It is up to us to make good use of this new spirit of cordiality and build upon it the ever desired unity and communion of our Church. St. Paul Says, "Forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal" (Phil. 3: 13-14). Although St. Paul speaks about the final goal of our life, the principle is also good for our goal of liturgical unity.

The organization of our Major Archiepiscopal Assembly gained unanimous applause of the participants and our gratitude goes to the Committee of Bishops headed by Bishop Pauly Kanoorkadan and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop George Rajendran who worked in unison with him. Let us thank also those who co-operated wholeheartedly both from the Curia of the Church and the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda. The conveniences and facilities of Sahrudaya College of Engineering and Technology contributed much to the success of the Assembly. Let me place on record our heartfelt thanks to the management of the Sahrudaya

College. May God bless them abundantly! The Synod owes immense gratitude to Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, for having met the whole expense of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and also the money needed for its remaining activities from the curia. With a big hand we express our gratitude.

Regarding the unity in liturgical celebrations, repeatedly requested by the people, has the present proposal: "The Assembly appeals to the entire Syro-Malabar faithful for the unity in liturgy and uniformity in its essentials". Therefore, let us keep this proposal in our mind in our attempts to revise the text of the Holy Qurbana and other liturgical texts.

Let me bring to your special attention the new emphasis in our role of overseeing as Bishops: liturgical unity, promotion and formation of vocations, the ministry of mercy, the family oriented pastoral care, simplicity in life, solidarity with the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful and their Christian witness, farmers' issues, educational and social apostolate, concerns of eco-friendly life, the strengthening of the Catholic Congress and the promotion of Deepika.

While congratulating once again our new Bishops-elect, let us give full co-operation and support for their forthcoming Episcopal ordinations and future apostolate.

The Knanaya community has to be helped to feel their oneness within the Syro-Malabar Church by providing pastoral care as far as possible by their own priests, with due respect to the directives given by the Apostolic see.

I would also like to place on record the meritorious service of His Excellency Most Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal for the last six years. He was a friend to all the Bishops. We all appreciated his style of service which he exercised with commitment, love and enthusiasm. He will leave India in October, this year, for his new appointment in Poland.

Even though we had occasion to thank him during the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, I remember him in a special way now at the conclusion of this Synodal Session and wish him every success in his future ministry.

It is to be placed on record the remarkable service of Bishop Bosco Puthur as Secretary of the Synod during past five years. In proposing the minutes of the Synodal sittings, and the reports, he has been highly diligent and loyal to the thinking of the Synod. He has also successfully monitored many of the programmes and celebrations in connection with the Synodal sessions. Thank you very much Bishop Bosco! Let me welcome Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the new Secretary, to this important office of the Synod. Our best wishes and prayers to you, Bishop Kariyil!

On 4th September takes place the Canonization of Mother Teresa of Kolkata in Rome by Pope Francis. The presence of the Indian Delegation for this historic event will surely take overseas the prestige of our great nation. Let us give glory to the Lord for the gift of Mother Teresa who has become a heroic Christian witness to the heritage of holiness of the people of India.

The cultural programmes of the Assembly and Synod were truly entertaining the audience and we owe our thanks to the artists and the supporting staff. I request Bishop Thomas Elavanal to extend our special note of appreciation to the KEY BAND of the Eparchy of Kalyan who could perform their Music Programme in World Youth Day at Krakow, Poland.

Finally let me express my gratitude to all those who helped in the conduct of the Synod, the Moderators Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Bishop Jose Porunnedom and Bishop Anthony Chirayath who have wisely guided the proceedings of this Session of our Synod. I express my gratitude in a special way to Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, who carries out his duties of the Curia with care and devotedness. I thank also Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer, who manages efficiently the financial affairs

of the curia, the profitable cultivation of the land and the upkeep of the curia precincts. My special thanks are due to Fr. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Vice-Chancellor I and Fr Paul Robin Thekkath, Vice Chancellor II. I thank also the resident and non-resident Secretaries of the Commissions, other priests functioning for the Curia, CSN Sisters and Sr Akhila CMC and other members of the Staff and their helpers who serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The next Synodal Session is scheduled for 9 January from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. on 14 January 2017.

While thanking you for the love and concern you show towards me and the wholehearted support you give for my humble service, I entrust our Synod, the priests, the religious and the lay faithful of our Church to the protection of Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas, our Father in faith, St. Alphonsa, St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, St Euphrasia and the Blessed of our Church.

With these words I formally declare the Second Session of the XXIV Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

2 September 2016
Kakkanad

George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

PASTORAL LETTERS CIRCULARS

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 bncn; s«.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരിസഹോദരന്മാരേ,

സാർവ്വത്രിക സഭ കാരുണ്യവർഷം ആഘോഷിക്കുന്ന സന്ദർഭമാണല്ലോ ഇത്. നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ അതിരൂപതകളിലും രൂപതകളിലും കാരുണ്യവർഷത്തിന്റെ സന്ദേശം മെത്രാന്മാരും വൈദികരും സമർപ്പിതരും അല്പമായരായ സഹോദരി സഹോദരന്മാരും നന്നായി സ്വീകരിച്ചുകാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷം അറിയിക്കുന്നു.

കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള റോമിൽ നടന്ന രണ്ടു സിനഡുകൾക്കുശേഷം ഈ കാരുണ്യവർഷത്തിൽ തന്നെ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ സന്തോഷം എന്ന അപ്പസ്തോലിക പ്രബോധനം പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ പ്രബോധന രേഖയുടെ ഉള്ളടക്കത്തെയും അത് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന കുടുംബനവീകരണ പദ്ധതികളെയും കുറിച്ച് നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ മേലധ്യക്ഷന്മാരുടെയും മറ്റ് സഭാശ്രമശുഷകരുടെയും ലേഖനങ്ങളും നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളുമൊക്കെ സഭാമക്കൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയുമാണ്.

കുടുംബത്തെ ത്രിത്വൈകദൈവത്തിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനമേഖലയായിട്ടാണ് പരിശുദ്ധപിതാവ് കാണുന്നത്. ഇനി മുതൽ സഭയുടെ അജപാലനപരവും പ്രേഷിതപരവുമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ കുടുംബത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുള്ളതാകണം എന്നു പറയാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. സഭാശ്രമശുഷാർത്ഥികളിൽ അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ മാറ്റം വന്നാലെ ഇതു സാധ്യമാകുകയുള്ളൂ. ദൈവാരാധന, വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനം, ഇടവകപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ, പ്രത്യേക പ്രേഷിത പരിപാടികൾ, ഇടവകയിലെ ഘടനാപരമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയിലൂടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരവും ആതുരശ്രമശുഷാപരവും സാമൂഹി

കക്ഷേമപരവും പരസ്പരഹിതപരവുമായ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെയും അടിസ്ഥാനമായി കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ നന്മയും വളർച്ചയും ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കുവാൻ നാം പരിശ്രമിക്കണമെന്നതാണ് ഈ പുതിയ ശൈലിക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ വീക്ഷണം. അതിനുള്ള ചർച്ചകൾ, കുടുംബക്കൂട്ടായ്മ, സംഘടനകൾ വിശിഷ്യ, കത്തോലിക്കാ കോൺഗ്രസ്സ്, സെമിനാറുകൾ എന്നിവയിലൂടെ ജനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് എത്തിക്കുവാൻ അജപാലകർ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു.

ജൂലൈ 3-ാം തീയതി വിശ്വാസത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർത്തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ ദുക്നാനാതിരുനാൾ നാം ആഘോഷിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. തോമാശ്ലീഹാ നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ പിതാവായാൽ ദുക്നാനാതിരുനാളിൽ സഭയെത്തന്നെയാണ് നാം ചിന്താവിഷയമാക്കേണ്ടത്. ലോകത്തിൽ സഭയുടെ ദൗത്യം മിശിഹായുടെ ദൗത്യം തന്നെയാണ്. ദൈവത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹം പ്രഘോഷിക്കുവാനും ആ സ്നേഹത്തിനു സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുവാനും ജീവൻ തന്നെയും വിലയായിക്കൊടുത്തും മിശിഹായെപ്പോലെ ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന് സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുവാനുമുള്ള വിളിയാണ് ക്രൈസ്തവ ദൈവവിളി.

സിറിയായിലും മറ്റ് പശ്ചിമേഷ്യൻ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലും ക്രൈസ്തവ വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ പേരിൽ മനുഷ്യർ ക്രൂരമായി കൊല്ലപ്പെടുന്ന വേദനാജനകമായ സംഭവങ്ങൾ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ നാം അറിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. ആ വീരാത്മാക്കളെ നമുക്കു ദൈവതിരുസന്നിധിയിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കാം. നമ്മുടെ ഭാരതത്തിലും വിശ്വാസത്തിനു വേണ്ടി പീഡനങ്ങൾ ഏല്ക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്ന ക്രൈസ്തവസഹോദരങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ട്. ഏതവസരത്തിലും വിശ്വാസത്തിനു സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കുവാനുള്ള ശക്തി നമുക്കു ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടി നാം നിരന്തരം പ്രാർഥിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. വിശ്വാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി രക്തസാക്ഷിത്വം വരിച്ചവനാണ് മാർത്തോമ്മാ ശ്ലീഹാ. മാർത്തോമ്മായുടെ മക്കളും വിശ്വാസത്തിനുവേണ്ടി വീരോചിതസാക്ഷ്യം നല്കുവാൻ സന്നദ്ധരാകണം.

തോമാശ്ലീഹാ പ്രേഷിതനാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തെപ്പോലെ നാമും പ്രേഷിതരാകേണ്ടവരാണ്. 'ഞാൻ സുവിശേഷം പ്രസംഗിക്കുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ എനിക്കു ദുരിതം' (1 കോറി. 9: 16) എന്നാണ് പൗലോസ് ശ്ലീഹാ പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നത്. സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾ അനുകൂലമായാലും പ്രതികൂലമായാലും സുവിശേഷം ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന ത്യാഗം ഏറ്റെടുക്കാനും നമുക്കു കഴിയണം. ഇന്നത്തെ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ പ്രേഷി

തപ്രവർത്തനമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മിശിഹാ നൽകിയ സുവിശേഷമുല്പാദനങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിൽ പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കുകയും ഇതര മതങ്ങളിലെയും സംസ്കാരങ്ങളിലെയും മൂല്യങ്ങളോട് ചേർത്തു സുവിശേഷമുല്പാദനങ്ങളെ മനുഷ്യസമൂഹത്തിന്റെ പൊതുസമ്പത്തായി മാറ്റുകയും ചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണ്. ജാതിമതഭേദമന്യേ എല്ലാവരോടും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ഒന്നുചേർന്നു ജീവിക്കുവാനും ജീവിതത്തിന്റേതായ സംവാദത്തിലൂടെ മാനവസമൂഹത്തെ പൊതുവായ ഒരു സാംസ്കാരിക മാനവികതയിലേക്കു ഉയർത്തി പ്രതിഷ്ഠിക്കുവാനും നമുക്കു കഴിയണം. മനുഷ്യവംശത്തിൽ ആരും ആർക്കും അന്യരല്ലെന്നും എല്ലാവരും എല്ലാവർക്കും സഹോദരിസഹോദരൻമാരാണെന്നുമുള്ള മാനവികതയുടെ സംസ്കാരം പടുത്തുയർത്തുവാൻ നമുക്കു സാധിക്കണം.

ദൈവം നമ്മെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നു. അവിടുത്തേക്കു മുഖം നോട്ടമില്ല. എല്ലാവരെയും ഒരുപോലെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്ന ദൈവസ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ ശൈലി നമ്മുടെ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ ശൈലിയാകണം. നമ്മെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നവരെ മാത്രം നമ്മൾ സ്നേഹിച്ചാൽ നമുക്ക് ഒരു സവിശേഷതയുമില്ലെന്ന് ഈശോ പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. നമ്മെ ദ്രോഹിക്കുന്നവരെ പോലും സ്നേഹിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഉദാരത നമുക്കുണ്ടാകണമെന്നർഥം.

സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ അന്തർധാരകളിലും സാമ്പത്തികവും രാഷ്ട്രീയവും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസപരവും സാമൂഹികവും സാംസ്കാരികവുമായ എല്ലാ മേഖലകളിലും ക്രൈസ്തവ സ്നേഹമായിരിക്കണം നമ്മുടെ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ചാലകശക്തി. ഈ രംഗങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം സുതാര്യതയോടും നീതിബോധത്തോടും കാരുണ്യത്തോടും കൂടെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാൻ നമുക്കു സാധിക്കണം. അനീതിയും അഴിമതിയും ഇല്ലാത്ത സമൂഹമാണ് ക്രൈസ്തവർ സൃഷ്ടിക്കേണ്ടത്.

ക്ലേശിതർക്കും ദുഃഖിതർക്കും ദരിദ്രർക്കും പീഡിതർക്കും രോഗികൾക്കും ആകുലർക്കും ആശ്രയവും അഭയവുമൊക്കെ നമുക്കു കഴിയണം. ദൈവത്തിന്റെ മുഖം കാരുണ്യമാണെന്നു ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പായിലൂടെ സഭ ഇന്നു പറയുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ മുഖവും കാരുണ്യത്തിന്റേതാകണം. കാരുണ്യം വഴിഞ്ഞൊഴുകുന്ന വാക്കുകളും പ്രവൃത്തികളും നമ്മുടെ അനുദിനജീവിതശൈലിയാകണം.

സ്നേഹത്തിലും കാരുണ്യത്തിലും അടിയുറച്ച പ്രവർത്തനശൈലി, ശരിയായ വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശനമാണ്. 'സ്നേഹത്തി

ലൂടെ പ്രവർത്തനനിരതമാകുന്ന വിശ്വാസമാണല്ലോ വി. പൗലോസ് ശ്ലീഹാ നമ്മിൽ നിന്നാവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നത് (ഗലാ. 5:6). അപ്രകാരം നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസത്തെ നമുക്കു സ്നേഹത്തിലൂടെ പ്രവർത്തനനിരതവും ഫലപ്രദവുമാക്കാം.

