

REPORT OF THE MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS

2011-2012

The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for catechesis is happy to present before the honorable Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church the report regarding its main activities from August 2011.

Meetings

In the report year, since August 2011, there were five diocesan directors' meetings held to discuss and coordinate various activities of the commission. Besides that, expert committee of the SMCC held four meetings to examine and authenticate the language of the English edition of our texts, to prepare the final draft of the books '*Guidelines to Parents*' and *Preshithayaya Syro Malabarsabha*, the booklet published in connection with the mission year and to finalize scholarship schedules.

The Syro Malabar Catechetical Committee (SMCC) meeting, with diocesan directors, expert committee members and diocesan representatives, was held from March 14th and 15th at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad. It proposed creative suggestions and proposals for the mission and vision of the Catechetical Commission. Besides, there was also a session on the apostolic letter, *Porta Fidei*.

Publication

1. Catechism Text

In the current year we were able to publish the English translation of the Catechism text for Std. XI and XII. At present the commission publishes catechism texts up to Std. XII in Malayalam and English. All the Syro-Malabar dioceses in Kerala use Malayalam text and dioceses outside Kerala and various centers of catechesis use English, Hindi, Kannada and Tamil translations of our text for their

Sunday catechesis. Another important contribution of the Catechetical commission is the publication of teachers' guide based on our texts. Texts up to Std. X have already been published.

2. Supplementary text *Preshitayaya Syro Malabar Sabha*

In connection with the mission year celebrations of our Church, the commission has published a booklet *Preshithayaya Syro Malabarsabha*, in October. All the dioceses used this text as supplementary text in the last academic year of the Sunday schools.

Office blessing

On 23rd September new office room for the commission was blessed by the Bishop Mar Jacob Manethodath, the chairman of the commission. At present the commission has a full fledged office at Mount St. Thomas, with a fulltime office secretary, Sr. Phoncy CHF.

Website Launching and Logo Releasing

On December 15th we accomplished the launching of a website, Syromalabarcatechesis.org. It provides general information on the functioning of the Catechetical Commission, teaching aids, various articles relating to the catechetical ministry, catechetical documents and Sunday sermons. There is also a provision to solicit questions and we give the answers through email.

On 10th January His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry released the official logo of the catechetical Commission.

Scholarship Examination and *Prathibhasangamam*

For the first time, Syro-Malabar Church level scholarship examinations for the students of VII and X classes were conducted by the Catechetical Commission and it was held on April 14th at various centers. More than 3000 students participated in

each section. List of the scholarship winners have been already published. The scholarship will be awarded in December.

Prathibhasangamam, three days get together of the selected students who made outstanding performance in the XII standard of our Sunday schools in various dioceses in Kerala, was held from 28th to 30th December at Mount St. Thomas. It was conducted to create an interest among the students to attend the faith formation classes at the higher secondary level and to give an integral Christian vision to the final year students of our Sunday schools. The participants were selected through various programmes conducted at parish, forane, and diocesan levels. 51 students from 13 dioceses participated in the Syro Malabar Church level *Prathibhasangamam*. After evaluating the intellectual, spiritual and social maturity of the participants through the various levels of programmes, Master Naveen Joemon from the archdiocese of Changanachery and kumari Jane Mary K from the archdiocese of Trichur were selected for the *Prathibha Puraskaram*. We keep in contact with them and hope that within a few years we will be able to create a group of youngsters who can contribute much and really be a powerful witness to the faith formation ministry of our Church.

Financial Status

The only financial resource for the functioning of the Commission is the income received from the sale of textbooks. In the previous financial year we could contribute Rs. 1,20,000 towards the establishment charge to the Curia. At present we have Rs. 7,63,354 in our bank account. Detailed receipts and payment account is also attached with this report.

Our Future Plans

1. Publication

The future plan of our commission is to publish a book in Malayalam of 150 pages as a 'guideline to the parents' in the faith formation of their children. The first

draft of this book is already prepared and sent to expert committee members for their evaluation. We hope to publish this book in October. The drafting committee of the text book on Mystagogical Catechesis held three meetings in the year and its work is in progress.

2. Power Point presentation of the Catechism text

As a teaching aid to catechists we are preparing Power Point presentation of the catechism text. We hope that this will make the catechism class more attractive to the students and create interest among them in Sunday school. By using the advanced technology of *protshow* the presentation for standard II is already prepared and we hope to prepare it for all classes in this scholastic year. Besides we are planning to prepare various teaching aids to catechist to help them to make their ministry more effective and fruitful.

3. *Prathibhasangamam*

By seeing the great acceptance of the *Prathibhasangamam* among the students, in this scholastic year the commission has announced *sangamam* for the students of the VIIth standard in addition to XII standard. Church level *sangamamm* conducted on 27, 28 and 29th December 20012 for the XII standard and that for VII standard will be in April 2013.

4. Training Programmes

In the coming year we are planning to conduct more training programmes to form a resource team who can facilitate proper training to the catechist at the diocesan level. Moreover we are planning a training programme regarding the need and possibility of internet catechesis.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratefulness to Mar Jacob Manathodath, Chairman of the Catechetical Commission, Mar Pauly Kannoorkadan and Mar Joseph Pandarasseril, Episcopal members of the Commission for their guidance and unstinted support for the activities of the Commission. In a special way

we express our sincere gratitude to Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop, all the Bishops of the Synod, members and staff of Mount St Thomas for the words of encouragement and wholehearted cooperation. Expecting your continued support and requesting your valuable prayers and blessings,

Yours faithfully,

20.08.2012

Fr. George Danavelil

Secretary