മാർത്തോമ്മാദിനത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭാംഗങ്ങളായ പ്രവാസി കളെ ഓർമ്മിക്കാതിരിക്കുവാൻ നിർവാഹമില്ല. സഭയുടെ സ്വയം ഭരണാവകാശമുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ വസിക്കുന്ന സഭാമക്കളുടേതല്ലെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയാണ് അവരും. പ്രവാസിപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടേതായ അജപാലനസംവിധാനങ്ങൾ ഇനിയും നമുക്കു പൂർണ്ണമായി ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അവ ഇനിയും ലഭിക്കാതിടത്തു ആ ലക്ഷ്യം സാധിക്കുന്നതിനായി സഭാമക്കളെല്ലാവരും പ്രാർഥിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം അഭ്യർഥിക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ കുട്ടികളുടെയും യുവജനങ്ങളുടെയും വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് നാം ദത്തശ്രദ്ധരായിരിക്കണമെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടതില്ലല്ലോ. ആധുനികലോകസാഹചര്യങ്ങളോടു ശരിയായി പ്രതികരിക്കുന്നതിനുപകരുന്ന ധാർമികവീക്ഷണം നാം അവരിൽ ഉളവാക്കണം. സത്യനിഷ്ഠ, നീതിബോധം, ശരിയായ ലൈംഗികജീവിതവീക്ഷണം, രാജ്യസ്നേഹം, കാരുണ്യം എന്നീ സദ്ഗുണങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ ജീവിതത്തെ പടുത്തുയർത്തുവാൻ വേണ്ട സാഹചര്യങ്ങൾ സഭയിലും സമൂഹത്തിലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം. മടിച്ചു മാറി നില്ക്കാതെ ഉത്സാഹത്തോടെ കർമ്മനിരതരാകാൻ യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കു കഴിയണം. സഭയിലും സമൂഹത്തിലും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമുള്ള ശുശ്രൂഷകളും ഉദ്യോഗങ്ങളും ഏറ്റെടുക്കുവാനുള്ള യോഗ്യതയും ധൈര്യവും വിവേകവും അവർക്കുണ്ടാകണം. ഇപ്പോൾ പ്രവർത്തന നിരതരായിരിക്കുന്ന സഭാശുശ്രൂഷകർ തങ്ങൾക്കു പിന്നാലെ സഭയുടെയും സമൂഹത്തിന്റെയും എല്ലാ രംഗങ്ങളിലും പ്രവർത്തനനിരതരാകാൻ യോഗ്യരായവരെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറാകണം.

വി. തോമാശ്ലീഹാ നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ ഉത്ഥാനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് സംശയിച്ചുവെന്ന് വി. യോഹന്നാൻ എഴുതിയ സുവിശേഷത്തിൽ നാം വായിക്കുന്നു. ആ സംശയം നമുക്കു രക്ഷാകരമായി തീർന്നു എന്നതാണ് വാസ്തവം. ആദത്തിന്റെ പാപത്തെ 'ഭാഗ്യപ്പെട്ട പാപം' എന്നു വി. ആഗസ്തീനോസ് വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ചുവല്ലോ. ആ പാപം രക്ഷകനെ നമുക്കു നേടിത്തരുവാൻ കാരണമായി എന്നതിനാലാണ്

അപ്രകാരം വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ആഗസ്തീനോസ് പ്രേരിത

നാകുന്നത്. അതുപോലെ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ സംശയത്തെ 'ഭാഗ്യപ്പെട്ട സംശയമേ' എന്നു വിളിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഉത്ഥിതനായ മിശിഹായെ നേരിൽ കാണാൻ, അവിടുന്നിലുള്ള വിശ്വാസം 'എന്റെ കർത്താവേ, എന്റെ ദൈവമേ' എന്ന ഉദ്ദേശത്തോടെ ഉറപ്പായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കാൻ ആ സംശയം തോമാശ്ലീഹായ്ക്കു നിമിത്തമായി. മാർത്തോമ്മാ ശ്ലീഹായേ, നന്ദി! ഇന്നിതാ അങ്ങയുടെ ഉദ്ദേശണം ഞങ്ങളുടേതായിരിക്കുന്നു. 'ഞങ്ങളുടെ കർത്താവേ, ഞങ്ങളുടെ ദൈവമേ' എന്ന് പ്രാർഥനകളിൽ ഇന്നു ഞങ്ങൾ മിശിഹായെ വിളിക്കുന്നു. വി.പത്രോസിന്റെ വിശ്വാസം സാർവത്രികസഭയുടെ അടിത്തറയായെങ്കിൽ വി.തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ വിശ്വാസം മാർത്തോമ്മാ മക്കളുടെ സഭയ്ക്കു സാർവത്രികസഭയുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മയിൽ സവിശേഷമായ അടിസ്ഥാനം നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സവിശേഷദാനത്തിന് ദൈവമേ, നന്ദി!

കാരുണ്യവാനായ കർത്താവ് നിങ്ങളെ അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ! പിതാവിന്റെയും പുത്രന്റെയും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെയും നാമത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ആശീർവദിക്കുന്നു.

കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2016-ാം ആണ്ട് മെയ് മാസം 30-ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

NB: ഈ ഇടയലേഖനം 2016 ജൂലൈ 3-ാം തീയതിക്ക് മുൻപത്തെ ഞായറാഴ്ച (ജൂൺ 26-നു) കുർബ്ബാന മദ്ധ്യേ എല്ലാ പള്ളികളിലും

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PASTORAL LETTER ON SABHA DINAM

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church, May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

This is the time when the Universal Church is celebrating the Year of Mercy. Let me express my joy at the observance of this Year of Mercy by all our lay faithful, priests, the religious and bishops.

Holy Father Pope Francis has published the Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of Love" in this Year of Mercy after the conclusion of the two synods on family life in Rome. Our faithful are receiving by now new directives and reflections through the writings of the bishops and of other members of our Church with regard to the renewal of family life.

The Holy Father sees the family as a field of activity of the Triune God. I would like to say that all the pastoral and missionary activities of the Church should be focused on families. There should take place a radical change in the mindset of the ministers of the Church while implementing the pastoral plans for the revitalization of family life. The perspective that should guide all our efforts of renewal in liturgy, faith formation, parish revitalization, evangelization, organizations of the parish etc should be aimed at the building up of families and of strengthening their stability and growth. Pastors are requested to convey this basic vision and programme through family unit meetings, gatherings of Catholic Congress and seminars and meetings conducted under the auspices of parish organizations.

We are celebrating the feast of the Dukrana of St. Thomas, the Father of our Faith, on July 3rd. Since St Thomas is the Father of our Church, it is very appropriate for us to have the Church as the main theme for our reflections on this feast. The mission of the Church in this world is the same as the mission of Jesus Christ. Christian vocation involves proclaiming the love of God, bearing witness to that love and even sacrificing our lives for it as Jesus did.

I am sorry to note that we frequently hear about terrible acts of cruelty that are being perpetrated against Christians in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries. We shall offer those heroic lives to the Lord. Some of the Christian brethren in India too are experiencing violence and persecution in different parts of India. They too are ostracized and attacked because of their faith in the Lord. We have to pray constantly for the courage to bear witness to our faith. St. Thomas, the Apostle was martyred for his faith in the Lord. The children of St. Thomas should also be willing to bear witness to Jesus heroically through their lives.

We have to bear in mind that like St. Thomas who was an apostle, we too have to become apostles. St. Paul has echoed this sentiment beautifully when he said: 'Woe to me if I don't preach the Gospel' (1Cor 9:16). We should be willing to undertake the necessary sacrifices in spreading the Gospel whether the circumstances are favourable or not. In today's context, evangelization involves translating the values of the Gospel into our lives and to align them with the values that are found in other religions and cultures. We have to collaborate in raising mankind to a common cultural humanism, in a spirit of brotherly love for all, irrespective of caste, creed or race. We have to build this culture where everyone is brother or sister to one another and not alien to them.

God loves everyone of us without any personal predilections. God's love should become a model for our love. Jesus has told us that loving those who love us does not mean much. He wants us to love those who have hurt us.

The catalytic force in all our endeavors, whether in the field of education, politics or culture, should be Christian love. We have to work in those areas with a great sense of justice, transparency and mercy. Christians have to create a society without corruption and injustice.

We have to be strong pillars of support to those who are suffering, poor and sick. The Church is teaching through the life and words of Pope Francis that God is mercy. Our daily life should reflect this style of life, of being merciful in words and life.

A way of life based on love and mercy is a reflection of real faith. St. Paul too demands from us a life of faith that is active through love (Gal.5:6). In that way, we can make our faith active and fruitful through love.

This is also a good time for us to remember the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful who are living in different parts of India and abroad. They should have the same privileges of practicing their faith without any restrictions just like the faithful who live in the proper territory of the mother Church. We have not reached any arrangement where we could provide proper pastoral care to our migrants. I would urge everyone to pray for the successful implementation of the necessary conditions to provide proper pastoral care to our migrant communities.

I don't have to emphasize the need to be attentive on the part of all for implementing a successful pastoral plan for the faith formation of the children and the youths of our communities. We have to work towards forming a proper mental and spiritual outlook in them so that they could respond to the challenges of the modern culture in a Christian way. Truthfulness, justice, chastity, love of the country and merciful attitudes should be fostered in their lives. They should also have moral capability, prudence and confidence to take upon these responsibilities at the regional as well as at the church levels. Those who are active in various Church ministries should motivate and train the young to follow them in these ministries.

St. John writes in the Gospel that Thomas doubted the Resurrection of Jesus. That doubt has become redemptive for us as it became a happy doubt like the Felix culpa of St. Augustine to express the joy of the Incarnation. Similarly, I would like to call the doubt of Thomas as happy doubt as it enabled him to address Jesus as "My Lord and My God." We have to be thankful to the Apostle for his doubt as it enables us to call Jesus as "My Lord and my God".

O, St. Thomas, now your proclamation has become our proclamation. Just as the faith of St. Peter has become the foundation of the universal Church, so the faith of St. Thomas has become a corner stone in the communion of churches which is the Universal church.

May the merciful Lord bless all of you! I bless you in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

+George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 30th of May 2016.

Note: This pastoral letter is to be read out during the Holy Mass on the 26th of June 2016, in all churches and chapels of the Syro-Malabar Church where there is Sunday Mass for the public.

സർക്കുലർ

സീറോ മലബാർസഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ്
 ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്ത
 തന്റെ സഹശുശ്രൂഷകരായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തമാർക്കും
 മെത്രാൻമാർക്കും വൈദികർക്കും സമർപ്പിതർക്കും
 തന്റെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന
 എല്ലാ ദൈവജനത്തിനും എഴുതുന്നത്.
 കർത്താവിന്റെ കൃപ നിങ്ങളേവരോടും കൂടെ
 ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാരേ,

ലോകരാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പിൽ ഭാരതത്തിന്റെ മഹിമ ഉയർത്തുന്ന താണു നമ്മുടെ ശക്തമായ ജനാധിപത്യ വ്യവസ്ഥിതി. പരിമിതികൾക്കു നടുവിലും ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ജനാധിപത്യരാജ്യമെന്ന പ്രാബം ഭാരതത്തിനും ഭാരതീയർക്കും തീർച്ചയായും അഭിമാനകരമാണ്. ലോകം പരീക്ഷിച്ച ഭരണസമ്പ്രദായങ്ങളിൽ ജനാധിപത്യമാണ് ഏറ്റവും സ്വീകാര്യമായി മാറിയത്. ജനാധിപത്യത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കാണ് അധികാരം.

എന്നാൽ പ്രായോഗികതലത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അർഹമായ തങ്ങളുടെ അധികാരം പ്രയോഗിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നില്ലെന്ന ആക്ഷേപമുയരാറുണ്ട്. എങ്കിലും ജനക്ഷേമം മറന്നു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നവരെ അധികാരത്തിൽ നിന്നു നീക്കാനും ജനോപകാരപ്രദമായ നിലപാടുകൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുമെന്നു കരുതുന്നവരെ പ്രതിഷ്ഠിക്കാനും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് അവസരമുണ്ട്. അത്തരം അവസരമാണല്ലോ തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പ്. കേരളം ഒരു തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനായി ഒരുങ്ങുകയാണ്. സാമൂഹികപ്രതിബദ്ധതയോടും മൂല്യാധിഷ്ഠിതചിന്തകളോടും കൂടിയാവണം നാം തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിനെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കേണ്ടത്. കക്ഷിരാഷ്ട്രീയങ്ങൾക്കപ്പുറത്തു പൊതുനന്മയാണു സഭ എന്നും ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നത്. പൗരബോധത്തിന്റെ പരോപകാരപ്രദമായ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സഭയുടെ ദൗത്യത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമാണ്. മെയ് 16 - നു നടക്കുന്ന തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ വിശ്വാസികളുടെ പരിചിന്തനത്തിനായി ഈ സർക്കുലർ അയയ്ക്കുന്നു.

തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ജനപ്രതിനിധികളെ ജനാധിപത്യഭരണക്രമത്തിൽ അംഗീകരിച്ചേ മതിയാവൂ. രാഷ്ട്രീയനേതാക്കന്മാർ മുന്നണിവ്യത്യാസമില്ലാതെ എല്ലാവരും ഒരുപോലെയാണെന്നും അവരിൽ പ്രതീക്ഷ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും അതുകൊണ്ട് വോട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല എന്നും ചിന്തിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളുടെ എണ്ണം കൂടിവരികയാണ്. സമകാലിക രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തിന്റെ പ്രയോഗതലങ്ങളിലെ അസ്വസ്ഥതകൾ കണ്ടാണ് ഇത്തരം അരാഷ്ട്രീയവാദത്തിലേക്കും നിസംഗതയിലേക്കും നിഷ്ക്രിയത്വത്തിലേക്കും ചിലരെങ്കിലും പോകുന്നത്. യുവജനങ്ങളും അഭ്യസ്തവിദ്യരും രാഷ്ട്രീയത്തോടു വൈമുഖ്യം പുലർത്തുന്നതു ഗൗരവമായി പരിശോധിക്കപ്പെടണം. വോട്ടു ചെയ്തിട്ടു കാര്യമില്ല, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇവർക്കാർക്കും വോട്ടുചെയ്തിട്ടു ഫലമില്ല എന്നെല്ലാമുള്ള മനോഭാവങ്ങൾ നിലവിലെ സംവിധാനങ്ങളോടുള്ള പ്രതിഷേധത്തിന്റെ അടയാളമാകുമെങ്കിലും, ജനാധിപത്യത്തെ ദുർബലമാക്കാനും സ്ഥാപിത താൽപര്യക്കാർക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ നയങ്ങൾ എതിർപ്പില്ലാതെ മുന്നോട്ടു കൊണ്ടുപോകാനുമാണു സാഹചര്യമൊരുക്കുക. രാജ്യത്തെയും സമൂഹത്തെയും സന്ദേശിക്കുന്നവർ വോട്ടു ചെയ്യുക എന്ന അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ പൗരന്മാർ വിനിയോഗിച്ചു ജനാധിപത്യത്തെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു പ്രക്രിയകളോടു സഹകരിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. വോട്ടർ പട്ടികയിൽ പേരുണ്ടെന്ന് ഉറപ്പാക്കാൻ ഏവരും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം.

ഓരോ കാലഘട്ടത്തിലെയും ജനത്തിന് അവർക്ക് അനുയോജ്യരായ നേതാക്കന്മാരെ ലഭിക്കുന്നുവെന്നു പറയാറുണ്ടല്ലോ. വോട്ടുവഴി നാടു ഭരിക്കാനുള്ള അധികാരം നാം ഏൽപ്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നവരെക്കുറിച്ചും അവരുടെ ആശയസംഹിതകളെക്കുറിച്ചും വികസനകാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളെക്കുറിച്ചും പൗരന്മാരായ നമുക്ക് അറിവുണ്ടാവണം. പഠനവും ചർച്ചയും വിവേകവും പ്രാർഥനയും നല്ല നേതാക്കന്മാരെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ആവശ്യമാണ്.

രാഷ്ട്രീയമേഖലയിലുൾപ്പെടെ സഭയ്ക്ക് വ്യക്തമായ സാമൂഹിക കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളുണ്ട്. രാഷ്ട്രീയക്കാരിൽ സഭയുടെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളോട് ഒത്തുപോകുന്നവരും അല്ലാത്തവരുമുണ്ട്. പൊതുവേ ഒത്തുപോകുന്നവരെന്ന് കരുതപ്പെടുന്നവരും ചില കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ ഒത്തുപോകണമെന്നില്ല. ഒത്തുപോകാത്തവരെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നവരും ചില കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ സഭയുടെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളെ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നവരായിരിക്കാം. സഭാവിശ്വാസികളിൽതന്നെ പല രാഷ്ട്രീയ പാർട്ടികളുടെയും അനുഭാവികളും പ്രവർത്തകരുമുണ്ട്. എല്ലാവരുടെയും സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തെ സഭ മാനിക്കുന്നു.

സഭ ഉയർത്തിപ്പിടിക്കുന്ന അടിസ്ഥാന മൂല്യങ്ങൾ സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ

ക്ഷേമത്തിനും കെട്ടുറപ്പിനും ഉതകുന്നതാണ്. ഈശ്വരവിശ്വാസം, സത്യം, നീതി, മതേതരത്വം, പാവപ്പെട്ടവരോടുള്ള പ്രതിബദ്ധത, മതങ്ങളോടും മതാത്മകപ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങളോടുമുള്ള ആദരവ്, ഭരണഘടനയോടും കോടതിയോടുമുള്ള ബഹുമാനം, ജനാധിപത്യ-മാനവിക മൂല്യങ്ങളോടുള്ള ആഭിമുഖ്യം, സഹിഷ്ണുത എന്നിവ സഭയുടെ സാമൂഹ്യ പ്രബോധനത്തിന്റെ അന്തസാരമാണ്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വികസനവും കെട്ടുറപ്പും നിലനിൽപ്പും ജനാധിപത്യത്തെ ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിലാണെന്നു സഭ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. സഭ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്ന മൂല്യങ്ങളോട് രാഷ്ട്രീ പാർട്ടികൾക്കും സ്ഥാനാർഥികൾക്കുമുള്ള നിലപാടുകളെയും വിലയിരുത്തി വേണം സഭാംഗങ്ങൾ സമ്മതിദാനാവകാശം വിനിയോഗിക്കുവാൻ.

ജനാധിപത്യത്തോടു നിസംഗമായ മനസ് സമൂഹത്തിൽ രൂപപ്പെടാതിരിക്കാൻ രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്പാർട്ടികളും സർക്കാരുകളും നയങ്ങളിൽ വ്യക്തത വരുത്തേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സമൂഹജീവിതത്തെ നശിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അഴിമതി, വർഗീയത, സ്ത്രീകളോടും കുട്ടികളോടുമുള്ള അതിക്രമങ്ങൾ, മദ്യത്തിന്റെയും മറ്റു ലഹരിവസ്തുക്കളുടെയും ഉപഭോഗം ഇവയ്ക്കെല്ലാമെതിരെ രാഷ്ട്രീയ കക്ഷികൾക്കു വ്യക്തമായ നിലപാടുകൾ ഉണ്ടാവണം. അക്രമരാഷ്ട്രീയം ജനാധിപത്യ സമൂഹത്തിനു തീരാകളകമാണ്. അസഹിഷ്ണുതയും ജനാധിപത്യവിരുദ്ധമായ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടുകളും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്പാർട്ടികൾ ഉപേക്ഷിക്കണം.

സമൂഹത്തിലെ എല്ലാവിഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കും ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന വികസന പരിപാടികൾ വേണം സർക്കാറുകൾ ആവിഷ്കരിച്ചു നടപ്പാക്കേണ്ടത്. കർഷകർ, ദളിതർ, മത്സ്യബന്ധനത്തിലേർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നവർ, ആദിവാസികൾ, സംഘടിതരും അസംഘടിതരുമായ തൊഴിലാളികൾ ഇങ്ങനെ എല്ലാവർക്കും അർഹമായ നീതി ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. പൊതുവിദ്യാഭ്യാസ രംഗത്തു സർക്കാർമേഖലയ്ക്കൊപ്പം സ്വകാര്യമേഖലയ്ക്കും ഭരണഘടന നൽകുന്ന സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഈ രംഗത്ത് എല്ലാ ന്യൂനപക്ഷവിഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കും ന്യായമായ അവകാശങ്ങൾ ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്ന നയങ്ങളാണു സർക്കാർ അവലംബിക്കേണ്ടത്.

തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പിലൂടെ നാടിന്റെ ഭരണം ഏതാനും വ്യക്തികളുടെ കൈകളിൽ ഏൽപ്പിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതോടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം കഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നു ചിന്തിക്കരുത്. ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ തങ്ങളുടെ കടമ എപ്രകാരമാണു നിർവഹിക്കുന്നതെന്നു വിശകലനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടണം. അവർക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ പിന്തുണയും തിരുത്തലുകളും നൽകുമ്പോഴാണു ജനാധിപത്യവ്യവസ്ഥയിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ അധികാരം പൊതുനന്മയ്ക്കായി വിനിയോഗിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്.

പ്രിയമുള്ളവരേ, തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പുകാലത്തു രാഷ്ട്രീയപ്പാർട്ടികൾ ഉന്നയിക്കുന്ന താൽക്കാലികമായ ആരോപണങ്ങളും പ്രത്യാരോപണങ്ങളും എന്നതിൽ മാത്രമൊതുങ്ങരുത് നമ്മുടെ രാഷ്ട്രീയവിശകലനവും പൗരബോധവും. നാടിന്റെ സുസ്ഥിര താൽപര്യങ്ങളും സമൂഹനന്മയുംദൈവികമാനുഷികമൂല്യങ്ങളും ഉയർത്തിപ്പിടിക്കുന്ന ഭരണസംവിധാനം നിലവിൽ വരാൻ പ്രതിബദ്ധതയോടു കൂടി തെരഞ്ഞെടുപ്പു പ്രക്രിയയിൽ നമുക്കു പങ്കു ചേരാം. അർഹരും യോഗ്യരുമായ ജനപ്രതിനിധികൾ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടാൻ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾ പ്രാർഥിക്കണമെന്നും അഭ്യർഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

+കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2016-ാം ആണ്ട് മാർച്ചു മാസം 30-ാം തിയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

ഈ സർക്കുലർ 2016 ഏപ്രിൽ 10 ഞായറാഴ്ച കുർബാനമധ്യേ നമ്മുടെ പള്ളികളിൽ വായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.



മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ സർക്കുലർ

2016 ജനുവരി 7 മുതൽ 12 വരെ കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ് സഭാകേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ സമ്മേളിച്ച സീറോ മലബാർ സഭാ മെത്രാന്മാരുടെ 24 -ാമത് സിനഡിന്റെ പ്രഥമ സമ്മേളനത്തിനുശേഷം എല്ലാ സീറോ മലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും വേണ്ടി മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് കർദ്ദിനാൾ ജോർജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്ന സർക്കുലർ.

ഇശോമിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരേ,

സാർവത്രികസഭയിൽ കരുണയുടെ ജൂബിലി വർഷം ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുകയും കരുണയുടെ വാതിൽ നമ്മുടെ കത്തിന്ദ്രലുകളിലും മറ്റു തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെട്ട ദേവാലയങ്ങളിലും തുറക്കപ്പെടുകയും ചെയ്തതിനു ശേഷമുള്ള സിനഡ് കഴിഞ്ഞ ജനുവരിയിൽ കൂടുകയുണ്ടായി. കാരുണ്യവാനായ പിതാവിന്റെ സാക്ഷികളായി ഇന്നത്തെ കാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാനും കാരുണ്യം ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ തലങ്ങളിലും അനുഭവിക്കുവാനും നമുക്ക് ആവണം. കാരുണ്യ പ്രവർത്തനം സഭയുടെ സാമൂഹ്യപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ മാത്രം ഒതുങ്ങി നിൽക്കേണ്ടതല്ല. വ്യക്തിപരമായ അനുഭവത്തിൽ നിന്ന് അത് ഒരു ജീവിതസാക്ഷ്യമായി മാറണം. എല്ലാ വർക്കുമായി എല്ലായ്പ്പോഴും നീതിയുടേയും അനുരജ്ഞനത്തിന്റേയും വഴികൾ തുറക്കപ്പെടണം. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള കാരുണ്യപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സഭയിലെ എല്ലാവിഭാഗങ്ങളുടേയും പങ്കാളിത്തത്തോടെ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ നമുക്ക് കഴിയണം. വേദപാഠക്ലാസ്സുകളിൽ നാം പഠിച്ച 14 മനോഗുണ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ (ശാരീരികങ്ങളും, ആദ്ധ്യാത്മികങ്ങളും) അനുവർത്തിക്കുവാനുള്ള അവസരമാണ് കരുണയുടെ വർഷം. കരുണയുടെ വർഷത്തിലെ നോമ്പുകാലം ജീവിതപരിവർത്തനത്തിന്റെയും കാലമായി മാറ്റാൻ പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപ്പാപ്പ ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിനായി 'കർത്താവിനായി 24 മണിക്കൂർ' തുടർച്ചയായി എല്ലാ രൂപതകളും പ്രാർഥനയിൽ ചെലവഴിക്കുവാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. നോമ്പുകാലത്തു നടത്തേണ്ട അനുതാപ ശുശ്രൂഷയേയും ആണ്ടു കുമ്പസാരത്തേയുമാണ് ഇത്

സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ജൂബിലി വർഷത്തിൽ കരുണയുടെ വാതിൽ തുറന്നിടുന്ന കത്തിന്ദ്രലുകളിലും അതിനായി നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന ദേവാലയങ്ങളിലും തീർത്ഥാടനം നടത്തി പൂർണ്ണദർശനവിമോചനം നേടുവാനും ഏവരും ശ്രമിക്കുമല്ലോ.

റോമിൽ നടന്ന കുടുംബജീവിതത്തെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള മെത്രാൻമാരുടെ സിനഡിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ ആധുനികകാലത്തെ വെല്ലുവിളികളെ നേരിടാൻ നമ്മുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങളെ പ്രാപ്തമാക്കേണ്ടതാണ് എന്ന് സിനഡ് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. കുടുംബബന്ധങ്ങളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന തകർച്ചകളുടെ കാരണങ്ങളും പരിഹാരങ്ങളും അജപാലന തലങ്ങളിൽ വിശകലനം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. കുടുംബങ്ങളിലെ പുതിയ വെല്ലുവിളികളെ അതിജീവിക്കുവാൻ കുടുംബജീവിതക്കാർക്കു പരിശീലനം നൽകാൻ വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. വിവാഹത്തിനു മുമ്പും അതിനുശേഷവും സഭ നൽകുന്ന പരിശീലന പരിപാടികൾ കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളുടെ ആത്മീയവും ധാർമ്മികവുമായ വളർച്ചയെ വലിയ തോതിൽ സ്വാധീനിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കുടുംബങ്ങളിലെ പ്രായമായവരെ ബഹുമാനിക്കാനും അവരുടെ ശാരീരികവും മാനസികവുമായ ആരോഗ്യം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുവാനും കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങൾ പരിശ്രമിക്കണം. കാരൂണ്യവർഷത്തിൽ കുടുംബജീവിതക്കാർക്കുള്ള മാർപ്പാപ്പയുടെ പ്രത്യേക പരിഗണനയാണ് വിവാഹകോടതികളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിലുള്ള ലളിതവൽക്കരണം. സിനഡ് ഈ വിഷയം ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയും ഇത്തരം നിയമനടപടികളിലുള്ള ഭേദഗതികൾ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ത്വരിതപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ സഹായിക്കുമെന്ന് വിലയിരുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതേ സമയം വിവാഹ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ കുദാശപരവും ദൈവികവുമായ സവിശേഷതകളിൽ അല്പം പോലും പ്രാധാന്യം കുറച്ചു കാണാൻ ഈ നടപടികൾ കൊണ്ട് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നു വ്യക്തമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

നമ്മുടെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ കാർഷികപ്രശ്നങ്ങളും വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലയിൽ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന അനിശ്ചിതത്വവും സിനഡ് പിതാക്കൻമാർ ഉത്കണ്ഠയോടെയാണ് അവലോകനം ചെയ്തത്. റബർ, ഏലം, നെല്ല് ഉൽപ്പാദകർ, ക്ഷീരകർഷകർ എന്നിവരുടെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ അനുഭാവപൂർണ്ണ നിലപാടെടുക്കുവാൻ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട അധികാരികൾ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കസ്തുരിരംഗൻ റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ അനന്തര ഫലങ്ങളും പ്രകൃതിലോലപ്രദേശങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള പ്രശ്നങ്ങളും സഭാപ

ിതാക്കന്മാർ സശ്രദ്ധം ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. കാർഷിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലകളുടെ ക്ഷേമത്തിനായി സർക്കാരുകൾ നൽകിയിട്ടുള്ള വാഗ്ദാനങ്ങൾ പാലിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്.

കേരളത്തിലെ മദ്യനയത്തിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന ഗുണകരമായ മാറ്റം ശ്രദ്ധേയനിയമാണ്. ഇതുപോലുള്ള സാമൂഹ്യപ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ ജനമുന്നേറ്റം ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുവാനും കൂടുതൽ അവബോധം ജനങ്ങളിൽ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുവാനും അഗളളുക്ക് സാധിക്കും. ഈ സംഘടനയ്ക്ക് സർവ്വവിധ സഹായ സഹകരണങ്ങൾ നൽകുവാൻ ഏവരും ശ്രമിക്കുമല്ലോ.

നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഉയർജ്ജിതമായി നടക്കുന്നതിൽ സന്തുഷ്ടിയുണ്ട്. അതിനായുള്ള അടടങ്ങ ഫണ്ട് സ്വരൂപിക്കുന്നതിന് നിങ്ങൾ കാണിക്കുന്ന താൽപര്യത്തിനും ഉദാരമായ സംഭാവനകൾക്കും ഈയവസരത്തിൽ നന്ദിപറയുന്നു. ഇന്ത്യയിലെ പ്രവാസികളുടെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കായി ബഹു. റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽ പിതാവിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ കർമ്മപരിപാടികൾ ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യുന്നതായി നിങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിയാമല്ലോ. അതിനായി നാഗ്പൂർ കേന്ദ്രമാക്കി ഒരു ഓഫീസ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം സന്തോഷപൂർവ്വം അറിയിക്കുന്നു. പ്രവാസിമക്കൾക്കുള്ള വിസിറ്റേറ്ററിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് എല്ലാവിധ സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങളും നൽകണമെന്ന് ഈയവസരത്തിൽ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. സഭയിലെ പ്രവാസികളുടെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയിൽ കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമതയും സഭാത്മകപങ്കാളിത്തവും ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഈയിടെ കാനഡയിൽ എക്സാർക്കേറ്റ് ഉണ്ടായതിലൂടെയും മണ്ട്രാ രൂപതയുടെ അതിർത്തികൾ വ്യാപിച്ചതിലൂടെയും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ക്രിയാത്മകമായ വളർച്ച കൈവരിക്കുവാൻ നമുക്കു സാധിച്ചു. സഭയുടെ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ വിലയിരുത്തുവാനും പുതിയ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തന പദ്ധതികൾ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കുവാനുമായി കേരളത്തിൽ ദക്ഷിണമേഖലയിലും (വടവാതുർ) മദ്ധ്യമേഖലയിലും (കാക്കനാട്) ഉത്തരമേഖലയിലും (തലശ്ശേരി) മിഷൻ സെമിനാറുകൾ നടത്തുവാൻ സിനഡു തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഗൾഫ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കുള്ള അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കുവാനുള്ള ചർച്ചകൾ പുരോഗമിക്കുകയാണ്. എന്റെ അബുദാബി സന്ദർശനത്തിന്റെയും സിനഡു നിയമിച്ച ഡെലഗേഷന്റെയും റിപ്പോർട്ട് ഈ സിനഡിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി.

പരമ്പരാഗതമായി നമ്മുടെ പൂർവ്വപിതാക്കന്മാരിൽ നിന്നു നമുക്കു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ ആഘോഷമാണ് ആരാധനാ ക്രമം. നമ്മുടെ കുർബ്ബാന ക്രമം കാലോചിതമായി പരിഷ്കരിക്കു വാനുള്ള ശ്രമത്തിലാണ് സഭാ സിനഡ്. നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ തന തായ ദൈവശാസ്ത്രപാരമ്പര്യങ്ങളുടെയും ആദ്ധ്യാത്മികതയുടെ യും ഭരണനിയമസംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെയും പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ രണ്ടാം വത്തിക്കാൻ കൗൺസിൽ വിഭാവന ചെയ്യുന്ന രീതിയിൽ ഈ നവീ കരണ പ്രക്രിയ നടത്തുവാനാണ് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നത്. ആരാധനാ ക്രമത്തിന്റെ മൂല ഭാഷയിലുള്ള പ്രാർത്ഥനകളുടെ പൂർണ്ണരൂപം സംരക്ഷിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടത് ഗദ്യരൂപത്തിലായതിനാൽ അതിന്റെ സംഗീ താത്മകത (ഇവമിഐ) പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ പരീക്ഷണാടി സ്ഥാനത്തിൽ ചില ഈണങ്ങൾ സിനഡിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. കുട്ടികളുടെ ആഘോഷപൂർവമായ കുർബ്ബാനസ്വീകരണത്തിനും ആദ്യ കുമ്പസാരത്തിനും പരിശീലനം നൽകുന്നതിനുള്ള പുസ്തകത്തിന് സിനഡ് അംഗീകാരം നൽകി. നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ഇടവകകളിലും കുട്ടികളുടെ പരിശീ ലനത്തിന് ഈ പുസ്തകം സ്വീകരിക്കുമല്ലോ. ഈ വർഷം ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസം നടക്കുന്ന സീറോ മലബാർ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ വിശദാംശങ്ങൾ സിനഡിൽ അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. അതിനായുള്ള മാർഗരേഖ (ഘരിലമാലിമേ) സിനഡ് അംഗീകരി ക്കുകയുണ്ടായി അസംബ്ലിയുടെ മുഖ്യവിഷയം "ആധുനികലോകത്തിലെ വെല്ലുവിളികളും സഭയുടെ പ്രത്യുത്തരവും - ജീവിതത്തിലെ ലാളി ത്യം, കുടുംബത്തിലെ സാക്ഷ്യം, പ്രവാസികളുടെ ദൗത്യം" എന്നാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും ഈ രേഖ പഠിക്കുകയും ചർച്ചചെയ്യുകയും ചെയ്യുമല്ലോ. ഈ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ അവസര ത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭ മേജർ ആർക്കിഎപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ പദവിയി ലേക്ക് ഉയർത്തപ്പെട്ടതിന്റെ രജതജൂബിലിയുടെ ഉദ്ഘാടനവും നട ത്തുന്നതാണ്.

വളരെ ഫലപ്രദവും സജീവവുമായ ചിന്തകൾക്കും ചർച്ചകൾക്കും തീരുമാനങ്ങൾക്കും ശേഷം ജനുവരി 12 -ാം തീയതി വൈകുന്നേരം ആറു മണിയോടെ സിനഡ് സമാപിച്ചു. സിനഡിന്റെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർ ത്തനങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയ്ക്കും നന്മയ്ക്കും ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന തിന് നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരുടെയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും സഹകരണവും സ്നേഹപ ൂർവും അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

**മാർ ജോർജ് കാർഡിനൽ ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ്**

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2016-ാം ആണ്ട് ഫെബ്രുവരി മാസം 29 -ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

ച.ആ: ഈ വിജ്ഞാപനം ഉചിതമായ മാർഗങ്ങളിലൂടെ അതതു രൂപത/അതിരൂപതകളിലെ വൈദികരുടേയും സന്യസ്ഥരുടേയും അത്തായ സഹോദരങ്ങളുടേയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതാണ്.

Prot. No. 0263/2016

CIRCULAR OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

After the XXIV Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, Session 1, held from 7 to 12 January 2016 in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakkanad

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

After the inauguration of the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Universal Church and the opening of the Holy Door of Mercy in our Cathedrals and other designated churches, all the bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church gathered together for the Synod in the month of January. The Synod observed that we should be able to live as witnesses of the Merciful Father in the contemporary world and to experience mercy in all the spheres of our lives. Mercy should not be confined to the Social Apostolate of the Church. From a personal experience of mercy, it should become a life witness. Door of mercy and reconciliation should be opened always for everyone. Such acts of mercy should be organized through the cooperation of all sections of the people of God. The Year of Mercy is the time to practice the fourteen corporal and spiritual works of mercy, about which we learned in our catechism classes. Pope Francis has exhorted us to make the Lenten Season of this Year of Mercy, a time of personal conversion. Keeping this exhortation in mind, every eparchy is requested to organize an initiative called "24 Hours for the Lord". This is also a reminder of the penitential service and the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation during the season of Lent. I hope that all of you would make every effort to receive the plenary indulgence in this year of mercy by making pilgrimages to those Cathedrals and other designated Churches where the Holy Door of Mercy is kept opened.

In the light of the Synod of Bishops in Rome on Family, the Syro-Malabar Bishops' Synod suggested that our families should be equipped to face the challenges of the modern world. The causes for the ruptures in relationship in families and their solutions should be analyzed in the pastoral context. Priests and the Consecrated Persons should take special care to train married people to face the new challenges of family life. The training programmes offered by the Church, before and after marriage, have a big influence on the spiritual and moral growth of the family. Family members should strive to respect the elderly and take care of their physical and spiritual health. Simplification of the procedures in the marriage tribunals manifests the special concern of the Holy Father for the families in the Year of Mercy. The Synod discussed this topic and observed that the reformation of the law would help to accelerate the process of nullity of marriages. At the same time, the Synod clarified that this does not intend to bring down the importance of the sacramental and divine characteristics of married life.

The problems faced by the farmers and the uncertainties in the field of education were analyzed by the Fathers of the Synod with much anxiety. The Synod appealed to the authorities concerned to take a compassionate approach towards solving the burning issues of farmers producing rubber, cardamom, paddy, and milk products. The aftermath of Kasthurirangan report and the problems of the ecologically sensitive areas were discussed in detail by the Fathers of the Synod. The Synod requested the government to keep up the promises it has made in the fields of agriculture and education.

The change that is being brought about in the liquor policy in Kerala is commendable. Catholic Congress (AKCC) is capable of ensuring the participation of people's movements on similar social issues and creating greater awareness among the people regarding the same. I appeal to all of you to wholeheartedly support this association.

I am glad to note with satisfaction that the evangelization mission of the Church is carried out very effectively. I take this opportunity to thank you for the interest and the generous contribution you made for organizing funds for the Association of Syro-Malabar Supporters of the Mission (ASSM). I believe that you are informed of the various action plans being implemented for the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar migrants in India under the leadership of Bishop Raphael Thattil. I am happy to inform you that an office of the Apostolic Visitor is set up in Nagpur for this purpose. I would like to remind you to support earnestly the efforts of the Apostolic Visitor for our migrants. It is my earnest desire to make the pastoral care of migrants more efficient and ecclesiastically participative. By the erection of an exarchate in Canada and the extension of the territory of the eparchy of Mandya, there has been a substantial growth in this area of pastoral concern. In order to evaluate the evangelization mission of the Church and to plan out new ventures of evangelization ministry, it has been decided to organize seminars on 'Mission Ad Gentes Today' in the southern (Vadavathoor), central (Kakkanad) and northern (Thalassery) regions of Kerala. Discussions are going on to improve the pastoral care for the faithful in Gulf region. The reports of my visit and the visit of the Synodal Delegation to Abu Dhabi were presented in the Synod.

Liturgy is the celebration of our Faith received from our forefathers by tradition. The Synod has initiated a process of revision of the Taksā of our Holy Qurbana to adapt it to our present times. The revision process will be carried out in the context of the unique theological traditions, spirituality and the administrative and canonical structures of our Church, as envisioned by the Vatican Council II. Since all the prayers of the Holy Qurbana in the original text are to be preserved in the prose form, we can also bring out its musical nature by chanting the prayers. In this regard, as an experiment, certain tunes for chanting the liturgical prayers were introduced in the Synod. Synod approved the textbook for preparing children for the solemn reception of Holy

Communion and First Confession. I trust that all the parishes of our Church would make use of this textbook for the preparation of children for the reception of these sacraments. The details of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly to be held in August this year were presented in the Synod. The Synod approved the lineamenta of the Assembly. The theme of the Assembly is, "Response of the Church to the Challenges of Today" with the specification, 'Simplicity in Life, Witness in Family and Mission of the Migrants'. I hope that this document would be discussed and studied in detail in all the eparchies of our Church. On the occasion of the Assembly, we will also be inaugurating the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the elevation of our Church to the Major Archiepiscopal status.

After lively and fruitful discussions and decisions, the Synod was concluded on 12 January, at 6.00 pm. I request your valuable prayers and support so that the endeavors of the synod be fruitful for the growth and good of our Church.

Yours cordially in Christ,

+George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on 29 February 2016.

N.B. The contents of this circular shall be made known to the Priests, Religious and Laity of all the Archeparchies/Eparchies of Syro-Malabar Church.

Prot.No. 1748/2016

മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെ സർക്കുലർ

2016 ആഗസ്റ്റ് 22 മുതൽ സെപ്റ്റമ്പർ 02 വരെ മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ് സഭാ കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ സമ്മേളിച്ച സീറോ മലബാർ സഭാ മെത്രാന്മാരുടെ 24-ാമത് സിനഡിന്റെ ദ്വിതീയ സമ്മേളനത്തിനുശേഷം എല്ലാ സീറോ മലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും വേണ്ടി മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്ന സർക്കുലർ

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരൻമാരേ,

ആഗോള സഭയ്ക്ക് പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഭാരതസഭയ്ക്ക് അഭിമാനകരമായ നിമിഷങ്ങൾ പ്രദാനം ചെയ്ത മദർ തെരേസയുടെ വിശുദ്ധപദ പ്രഖ്യാപനചടങ്ങുകളുടെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിലാണ് സീറോ-മലബാർ സിനഡ് ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ ഓഗസ്റ്റ് മാസം 17 മുതൽ സെപ്റ്റമ്പർ 02 വരെ കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിൽ കൂടിയത്. സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭയുടെ 24-ാം സിനഡിന്റെ 2-ാം സമ്മേളനത്തിന് ശേഷം ഞാനും നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ പല പിതാക്കന്മാരും നോമിൻ വച്ച് നടന്ന നാമകരണപരിപാടികളിൽ സംബന്ധിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ആദ്യമേ തന്നെ മദർ തെരേസയുടെ മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ്യം വഴി ഭാരതസഭയ്ക്കും, സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭയ്ക്കും ധാരാളമായി അനുഗ്രഹം ഉണ്ടാകട്ടെ എന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. യെമനിൽ നിന്ന് കാണാതായ ടോം ഉഴുന്നാലിൽ അച്ചന്റെ തിരോധാനത്തിൽ സിനഡ് ഉത്കണ്ഠ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ തിരിച്ചുവരവിനായി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അതോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ തീവ്രവാദികളാൽ കൊലചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട ഫ്രാൻസിലെ ഫാ.ജാക്ക്സ് ഹമേലിന്റെ നിര്യാണത്തിൽ സിനഡ് അനുശോചനം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. കഴിഞ്ഞ കുറച്ച് നാളുകളായി വിദേശത്തും സ്വദേശത്തുമായി വിശ്വാസം കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിച്ച് രക്തസാക്ഷികളായ എല്ലാ വിശ്വാസികളെയും അനുസ്മരിച്ച് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി.

ആകെ 49 മെത്രാന്മാർ സംബന്ധിച്ച ഈ സിനഡിൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്ത പ്രസക്തമായ വിഷയങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളുമായി പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുകയാണ്. മുൻ സമ്മേളനത്തിന്റെ (ജനുവരി 2016) ചില

സുപ്രധാന തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ വിശകലനം ചെയ്യുകയും അതിനുശേഷം സഭാതലത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായ പൊതു സ്വഭാവമുള്ള ചില കാര്യങ്ങൾ അനുസ്മരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അന്തരിച്ച മാർ ജെയിംസ് പഴയ റ്റിൽ പിതാവിന് ആദരാഞ്ജലികളും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും അർപ്പിക്കുകയും അദ്ദേഹം മെത്രാനായിരുന്ന ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട രൂപതയ്ക്ക് അനുശോചനം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു.

കുടുംബ ജീവിത നവീകരണം

റോമിൽ നടന്ന സാർവ്വത്രിക മെത്രാൻ സിനഡിന്റെ "*amoris laetitia*" (സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ ആനന്ദം) എന്ന പ്രബോധനരേഖയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ കുടുംബ ജീവിതം നവീകരിക്കുന്നതിനാവശ്യമായ നടപടികൾ രൂപതാതലത്തിൽ ആവിഷ്കരിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ക്രൈസ്തവമൂല്യങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് യുവജനങ്ങളെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടത് ഇന്നിന്റെ ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് *amoris laetitia* ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഭാര്യ ഭർത്താക്കന്മാർ തമ്മിലും മാതാപിതാക്കന്മാരും മക്കളും തമ്മിലുമുള്ള കുടുംബപ്രശ്നങ്ങളിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്നവരുടെ എണ്ണം ഇന്നത്തെ സമൂഹത്തിൽ ക്രമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. നിസ്സാരമായ കാര്യങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ പോലും വിവാഹ ജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ആദ്യ വർഷങ്ങളിൽ തന്നെ വിവാഹമോചനത്തിന്റെ വക്കിലേക്ക് നീങ്ങുന്ന പ്രവണത ആശങ്കാജനകമാണ്. വിവാഹത്തിന് മുൻപ് കൂടിതാമസിക്കുന്നതും വിവാഹത്തിനുമുൻമുള്ള ലൈംഗിക ബന്ധങ്ങളും ക്രിസ്തീയ പഠനങ്ങൾക്ക് വിരുദ്ധമായ ദാമ്പത്യ സങ്കല്പങ്ങളും ചിലയിടങ്ങളിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതായി ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഉത്കണ്ഠാകുലമാണ് ഭ്രൂണഹത്യ, പെൺകുഞ്ഞുങ്ങളെ നശിപ്പിക്കൽ, തുടങ്ങിയവ. അന്യമതത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വിവാഹം കഴിക്കുന്നവരുടെയും, മറ്റു ക്രൈസ്തവവിഭാഗത്തിൽ നിന്ന് വിവാഹബന്ധത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുന്നവരുടെയും എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്ന സാഹചര്യം വളരെ ഗൗരവത്തോടെയാണ് കാണേണ്ടത്.

ദൈവവിളി പരിശീലനകളരിയാണ് കുടുംബം. ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനം ഏറ്റവും ആദ്യമായി നടക്കേണ്ടത് കുടുംബങ്ങളിലാണ്. മാതാപിതാക്കളുടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വവും (responsible Parenthood), ധാർമികമായ ദൗത്യവും സാക്ഷ്യപ്പെടുത്തി മക്കൾക്ക് മാതൃകയാകുവാൻ ഏവരും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. കുടുംബപ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്ക് അജപാലനപരമായ പരിഹാരം കാണുവാനുള്ള വേദിയാണല്ലോ ഇടവക. വൈദികരും, സന്യസ്തരും കുടുംബസമാധാനത്തിനും സുസ്ഥിതിയ്ക്കും മുൻ

തൂക്കം കൊടുത്ത് കുടുംബപ്രേഷിതത്വ ശുശ്രൂഷ സജീവമാക്കുവാൻ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. വൈദികരുടെ തുടർപരിശീലനപരിപാടിയിൽ (Ongoing formation) ഈ വിഷയം ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി ആനുകാലികമായ പരിഹാരങ്ങൾ റതേടുന്ന് നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഭവനസന്ദർശനം, ഹോം മിഷൻ, കുടുംബയൂണിറ്റുകളുടെ യോഗങ്ങൾ, എന്നിവ ഇടവകയിലെ കുടുംബജീവിത നവീകരണത്തിനും, സുസ്ഥിതിക്കും വേണ്ടി പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഫാമിലി കൗൺസിലിങ്ങ് പരിപാടികൾ ഇടവകതലത്തിലും ഫൊറോന തലത്തിലും സംഘടിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് കുടുംബ ജീവിത പ്രതിസന്ധികളിൽ കഴിയുന്നവരെ സഹായിക്കുവാൻ വഴിയൊരുക്കും. “amoris laetitia” എന്ന പ്രബോധന രേഖ കുടുംബയൂണിറ്റുകൾ വഴിയും കുടുംബ പ്രേഷിത വിഭാഗം വഴിയും യുവജനപ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ വഴിയും പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കുടുംബ പ്രാർത്ഥന വിശ്വാസകൈമാറ്റത്തിനുള്ള ഉത്തമ വേദിയാണ്. മതബോധനക്ലാസുകളിൽ കുടുംബജീവിത മൂല്യങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രധാന്യം കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കുടുതൽ കുട്ടികളുള്ള കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ മാതാപിതാക്കളും മക്കളും തമ്മിലുള്ള ബന്ധം മെച്ചപ്പെടുതാണെന്ന് മനഃശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞന്മാർ പറയുന്നു. കുടുംബ ശിഥിലീകരണം കുടുതൽ സംഭവിക്കുന്നത് അണുകുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ ആണെന്ന വസ്തുതയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിവാഹകോടതിയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ലളിതവത്കരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും വിവാഹബന്ധത്തിന്റെ കൗദാശികസ്വഭാവവും ഈ കുദാശയുടെ ഐക്യവും, അവിഭാജ്യതയും തകിടം മറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ഒരു നടപടിക്രമല്ല പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപ്പാപ്പ വിഭാവനം ചെയ്യുന്നത് എന്ന് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തട്ടെ.

മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ അസംബ്ലി

മാർത്തോമാക്രിസ്ത്യാനികളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നിലവിലിരുന്ന 'യോഗം' എന്ന് വിളിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന പുരാതന സഭാസംവിധാനത്തിന്റെ പുനരുദ്ധരിച്ചതും നവീകൃതവുമായ രൂപമാണ് സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ അസംബ്ലി. സാധാരണയായി മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് അഞ്ചു വർഷത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ വിളിച്ചുകൂട്ടുകയും സഭാശുശ്രൂഷകളുടെയും സേവനങ്ങളുടെയും വിവിധ മേഖലകൾ പുനരവലോകനം ചെയ്ത് കുടുതൽ ഫലപ്രദമായ മാർഗങ്ങൾ ആരായുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. കാലത്തിന്റെ ചുവരെഴുത്തുകൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കി ആനുകാലിക ലോകത്തിൽ കുടുതൽ ക്രിയാത്മകമായി വർത്തിക്കുന്നതിന് ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങൾ

2016 ഓഗസ്റ്റ് 25 മുതൽ 28 വരെ ഇരിങ്ങാലക്കുട രൂപതയുടെ കൊടകര സഹ്യദയ എൻജിനീയറിംഗ് കോളേജിൽവെച്ച് നടന്ന അസംബ്ലിയിൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. അതിലേക്കായി സഭാ വിശ്വാസികളിൽ നിന്ന് വിഷയങ്ങൾ ക്ഷണിക്കുകയും, രൂപതകൾ, സമ്പാദ്യസമ്പാപനങ്ങൾ, പ്രവാസിസമൂഹങ്ങൾ എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വിവിധ വിഷയങ്ങൾ സമാഹരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. അവയിൽ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ നിർദ്ദേശിക്കപ്പെട്ടവയായ ജീവിതത്തിലെ ലാളിത്യം, കൂടുംബത്തിലെ സാക്ഷ്യം, പ്രവാസികളുടെ ദൗത്യം, എന്നീ മൂന്ന് ആനുകാലിക പ്രസക്തമായ വിഷയങ്ങളെ കുറിച്ച് ചർച്ചയും നടത്തി. ഈ അസംബ്ലിയിൽ നടന്ന ചർച്ചകളെക്കുറിച്ചും, തീരുമാനങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ചും വിശദമായി മറ്റൊരു രേഖയിലൂടെ നിങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ അറിയിക്കുന്നതായിരിക്കും.

പ്രകൃതിസംരക്ഷണം

പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണത്തിൽ സഭയുടെ സജീവ പങ്കാളിത്തവും ക്രിയാത്മകമായ ഇടപെടലുകളും ആണ് സിനഡ് ചർച്ച ചെയ്ത മറ്റൊരു വിഷയം. വീടും പരിസരവും വൃത്തിയായി സൂക്ഷിക്കുക, ഇടവക പള്ളിയും ചുറ്റുപാടുകളും പ്രകൃതി സംരക്ഷണാത്മകമായി ക്രമീകരിക്കുക, സ്കൂളുകളും, സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും ശുചിയായി പരിപാലിക്കുക എന്നിവ വളരെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. പഞ്ചായത്തും, മറ്റു പ്രാദേശിക ഭരണസംവിധാനങ്ങളും, ഗവൺമെന്റുമായി സഹകരിച്ച് പരിസ്ഥിതിയെ സംരക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള പദ്ധതികൾ സഹകരണാടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ സംഘടിപ്പിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. മാലിന്യസംസ്കരണം ശാസ്ത്രീയമായും ലളിതമായും നടത്തുവാനുള്ള അവബോധം എല്ലാവർക്കും നൽകേണ്ടതാണ്. ഭക്ഷണമാലിന്യങ്ങൾ വീടിന്റെ പരിസരത്തും വഴിയോരങ്ങളിലും പൊതുസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലും വലിച്ചെറിയാതിരിക്കാൻ ജനങ്ങളെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സംസ്കരിക്കാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ള മറ്റു പദാർഥങ്ങളുടെ ഉപയോഗം ഒഴിവാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ അവബോധം രൂപീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഒരു കൈപ്പുസ്തകം (Handbook on Environmental Protection and Civic Sense) തയ്യാറാക്കുവാൻ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവരെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ പൂർവ്വികർ ഉപയോഗിച്ച് തലമുറകളായി നമുക്ക് കൈമാറിയ നല്ല പ്രകൃതിയെയും ശുദ്ധവായുവിനെയും കുടിവെള്ളത്തെയും ഈ തലമുറയ്ക്കും വരും തലമുറയ്ക്കും അങ്ങനെ തന്നെ കൈമാറേണ്ടതു സാമൂഹ്യനീതിയുടെ ഒരു വശമാണ് എന്നാണ് സഭ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്.

പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ

സഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിയ്ക്കേണ്ട മറ്റൊരു പ്രധാന രംഗമാണ് പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ. സമൂഹത്തിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരുന്ന കിടപ്പുരോഗികളോടും മരണാസന്നരോടും സ്നേഹത്തോടും സഹാനുഭൂതിയോടും കൂടെ പെറുമാറേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. അവരെ നല്ല മണത്തിന് ഒരുക്കേണ്ടത് സഭയുടെ ചുമതലയാണ്. ചിലയിടത്തെല്ലാം പാലിയേറ്റീവ് കെയർ സെന്ററുകൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത് സന്തോഷകരമായ കാര്യമാണ്. ആവശ്യമായ ഇടങ്ങളിലെല്ലാം ഇത്തരം സംരംഭങ്ങൾ രൂപതാതലത്തിൽ തുടങ്ങുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും. സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളുടെ സഹകരണം ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ തേടാവുന്നതാണ്.

വിവിധ കമ്മീഷനുകൾ

നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ കൂടുതൽ സജീവമാക്കുന്നതിനും അതിനു നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്നതിനും രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കമ്മീഷനുകളുടെയും ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളുടെയും ഓഫീസുകളുടെയും പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സിനഡിൽ വിലയിരുത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. സിനഡൽ സെമിനാരികളായ ആലുവ, കോട്ടയം, കുന്നോത്ത്, സത്നാ സെമിനാരികളിൽ അനേകം വൈദികാർത്ഥികൾ നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി പൗരോഹിത്യ പരിശീലനം നടത്തുന്നു എന്നത് അഭിമാനകരമാണ്. ഇതിനു പുറമെ സന്യാസസഭകളുടെ സെമിനാരികളും, മൈനർ സെമിനാരികളും ഉണ്ട്. വൈദികപരിശീലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം കണക്കിലെടുത്ത് സഭയുടെ എല്ലാ തലങ്ങളിലും ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിന് പ്രത്യേകം താല്പര്യം കാണിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും മിഷൻ രൂപതകളിലേയ്ക്കും, മിഷനിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളുടെ പ്രോവിൻസുകളിലേയ്ക്കും, ദൈവവിളിയെ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഇടവകവികാരിമാർ അവസരമൊരുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിനായി സിനഡ് തലത്തിൽ ഒരു കമ്മീഷൻ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം നിങ്ങൾക്കറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. സഭയിൽ സന്യസ്തരുടെ ശുശ്രൂഷ വളരെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. കേരളത്തിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കായുള്ള സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളിലേക്കും സഹോദരർക്കായുള്ള സമർപ്പിതസമൂഹങ്ങളിലേയ്ക്കും (Brotherhood) ദൈവവിളി കുറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്. വൈദികാർത്ഥികളുടെ എണ്ണത്തിൽ കാര്യമായ കുറവില്ലെന്ന് ആശാവഹമാണ്. പൗരോഹിത്യജീവിതത്തിലെ സമർപ്പിത ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കായി മുന്നോട്ടുവരുന്ന സെമിനാരികാരെയും, അർത്ഥികളെയും, അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നതോടെപ്പം അവരെ സഭാസേവനത്തിനയച്ച മാതാപിതാക്കളോട് സഭയ്ക്കുള്ള നന്ദിയും ഞാൻ അറി

യിക്കട്ടെ. ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിന് ബഹു. വികാരിയച്ചന്മാരുടെയും ഇടവകയിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന ബഹു. സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സിന്റെയും പ്രത്യേക ശ്രദ്ധയുണ്ടാകണമെന്ന് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. വൈദികപരിശീലനത്തിന് സാമ്പത്തികമായി സഹായമെത്തിക്കുവാൻ അല്പമായ സഹോദരങ്ങളും മുന്നോട്ട് വരേണ്ടതാണ്. അങ്ങനെ വൈദികർ, സന്യസ്തർ, കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങൾ, മതാധ്യാപകർ എല്ലാവരും ഒത്തൊരുമിച്ച് ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സ്വന്തം രൂപതയിലും സ്വന്തം രൂപതയിലെ സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളിലും എന്നതുപോലെ തന്നെ മിഷനിൽ പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്ന രൂപതകളിലേയ്ക്കും, സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളിലേയ്ക്കും ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം.

'കുടുംബത്തിനും അല്പായർക്കും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ കമ്മീഷൻ', 'കുടുംബത്തിനും, അല്പായർക്കും, ജീവനും വേണ്ടിയുള്ള മേജർ ആർക്കി എപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ കമ്മീഷൻ' എന്നാക്കി പുനർനാമകരണം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. കുടുംബജീവിതത്തിന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യവും, ജീവിതസാക്ഷ്യവുംപോലെ തന്നെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ് ജീവന്റെ മൂല്യം കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം. കുടുംബജീവിത നവീകരണത്തെപ്പറ്റിനേരത്തെ സൂചിപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നല്ലോ. മതബോധനകമ്മീഷന്റെ പ്രാധാന്യം കണക്കിലെടുത്ത് കേരളത്തിലും, കേരളത്തിനു പുറത്തും, ആഗോളതലത്തിലും സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മതബോധന പാഠ്യപദ്ധതി നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ ഈ കമ്മീഷന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിലുള്ള പരിശ്രമങ്ങളുമായി എല്ലാവരും സഹകരിക്കുമല്ലോ. മതബോധന ക്ലാസ്സുകൾക്കൊപ്പം തന്നെ കുടുംബം, ഇടവക, ആരാധനക്രമം തുടങ്ങിയവയെല്ലാം വിശ്വാസപരിശീലനത്തിനുള്ള വേദികളാകണം. യുവജനങ്ങളുടെ സഭയിലെ പങ്കാളിത്തം എല്ലാ തലത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ സജീവമാക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. അതിനായി യുവജന കമ്മീഷൻ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ സീറോ- മലബാർ യൂത്ത് മൂവ്മെന്റിന്റെ നിയമാവലി സിനഡിൽ അംഗീകരിച്ചു. ഈ അടുത്തകാലത്തു പോളണ്ടിൽ നടന്ന വേൾഡ് യൂത്ത് ഡേയിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭയിൽ നിന്നുണ്ടായ യുവജനപ്രാതിനിധ്യം അഭിനന്ദനാർഹമാണ്. കത്തോലിക്കാ കോൺഗ്രസിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ വിലയിരുത്തുകയും അതിന്റെ നിയമാവലിക്കു അംഗീകാരം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തു. സഭയിൽ സന്യസ്തരുടെ ശുശ്രൂഷ വിലപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. രൂപതാ തലത്തിലും, ഇടവകതലത്തിലും, സന്യസ്തരുമായി നല്ല ബന്ധം പുലർത്തുവാൻ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവർ ശ്രമിക്കുമല്ലോ. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ രംഗത്തും ആതുരസേവനരംഗത്തും സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്ന സ്ഥാപ

നങ്ങൾ യേശുവിന്റെ കരുണാർദ്രമായ സ്നേഹത്തിനും സുവിശേഷ വൽക്കരണത്തിനുമുള്ള വേദികളായി മാറേണ്ടതാണ്. സമർപ്പിതർ കായുള്ള കമ്മീഷനും, സീറോ- മലബാർ കോൺഫറൻസ് ഫോർ റിലീജിയസും ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ നടത്തുന്ന നേതൃത്വം ശ്രദ്ധേയമായിരുന്നു.

കേരളത്തിനു പുറത്തും ഇന്ത്യയിലുമുള്ള സീറോ-മലബാർ മക്കളുടെ അജപാലനകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കായി ഒരു Apostolic Visitor നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള കാര്യം നിങ്ങൾക്കറിയാമല്ലോ. നാഗ്പൂർ കേന്ദ്രമാക്കി ഇതിനായി ഒരു ഓഫീസ് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈ വിസ്തൃതമായ മാർ റാഫേൽ തട്ടിൽ പിതാവിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ നടത്തുന്ന അസോസിയേഷൻ ഓഫ് സീറോ മലബാർ (അസ്സെ) മിഷൻസപ്പോർട്ടിന് നിർലോപമായ സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ നൽകണമെന്ന് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിന്റെ പേര് സീറോ മലബാർ മിഷൻ എന്നാക്കി സിനഡ് പുനർനാമകരണം ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. പ്രേഷിത പ്രവർത്തനത്തിനും, പ്രവാസിഅജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കുമായി ഉള്ള കമ്മീഷന്റെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് സിനഡിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇന്ത്യയ്ക്ക് പുറത്ത് യൂറോപ്പിൽ - ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിലുള്ള വിശ്വാസികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി നമുക്ക് ഒരു രൂപത ലഭിച്ചതും, അതിന്റെ പ്രഥമ മെത്രാനായി മാർ ജോസഫ് സ്രാമിക്കലിനെ നിയമിച്ചതും നിങ്ങൾ അറിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുമല്ലോ. യൂറോപ്പിലെ ഇതരരാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ അജപാലനശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ക്രോഡീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് അറബിയിലെ വഴംഗങ്ങളിലേക്ക് ആയി മാർ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്തിനെയും ഈയിടെ പരി. പിതാവ് നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. മറ്റിടങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് ഗൾഫ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ ഉൾജീതമായ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ തുടരുകയാണ്. ഗൾഫിലെ സഭാനേതൃത്വവുമായി ഈയിടെ സിനഡ് പിതാക്കന്മാർ നടത്തിയ ചർച്ചകളുടെ വിശദവിവരങ്ങൾ സിനഡിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി.

ജോലി സംബന്ധിച്ചും പഠനത്തിനുമായി നാട്ടിൽ നിന്നും അന്യസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേക്ക് പോകുന്നവർ സ്വന്തം ഇടവകയിൽ നിന്ന് വികാരിയച്ചന്റെ എഴുത്തു കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നകാര്യം ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. പുതിയ സ്ഥലത്തു ചെന്ന് അവിടുത്തെ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട അച്ചന് ആകത്ത് കാണിച്ച രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്യുകയും നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ ആത്മീയ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കും, നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ അജപാലനശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്കും ഉള്ള സൗകര്യം ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. ഇതിനായി ഒരു "migrants form" തയ്യാറാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത് ഉപ

യോഗിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വിവാഹത്തിനായി നാട്ടിലേയ്ക്ക് വരുമ്പോൾ അവിടെയുള്ള സീറോ-മലബാർ വൈദികനിൽ നിന്നുള്ള കത്ത് (കുറി) കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിൽ മത വിദ്വേഷം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതും തീവ്രവാദ സംഘടനകളിലേയ്ക്ക് നമ്മുടെ മക്കൾ വഴിതെറ്റിപ്പോകുന്നതും ആശങ്കാജനകമാണ്. ദേശീയതലത്തിൽ രൂപപ്പെടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പുതിയ ദേശീയ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ബിൽ (national education bill) നൂനപക്ഷങ്ങളെ ഹനിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിലേക്ക് പോകുന്നത് അപലപനീയമാണ്.

സീറോ-മലബാർ സഭയുടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക ആന്തം (Official anthem) അവസരോചിതമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻവേണ്ടി സിനഡിന്റെ അവസരത്തിൽ പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. വളരെ ഫലപ്രദവും സജീവവുമായ ചിന്തകൾക്കും ചർച്ചകൾക്കും തീരുമാനങ്ങൾക്കും ശേഷം സെപ്തംബർ 2-ാം തീയതി ഉച്ചയോടെ സിനഡ് സമാപിച്ചു. സിനഡിന്റെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയ്ക്കും നന്മയ്ക്കും ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതിനു നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരുടെയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും സഹകരണവും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

കാർഡിനൽ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ- മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ഡിസംബർ 1 റ്റം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

NB: ഈ വിജ്ഞാപനം ഉചിതമായ മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലൂടെ അതതു രൂപത / അതിരൂപതകളിലെ വൈദികരുടെയും സന്യസ്തരുടെയും അല്മായ സഹോദരങ്ങളുടെയും ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതാണ്.

Prot. No. 1748/2016

CIRCULAR OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

To all the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church after the XXIV Synod (2016), Session 2, of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church held from 22 August to 2 September 2016 at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, Kochi

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The second session of the 24th Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church was held from 22 August to 2 September 2016 at Mt. St. Thomas, Kakkanad at a time when the Universal Church and the Catholic Church of India felt immense joy at the canonization of Mother Teresa. Several bishops from our Church including myself attended the canonization ceremony after the conclusion of the Synod. I pray that the Church of India and specially the Syro-Malabar Church may receive abundant blessings of God through the intercession of St. Mother Teresa.

The Synod expressed its anxiety at the long delay for the release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil from captivity and prayed for his early return. It also expressed its deep shock at the brutal killing of Fr. Jacques Hamel in France. The Synod also prayed for those who were martyred for their faith in different countries of the world.

I am sharing in this letter a brief summary of the discussions of the major topics in the Synod attended by 49 bishops. The Synod made an assessment of some of the topics discussed in the previous synod (2016) and brought to the attention of the members some events that took place in the Church after the previous Synod. It also paid homage to late Mar James Pazhayattil and offered prayers for the repose of his soul and also offered its condolences to the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda where he was the Bishop.

Renewal of Family life:

It was felt that steps should be taken at the eparchial level to renew family life under the direction of the Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, published after the conclusion of the Synod in Rome. The Apostolic Exhortation urges the families to pay more attention to instilling Christian values in the minds of young people. The number of families living in conflicts either between the spouses or between the parents and their children are incredibly on the increase in the present day society. The tendency of many families breaking up in the very first years of their lives together on apparently flimsy grounds is very alarming. The increasing practice of cohabitation before marriage, premarital sex and ways of life contrary to the Christian morality in the lives of some of the faithful has also been noted. Equally disturbing are the instances where the Catholic couples indulge in abortions, female infanticide, etc. Also there is an alarming increase in the number of inter-religious and interdenominational marriages.

Family is the breeding ground of vocations and it should be the place where vocations are nurtured. Parents should live a model Christian life, witnessing to an authentic Christian life that is responsible and morally upright. Parishes are the places where pastoral solutions are offered to families experiencing crises. Hence, priests and the consecrated men and women should aim at strengthening the ministry of family apostolate giving primary importance to peace and welfare of the families. It would be very beneficial if these topics could be included in the ongoing formation of priests and solutions sought relevant to the present day situations.

Visits to families, family unit gatherings and home mission meetings should be used for the renewal of family life and to strengthen the stability of families. It will be very helpful for the families in crisis to have family counseling programmes organized at parish/forane levels. It would also be very beneficial if the ideas discussed in the *Amoris Laetitia* are disseminated

though family units and Family Apostolate and Catholic Youth organizations.

Family prayers are very important for the transmission of the faith. Values that strengthen family life should become part of the Catechetical instruction. Psychologists are of opinion that the families with more children will have a very healthy relationship between parents and the children. It is also felt that nuclear families are more exposed to the risk of family instability. Even though the procedure in marriage tribunals is being simplified, the Holy Father does not envisage any diminution of the emphasis on the unity and indissolubility of marriages.

Major Archiepiscopal Assembly:

The Major Archiepiscopal Assembly is the modern version of the ancient practice of Yogam that was in vogue with St. Thomas Christians in the past centuries. The Major Archbishop convokes the General Assembly once in every five years to evaluate the viability and usefulness of the various ministries and apostolates. In the assembly that was held at Sahrudaya College of Engineering and Technology, Kodakara in the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda from 25-28 August 2016, it was discussed how to intervene creatively in the contemporary world having in mind the present trends of the society. For this, proposals of themes were invited from eparchies, religious congregations and Pravasi communities. The three prominent topics that came up in the proposals - Simplicity in Life, Witness in families and Mission of Migrants - were taken up for discussion. I will brief you about the discussions on these topics at the Assembly in another letter.

Protection of the Environment

Another important topic that was discussed at the Synod was concerned with the protection of the environment and the creative role of the Church in that regard. Keeping the house and its surroundings, parish church and its grounds, schools and institutions clean and echo-friendly is an important step in this direction. We

could organize participatory environmental protection drives in cooperation with the Government and the local civic bodies like the panchayats. People should be given education in simple and scientific waste disposal methods. People have to be trained not to throw the waste on roadsides or on the sides of the streets. Materials that are non-degradable should not be used. A handbook on Environmental Protection and Civic Sense is being prepared. The Church teaches that it is part of social justice to protect the nature, the air and the water that we have received as patrimony from our forefathers and to hand it over to the next generation for its use.

Palliative Care

Palliative care is an area where the Church has to pay special attention as it deals with the life of people who are terminally ill and experience a lot of sufferings. They should be treated with great compassion and love. It is a matter of great comfort that many of our eparchies and religious congregations have started palliative care centres in different parts of the country. But much more has to be done in this area. The assistance of religious congregations has to be sought in this ministry.

Commissions and Committees

The reports of various commissions, committees, departments and offices which have been dealing with the various ministries of the Church were evaluated at the Synod.

It is a matter of great joy that several hundreds of seminarians are being trained at the synodal seminaries of Alwaye, Kottayam, Kunnoth and Satna. Along with these, there are also major seminaries belonging to various religious congregations and minor seminaries for the training of seminarians.

More encouragements should be given to the promotion of vocations, taking into account the importance of vocations for the Church. Parish priests have to encourage vocations for mission eparchies and religious congregations working in the missions. As you are aware, at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia there is a

Commission working for the promotion of vocations. The ministry of the consecrated in the Church is very important. It is to be noted that vocations are diminishing in Kerala to congregations for women and congregations for brothers. It is an encouraging fact that there is no diminution in the number of priestly vocations. While congratulating the seminarians and aspirants, I also convey the profound gratitude of the Church to their parents for having sent their children for the ministry in the Church. I would urge the parish priests and sisters to promote religious vocations. The laity should come forward to support financially the training of seminarians and sisters. In that way, all the various sections of the Church would be involved in the promotion of vocations. There should be a sincere attempt to promote vocations equally for the local eparchies as well as for mission eparchies.

It was decided to rename the Commission for Family and the Laity as the Commission for Family, the Laity and Life. The responsibility for preserving the value of Life is as important as the preservation of family life. I have already mentioned the importance of the renewal of family life.

I am sure everyone will cooperate with the efforts of the Catechetical Commission to implement the Syro-Malabar Catechetical Syllabus in all the centers of Catechetical instruction in Kerala and outside. Along with Catechism classes, parishes, families and liturgical celebrations should also become centres of catechetical instruction. Participation of the Youth in the Church should also be encouraged. The Statutes of the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement were approved at the Synod. The participation of the representatives of the youth in the recently held World Youth Day in Poland is worthy of special mention.

The working of the Catholic Congress was evaluated and its Statutes were approved. The ministry of the religious is very important in the life of the Church. There should be a good relationship with the religious at the parish and eparchial level. The educational and health care institutions run by the religious should be

centres of love and mercy. The efforts undertaken by the Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Syro-Malabar Conference of the religious are praiseworthy.

As you are aware, an Apostolic Visitor has been appointed for the faithful who live in the different States of India, outside the Syro-Malabar eparchies. The Apostolic Visitor has been working with an office at Nagpur. I am also requesting you to offer your support to the ASSM working under the direction of Mar Raphael Thattil, the Apostolic Visitor. ASSM has been renamed as the Syro-Malabar Mission.

The report of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants was presented at the Synod. You have known, I am sure, that a new eparchy was created for the Syro-Malabar faithful in Great Britain and that Mar Srampikal was appointed the new bishop. Mar Stephen Chirappanath was appointed the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Europe. Efforts are being made for the arrangement of the pastoral care of the faithful in the Gulf countries. The discussions held with the hierarchy of the Gulf regions were presented at the Synod.

Those who leave for jobs or studies abroad are requested to carry letters from their home parishes in Kerala. In that way, they can register themselves in the Syro-Malabar parishes and communities there and make use of the provisions for pastoral care and liturgical celebrations of our Church in those countries. They are urged to make use of the Special Migrants Form that has been prepared for this purpose. Those who are coming home for marriages should bring letters from their Syro-Malabar parish priests abroad stating their freedom to marry (Kuris).

We have seen with great anxiety the growing spirit of hatred and violence among different religions in our Country. The new Educational policy that is being drafted by the Central Govt. makes the minority communities of India very apprehensive of the future.

I am happy to let you know that the official anthem of the Syro-Malabar Church was published at the time of the Synod. After great discussions and sharing, the Synod concluded by noon on 2 September. I request your prayers and support so that all the activities of the Synod may contribute to the growth and development of the Church.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkannad on 1 December 2016.

N.B: This circular is to be brought to the attention of the priests, religious and laity of the respective eparchies/archeparchies through suitable means.

സീറോ മലബാർ പ്രവാസികൾക്കായുള്ള ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടൺ രൂപതാപ്രഖ്യാപനവും യൂറോപ്പിലെ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററുടെ നിയമനവും

സർക്കുലർ

Prot. No. 1298/2016

സീറോ മലബാർസഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് ജോർജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്ത തന്റെ സഹശുശ്രൂഷകരായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തമാർക്കും മെത്രാൻമാർക്കും വൈദികർക്കും സമർപ്പിതർക്കും തന്റെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ ദൈവജനത്തിനും എഴുതുന്നത്. കർത്താവിന്റെ കൃപ നിങ്ങളേവരോടും കൂടെ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാരേ, ഇശോമിശിഹായ്ക്കു സ്തുതിയായിരിക്കട്ടെ!

സീറോമലബാർ സഭയിൽ 50 ലക്ഷത്തോളം വിശ്വാസികളുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ 6 ലക്ഷത്തോളം പേർ സഭയുടെ 32 രൂപതകൾക്കും ഒരു അപ്പസ്തോലിക് എക്സാർക്കേറ്റിനും പുറത്ത് പ്രവാസികളായി കഴിയുന്നവരാണ്. ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ തന്നെ ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള 29 രൂപതകൾക്കു പുറത്ത് പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട നഗരങ്ങളിലും പട്ടണങ്ങളിലുമായി 2 ലക്ഷത്തിലധികം സീറോ മലബാർ കത്തോലിക്കരുണ്ട്. നാൽപ്പതിനായിരത്തിലധികമാണ് ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ സ്ഥാപിതമായിരിക്കുന്ന പുതിയ രൂപതയിലെ അംഗസംഖ്യ. ഇതിനുപുറമെ ഓസ്ട്രിയ, ഫ്രാൻസ്, ജർമ്മനി, അയർലന്റ്, ഇറ്റലി, സ്വിറ്റ്സർലന്റ്, ഡെൻമാർക്ക് തുടങ്ങിയ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലായി മുപ്പതിനായിരത്തോളം സീറോമലബാർ സഭാംഗങ്ങളുണ്ട്. ഗൾഫ് രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽത്തന്നെ നാലുലക്ഷത്തോളം വരും സീറോമലബാർ വിശ്വാസികളുടെ എണ്ണം. മറ്റ് ഏഷ്യൻ, ആഫ്രിക്കൻ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലുമായി ഇരൂപത്തി അയ്യായിരത്തിലധികവും.

പ്രവാസികളുടെ അജപാലനം ശരിയായി നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നതിന് സാർവ്വത്രിക സഭ ശ്രദ്ധാലുവാണ്. പൗരസ്ത്യകത്തോലിക്കാസഭ

കളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് രണ്ടാം വത്തിക്കാൻ കൗൺസിൽ പുറപ്പെടുവിച്ച ഡിക്രിയിൽ പറയുന്നതിപ്രകാരമാണ് 'ആകയാൽ ലോകമാസകലമുള്ള ഒരോ പ്രത്യേകസഭയേയും സംരക്ഷിക്കാനും വളർത്താനും ശ്രദ്ധചെലുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. വിശ്വാസികളുടെ ആദ്ധ്യാത്മികമായ നന്മയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി ആവശ്യമാകുന്നിടത്തെല്ലാം ഇടവകകളും അവരുടെ സ്വന്തം ഹയരാർക്കിയും സ്ഥാപിക്കണം.' ഇപ്രകാരം ഓരോ വ്യക്തിസഭയിൽ നിന്നുമുള്ള പ്രവാസികളുടെ അജപാലനം അതേ സഭയുടെ മേൽനോട്ടത്തിൽ നിർവ്വഹിക്കപ്പെടാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ സഭ ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്.

സീറോമലബാർ സഭയിൽ നിന്നും ഇൻഡ്യക്കുപുറത്ത് പ്രവാസികളായി കഴിയുന്ന വിശ്വാസി സമൂഹങ്ങൾക്ക് അജപാലന നേതൃത്വം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ 2016 ജൂലൈ 28 -ാം തീയതി പരിശുദ്ധപിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പ രണ്ട് പ്രത്യേക സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി:

1. ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിലെ പ്രസ്സൺ കേന്ദ്രമാക്കി സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയ്ക്കായി ഒരു രൂപത സ്ഥാപിച്ച് ഫാ. ജോസഫ് സ്രാമിക്കലിനെ അതിന്റെ പ്രഥമ മെത്രാനായി നിയമിച്ചു.

2. ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടൻ ഒഴികെ അയർലന്റ് ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള മറ്റ് യൂറോപ്യൻ രാജ്യങ്ങൾക്കായുള്ള അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററായി മോൺസിഞ്ഞാർ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്തിനെ നിയമിച്ചു.

ഫാ. ജോസഫ് സ്രാമിക്കലിന്റെ മെത്രാഭിഷേകവും ചുമതല ഏറ്റെടുക്കൽ ശുശ്രൂഷയും 2016 ഒക്ടോബർ 9-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച പ്രാദേശികസമയം 1.30 - ന് പ്രസ്സൺ നോർത്ത് എൻഡ് സ്റ്റേഡിയത്തിൽ വെച്ചും മോൺസിഞ്ഞാർ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്തിന്റെ മെത്രാഭിഷേകം നവംബർ 1 ചൊവ്വാഴ്ച പ്രാദേശികസമയം 10.00 - ന് റോമിലെ സെന്റ് പോൾസ് ബസിലിക്കയിൽ വെച്ചും നടത്തപ്പെടും.

രണ്ടുപേരുടെയും മെത്രാഭിഷേകശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹപ്രദമായി നടക്കുവാൻ സഭാമക്കൾ എല്ലാവരും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രാർഥിക്കുകയും സാധിക്കുന്നിടത്തോളം ആളുകൾ അതിൽ സംബന്ധിക്കുകയും തുടർന്ന് അവരുടെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ എല്ലാ സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ നല്കുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ സഭാസമൂഹത്തിന്റെ ഐക്യവും കൂട്ടായ്മയും പ്രകടമാക്കി നല്ല വിശ്വാസസാക്ഷ്യം നൽകാനുള്ള അവസരമാക്കി ഇതിനെ മാറ്റാൻ നമുക്കു പരിശ്രമിക്കാം.

യൂറോപ്പിലെ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്റർ കീഴിലുള്ള രാജ്യ

ങ്ങളിലെ സീറോമലബാർ പ്രവാസികൾ ആ രാജ്യങ്ങളിലെ ലത്തീൻ സഭാപിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ അജപാലനാധികാരത്തിൻ കീഴിൽ തുടരുന്നതാണ്. എന്നാൽ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററായ മോൺസിഞ്ഞോർ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്ത് ലത്തീൻ പിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ അറിവോടെ പ്രവാസികളായ സീറോ മലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്ക് ആവശ്യമായ മെത്രാനടുത്ത ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്. അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററുടെ കീഴിലുള്ള പ്രവാസിസമൂഹങ്ങളിലെ സീറോ മലബാർ കുർബാനകളിൽ മെത്രാഭിഷേകത്തിനുശേഷം, രൂപതാമെത്രാന്മാരുടേതുപോലെ, അഭിവന്ദ്യ സിറീഫൻ പിതാവിന്റെ പേര് പറഞ്ഞ് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണമെന്ന് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു.

സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ പ്രവാസികളുടെ കാര്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇതുവരെയും മാർഗദർശനങ്ങൾ നൽകുകയും വേണ്ട സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ നേതൃത്വം നൽകുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നത് സഭാസിനഡിന്റെ സുവിശേഷവത്കരണത്തിനും അജപാലനത്തിനുമായുള്ള കമ്മീഷനായിരുന്നു. പ്രസ്തുത കമ്മീഷന്റെ യൂറോപ്പിലെ പ്രവാസികൾക്ക് വേണ്ടിയുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനം ഇനി അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററുടെ ചുമതലയിലായിരിക്കും. ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിലെ രൂപതയ്ക്കും യൂറോപ്പിനും പുറത്തുള്ള സീറോമലബാർ പ്രവാസികൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഈ കമ്മീഷൻ തുടർന്നും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതാണ്. യൂറോപ്പിലെയും ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിലെയും പ്രവാസികൾക്ക് വേണ്ടി ഈ കമ്മീഷൻ ചെയ്ത എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കും അതുവഴിയുണ്ടായ എല്ലാ വിജയങ്ങൾക്കും നന്ദിപറയുവാൻ ഈ അവസരം വിനിയോഗിക്കുന്നു.

നിയുക്തപിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ മേലദ്ധ്യക്ഷശുശ്രൂഷയെ നമുക്കുകർത്താവിന്റെ കൃപയ്ക്ക് സമർപ്പിക്കാം. ദൈവജനം മുഴുവൻ അവർക്കുവേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയും സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ നൽകുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് പ്രത്യേകം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. സഭാഗാത്രത്തിലുണ്ടായിരിക്കേണ്ട പരസ്പരസഹകരണത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് വിവിധസഭകൾക്ക് വി.പൗലോസ് എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്ന വാക്കുകൾ നിങ്ങളെയും ഞാൻ അനുസ്മരിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ്. 'ആകയാൽ, നമുക്ക് അവസരം ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് സകല മനുഷ്യർക്കും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച്, വിശ്വാസത്താൽ ഒരേ കുടുംബത്തിൽ അംഗങ്ങളായവർക്ക്, നന്മ ചെയ്യാം' (ഗലാ. 6:10) 'ഒരു അവയവം വേദനയനുഭവിക്കുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാ അവയവങ്ങളും വേദനയനുഭവിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു അവയവം പ്രശം

സിക്കപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാ അവയവങ്ങളും പ്രശംസിക്കപ്പെടുന്നു'.
(1 കോറി. 12: 26).

കാരുണ്യവാനായ കർത്താവ് നിങ്ങളേവരെയും അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ!

ഇതശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മഠണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2016-ാം ആണ്ട് സെപ്റ്റംബർ മാസം 21 -ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

N.B: ഈ സർക്കുലർ 2016 സെപ്റ്റംബർ മാസം 25-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച ഗ്രേറ്റ് ബ്രിട്ടനിലും യൂറോപ്പിലുമുള്ള പള്ളികളിലും കെടോബർ 2-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ മറ്റെല്ലാ പള്ളികളിലും ദിവ്യബലിമധ്യേ പ്രസ്ഥമായ ഒരു

Prot. No. 0034/2016

**DECREE APPOINTING
REV. FR. JOSE PULICKAL
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF
KANJIRAPALLY**

**MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL LETTER
OF CANONICAL PROVISION**

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH sends his paternal Blessings to you, REV. FR. JOSE PULICKAL, priest belonging to the Eparchy of Kanjirapally, presently Syncellus of the same Eparchy, who, having obtained the prior assent of the Holy Father, has been elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the First Session of the XXIV Synod, held from 07-12 January 2016, Auxiliary Bishop of Kanjirapally. His Excellency Mar Mathew Arackal, the Bishop of Kanjirapally had requested the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church for an Auxiliary Bishop, considering his increasing responsibilities in and outside the Eparchy. You as a person of exemplary priestly qualities with adequate intellectual formation, spiritual depth and pastoral and administrative experience in different parishes, ecclesiastical institutions and offices have been chosen to be the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally to assist His Excellency Mar Mathew Arackal in his duties as the Shepherd of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally.

Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1° and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church to provide the people of God entrust-

ed to my care with pastors and efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Eparchy of KANJIRAPALLY and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby appoint you AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF KANJIRAPALLY. Moreover, His Holiness Pope Francis has assigned to you the Titular See of LARES. You are to be ordained Bishop in accordance with CCEO c. 187 §2 and c. 188 and take canonical possession of your office in accordance with CCEO c. 214. Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd and praying that through the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary the Patroness of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally, you may in union with Bishop Mar MATHEW ARACKAL and in close communion with the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Kanjirapally, fulfil the duties of your office as "an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1Tim 4:12). I send you, my hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on 12th day of the month of January of the year 2016 under my seal and signature.

+ George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

PAPAL BULL ERECTING THE SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF GREAT BRITAIN

New Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain established in Great Britain!

FRANCIS, BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD,

Elected to the Chair of the Prince of Apostles, and concerned also about the spiritual welfare and the government of the Syro-Malabar Christians resident in England, Wales and Scotland, it seems proper to erect for them a new Eparchy.

We, therefore, this same day, having heard the advice of our Venerable Brother His Most Reverend Eminence Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, and after mature deliberation, We establish by the supreme Apostolic authority the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, with the proper rights and obligations of all the Eastern Churches; whose eparchial headquarters We locate in the city of Preston, while its constitution and administration should be according to the norms of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches. We order that these be put into effect and once they have been put into execution, let all the usual documents be prepared and sent to the above-mentioned Congregation. Finally, we want this Apostolic Constitution to be ratified and remain valid now and in the future, whatsoever obstacles notwithstanding.

Given in Rome, at St Peter's, on the sixteenth day of the month of July, in the year of the Lord two thousand and sixteen, in the Jubilee of Mercy, the fourth year of Our Pontificate.

FRANCISCUS PP.

PAPAL BULL APPOINTING FR. JOSEPH SRAMPICKAL

BISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR EPARCHY OF GREAT BRITAIN

FRANCIS, BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, to Our beloved Son Joseph Benny Mathew Srampickal, from the clergy of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Palai, currently serving as Vice Rector of the Pontifical Urban College of "De Propaganda Fide", elected Bishop of the new Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, greetings and Apostolic Blessing!

Since it is necessary that a Prelate should preside over the new Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain established by Us on this same day through the Apostolic Constitution "In Apostolorum Principis", having heard those concerned, especially our Venerable Brother His Most Rev. Eminence Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, you, beloved Son, endowed with shining gifts and expert in pastoral field and biblical theology, are seen to be apt for its governance. Therefore, with the supreme Apostolic authority We appoint you Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain together with all the rights and duties attached to the same office in accordance with the norms of the Code of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches.

With regard to the ordination, your profession of faith, and the promise of obedience towards Us and Our Successors, you will follow the rules of the aforementioned Code. We order also that these letters be brought to the notice of your clergy and people; We urge them to gladly accept you and remain united with you. Finally, beloved Son, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary,

and with the perennial voice of the Apostles (see Hymnus Akathistos, 7), We ask for the gifts of the Holy Spirit the Paraclete, with which to help nourish the faithful entrusted to your care, especially through charity, the chief virtue of pastors: as much we love, so much we nourish. May the peace and light of Christ be always with you and with that ecclesial community so dear to Us.

Given in Rome, at St Peter's, on the sixteenth day of the month of July, in the year of the Lord two thousand and sixteen, in the Jubilee of Mercy, the fourth year of Our Pontificate.

FRANCISCUS PP.

PAPAL BULL APPOINTING

MGR. STEPHEN CHIRAPPANATH APOSTOLIC VISITATOR FOR THE SYRO-MALABAR FAITHFUL RESIDING IN EUROPE

FRANCIS, BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD, to my beloved Son, Stephen Chirappanath, of the Clergy of the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda, elected Apostolic Visitor to the Syro-Malabar faithful residing in Europe and, at the same time, decorated with the title of Slebte, health and Apostolic Benediction!

The care of the pastoral office entrusted to Us happily requires that we attend to those things which concern the spiritual advantage of the faithful, and that we willingly grant Our solicitude to those things which foster in any way the salvation of souls. Turning Our Soul to the needs of the flock of the Syro-Malabars, a great number of whom, living in the European region, lack a leader for their spiritual necessities, we have, at the prompting of our Venerable Brother, His Most Eminent Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, thought of you, beloved Son. We have judged that you, expert in moral theology [and] dedicated to the building up the clergy and to the pastoral ministry, might perform a diligent service in the Church through the episcopal office. Having heard, therefore, the counsel of the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, through the duty enjoined upon Us of governing the Catholic Church and by the fullness of Our Apostolic authority, we freely constitute you Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malabar faithful dwelling in Europe, bearing the Episcopal title of SLEBTE, with all due rights having been granted and relative duties imposed, according to the norm of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches.

With regard to your episcopal ordination, profession of faith and promise of obedience to Us and to Our Successors, you will heed the established norms of the aforesaid Code. We wish that you should advise the Syro-Malabar clergy and people living in Europe of this Our decree, and we urge these same persons that they, fulfilling the will of Christ with a sincere heart, should consider you as a father to be loved and a guardian to be honored. Let us piously beseech the Lord, beloved Son, that you might, through the intercession of Saint Thomas the Apostle, merit to receive superabundant grace for the good of the people of God.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the twenty-sixth day of July, in the two thousand and sixteenth year of the Lord, during the Jubilee of Mercy, the fourth year of Our Pontificate.

FRANCISCUS PP.

ACTIVITY OF THE MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL TRIBUNAL - 2015
TRIBUNAL MINISTERS

	NAME	STATUS	DATE OF Birth	DATE OF Appointment	DATE OF Renewal	Academic Degree in Canon Law
I.	PRESIDENT (Judicial Vicar)					
1.	Fr. Jose Chiramel	S	24.04.1952	Judge on 12.11.1994 Vice President on 27.11.2003	President on 13.05.2019	D.O.C.L., Djp
II.	VICE – PRESIDENT					
2.	Fr. Joseph Varanath	S	07.08.1960	Judge on 28.07.2000 Vice President on 27.11.2003	Vice President on 27.11.2016	D.O.C.L.
III.	JUDGES					
3.	Fr. Joseph Pathiyamoola MCBS	S	28.07.1955	01.09.1994	01.11.2010	D.O.C.L.
4.	Fr. Varghese Palathingal	S	19.01.1960	01.09.1994	01.11.2010	D.O.C.L.
5.	Fr. John Kochupurackal CST	S	30.07.1956	26.06.1996	18.08.2012	D.O.C.L
6.	Fr. Joseph Thoompunkal	S	30.12.1946	28.07.2000	01.11.2010	D.O.C.L
7.	Fr. Berchmans Kodackal	S	09.11.1951	18.08.2002	18.08.2012	D.C.L

8.	Fr. Thomas Adoppillil	S	18.09.1958	17.08.2007	17.08.2012	D.C.L.
9.	Fr. James Thalachelloor	S	19.07.1954	18.03.2010	18.03.2015	D.O.C.L.
10.	Fr. Vincent Chittilappilly	S	24.07.1966	18.03.2010	18.03.2015	D.O.C.L.
11.	Fr. Mathew Changankary	S	25.09.1965	26.02.2014	26.02.2014	JCD; Ph.D
12.	Fr. Thomas Thengumpally	S	30.05.1973	17.07.2014	17.07.2014	D.O.C.L
13.	Fr. Joseph Mukaleparambil	S	29.05.1977	18-03-2015	18-03-2015	D.O.C.L

IV.	DEFENDERS OF BOND					
1.	Fr. Mani Kuthodiputhenpurayil CST	S	05.04.1966	17.08.2007	17.08.2012	D.O.C.L.
2.	Fr. Joseph Velinjail	S	08.07.1960	18.03.2010	18.03.2015	D.C.L.
4.	Fr. John Chennakuzhy	S	30.10.1969	26.02.2014	26.02.2014	D.O.C.L
5	Fr. Clement Chirayath	S		18-03-2015	18.03.2015	D.O.C.L

V.	(Substitute) PROMOTERS OF JUSTICE					
1.	Fr. Mani Kuthodiputhenpurayil CST	S	05.04.1966	17.08.2007	17.08.2012	D.O.C.L.
2.	Fr. George Thekkekkara	S		18.11.1973	01.05.2009	D.O.C.L., Djp

VI	Name ADVOCATES	Diocese / Congregation	DATE OF Appoint- ment	Academic Degree in Canon Law
1	Rev. Fr. Philip Nelpuraparambil	Changanacherry	20.12.2010	D.O.C.L.
2	Rev. Sr. Asha John	CHF	"	D.O.C.L.
3	Rev. Sr. Sibi	CMC	"	D.O.C.L.
4	Rev. Fr. Varghese Koluthara	CMI	"	D.C.L.
5	Rev. Fr. Jose Paul Nellissery	Ernaku- lam-Ang.	"	M.C.L.
6	Rev. Fr. Jose Marattil	Idukki	"	D.C.L.
7	Rev. Fr. Clement Chirayath	Irinjalakuda	"	D.O.C.L.
8	Rev. Fr. Kurian Thamarassery	Kanjirappally	"	D.O.C.L.
9	Rev.Fr. Lawrence P. Thomas	OFM Cap.	"	D.C.L.
10	Rev. Fr. Abraham Kulamakkal	Palai	"	M.O.C.L.
11	Rev. Sr. Sherin	SH	"	D.O.C.L.
12	Rev. Sr. Mercilit	SVM	"	D.O.C.L.
13	Rev. Fr. Jose Vettickal	Tellicherry	"	D.O.C.L.
14	Rev. Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor	Trichur	"	D.O.C.L.
15	Rev. Fr. Philip Nedumthuruthil	VC	"	D.O.C.L.

VII	NOTARY	Diocese / Congregation	Birth	Date of Appoint- ment
	Sr. Greena SD Notary & Office Secretary	Changanacherry	14- 08-1964	03-07-2013
	Sr.Devotia CSN Notary & Office Secretary	Ernakulam	10 -05-1964	03-07-2016

ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN SECOND INSTANCE

A CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED

AFTER AN ORDINARY

PROCESS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE

I	Causes pending at the beginning of the year	39
II	Causes introduced this year:	290
	TOTAL	329
III	Decreets of ratification (total number):	306
IV	Grounds of nullity considered in the decrees: If a decision considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the total number of decisions under 4 may be greater than that under 3)	
1	CCEO c. 801 : Impotence:	03
2	CCEO c. 818, 2 : Grave lack of discretion	44
3	CCEO c. 818, 3 : Inability to assume	12
4	CCEO c. 820§2 : Error of quality	83
5	CCEO c. 821 : Fraud:	51
6	CCEO c. 824§2 : Simulation total	01
7	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against fidelity	25
8	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against children	08
9	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against the good of the spouses	19
10	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against indissolubility	05
11	CCEO c. 825 : Force or grave fear	53
12	CCEO c. 826 : Condition:	02
13	Reconciled	01
V	Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):	21
	a) In favour of nullity ("constat de nullitate", at least on one ground)	16
	b) In favour of the bond ("non constat de nullitate": on every ground alleged	05
VI	Grounds of nullity considered in the sentences (if a sentence considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the number of decisions under 6 may be greater than the sum of 5a and 5b)	

		Affirmative <i>constatde nullitate</i>	Negative <i>non constat de nullitate</i>
	CCEO c. 818, 2- Grave lack of discretion	04	00
	CCEO c. 818, 3 - Inability to assume	00	00
	CCEO c. 820§2 - Error of quality:	02	03
	CCEO c. 824§2 - Intention against fidelity:	05	01
	CCEO c. 824§2 - Intention against good of spouses	03	00
	CCEO c. 821 - Fraud:	02	01
	CCEO c. 825 - Force or grave fear:	00	00
	Total	16	05
VII Causes abandoned:			
	a) Through renunciation		Nil
	b) Through abatement (<i>Peremptio</i>)		Nil
VII Causes pending at the end of the year			
			01

ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN SECOND INSTANCE

A CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED AFTER AN ORDINARY

PROCESS IN THE SECOND INSTANCE

I	Causes pending at the beginning of the year	05
II	Causes introduced this year:	18
III	Decrees of ratification (total number):	11
IV	Grounds of nullity considered in the decrees: If a decision considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the total number of decisions under 4 may be greater than that under 3)	
1	CCEO c. 801 : Impotence:	--
2	CCEO c. 818, 2 : Grave lack of discretion	02

3	CCEO c. 818, 3 : Inability to assume	--
4	CCEO c. 820§2 : Error of quality	02
5	CCEO c. 821 : Fraud:	--
6	CCEO c. 824§2 : Simulation total	--
7	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against fidelity	02
8	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against children	--
9	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against the good of the spouses	02
10	CCEO c. 824§ 2 : Intention against indissolubility	01
11	CCEO c. 825 : Force or grave fear	02
12	CCEO c. 826 : Condition:	--
V	Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):	12
	a) In favour of nullity ("constat de nullitate", at least on one ground)	11
	b) In favour of the bond ("non constat de nullitate": on every ground alleged)	01
VI	Grounds of nullity considered in the sentences (if a sentence considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the number of decisions under 6 may be greater than the sum of 5a and 5b)	

		Affirmative <i>constatde nullitate</i>	Negative <i>non constat de nullitate</i>
	CCEO c. 818, 2- Grave lack of discretion	02	--
	CCEO c. 818, 3 - Inability to assume	--	--
	CCEO c. 820§2 - Error of quality:	01	01
	CCEO c. 824§2 - Intention against fidelity:	03	--
	CCEO c. 824§2 - Intention against good of spouses	03	--
	CCEO c. 821 - Fraud:	02	--
	CCEO c. 825 - Force or grave fear:	--	--
	Total	11	01

VII	Cases abandoned:		
	a) Through renunciation		Nil
	b) Through abatement (<i>Peremptio</i>)		Nil
VII	Decrees of Nullity of Sentence		Nil
IX	Cases pending at the end of the year		Nil

ACTIVITIES OF THE LOWER TRIBUNALS IN THE YEAR 2015

There are seventeen eparchies in four metropolitan provinces and one archeparchy within the proper territory of the Syro Malabar Church. All the four metropolitan provinces have metropolitan tribunals and they function as the tribunals of appeal in the second instance as per c. 1064§1. The metropolitan tribunal of Kottayam judges cases only of the Archeparchy of the metropolitan of Kottayam. The eparchies of Belthangady and Thuckaly and Bhadravathi have single judge tribunals. The cases of the eparchy of Ramanathapuram are handled by the eparchial tribunal of Palakkad and the cases of the eparchy of Mandya by the eparchial tribunal of Mananthavady.

The activities of the eparchial and metropolitan tribunals during the year 2015 are briefly given in the following tables:

Cases Processed by the Tribunals of the First Instance during the Year 2015												
Sl. No.	Tribunals	Cases for Process			Cases Disposed							
		Cases Pending	Cases Introduced	Total	Affirmative Sentences	Negative Sentences	Total Sentences	Cases Abandoned	Penal Cases	Ratified and Non-con-sum	Total	Cases Pending
1	Belthangady	03	02	05	01	-	01	-	-	-	-	04
2	Bhadravathi	03	02	05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	05
3	Changanachery	73	86	159	77	04	81	13	-	01	14	64
4	Ernakulam-Ang	96	87	183	90	--	90	32	--	01	33	60
5	Idukki	16	19	35	11	1	12	2	-	3	05	18
6	Irinjalakkuda	70	45	115	22	--	22	-	--	--	--	93
7	Kanjirappally	58	33	91	53	01	54	05	--	01	06	31
8	Kothamangalam	39	27	66	33	-	33	01	-	-	01	32
9	Kottayam	03	13	16	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	02
10	Mananthavady	21	25	46	16	01	17	-	-	-	-	29
11	Palai	89	66	155	61	07	68	05	-	03	08	79

12	Palakkad	24	24	48	13	--	13	01	--	01	34
13	Tellicherry	43	93	136	68	-	68	19	05	24	44
14	Thamarassery	17	24	41	17	-	17	-	03	03	21
15	Thuckalay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Trichur	85	54	139	59	01	60	02	--	01	76
	Total	640	600	1240	535	15	550	80	18	98	592

Cases Processed by the Tribunals of the Second Instance during the Year 2015												
Tribunals		Cases for Process				Cases Disposed					Cases Pending	
		Cases Pending	Cases Introduced	Total	Decreases of Ratification	Affirmative Sentences	Negative Sentences	Cases Abandoned	Total			
Sl. No.	Metropolitan Tribunals (Second Instance)											
1	Changanacherry	01	107	108	96	03	04	01	104	04		
2	Ernakulam-Ang	05	48	53	45	05	01	--	51	02		
3	Tellicherry	04	29	33	33	32	01	-	33	00		
4	Trichur	08	40	48	43	01	00	00	44	04		
	Total	18	224	242	217	41	06	01	232	10		

MAJOR ARCHI EPISCOPAL CURIA OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH			
MOUNT ST. THOMAS, KAKKANAD, COCHIN - 682 030			
SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2016			
2014-15		2015-16	
RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	PARTICULARS	PAYMENTS
I. INCOME & EXPENDITURE			
7,606,424		Syro Malabar Sabhadinam	7,484,006
3,062,260		Contribution and Donations	898,978
3,809,232		Administrative Receipts	1,298,206
716,116		Synodal and Commission Meetings	415,781
541,845		Agriculture Income	452,175
746,926		Major Tribunal Collection	486,477
118,719		Synodal News Collection	141,854
54,896		Liturgical Research Centre Income	200,841
114,095		Commission for Litergy Income	217,815
149,768		Catechetical Commission Income	277,392
2,320,277		S.M. Mission Fund Income	-
296,162		Internet Mission Income	316,990

	8,166,940	Administrative Expenses		9,400,684
	1,583,092	Synodal & Commission Meetings		1,093,501
	290,788	Agricultural Expenses		278,838
	102,483	Donations & Charity		68,995
	360,359	Major Tribunal Expenses		396,476
	117,046	Synodal News Expenses		101,836
	-	S.M. Mission Fund Expenses		1,138
19,536,720	10,620,708	Sub-Total	12,190,515	11,341,468
II. CAPITAL RECEIPTS & INVESTMENTS				
4,360,839		Capital Fund & Corpus Donation	-	
2,189,472		Special Contribution Received	6,047,696	
	-	Land Development		18,900
	5,747,063	Building Construction		2,774,728
	728,728	Furniture & Equipments		1,206,551
	-	Other Assets		18,022
6,550,311	6,475,791	Sub-Total	6,047,696	4,018,201

III. CURRENT LIABILITIES & ASSETS				
	114,095	Commission for Liturgy		217,815
	149,768	Catechetical Commission		2,347,167
	203,872	Liturgical Research Centre		457,868
	1,764,662	Syro Malabar Internet Mission		316,990
	4,692,542	S.M. Mission Fund		2,390,062
	37,849	Tax Deducted at Source		-
	28,500	Advance Account		307,500
117,467		Apostolic Visitor Fund	2,358,043	876,043
-	840,000	Marriage Fund	-	435,000
1,605		Syro Malabar Charity Fund	3,514	40,172
2,631,392		Major Arch Bishop's Fund	2,772,214	1,094,809
2,750,464	7,831,288	Sub-Total	5,133,771	8,483,426

IV. BANK & CASH BALANCES			
19,200,000	23,250,000	Bank : Fixed Deposits	23,250,000
1,701,190	1,174,737	Bank : S.B. Accounts	1,174,737
59,717	61,390	Bank & Cash : Synodal News	61,390
506,960	884,727	Bank & Cash : Tribunal	884,727
10,859	17,580	Cash in Hand	17,580
21,478,726	25,388,434	Sub-Total	25,388,434
50,316,221	50,316,221	GRAND TOTAL	48,760,416
Sd/-			Sd/-
Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil			C.J. Romid FCA
Finance Officer			Chartered Accountant

