



# Syro-Malabar Catechetical Commission

## Catechetical Centre

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## REPORT OF THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS; 2017 - 2018

The Commission for catechesis joyfully presents the report regarding its main activities from August 2017 to July 2018 before the honourable members of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church.

### **1. Publication of Text Books**

#### **a. Viswasavazhiyile Samsayangal**

As a result of hard work and dedicated service of recourse persons and various experts, we could publish the book Viswasavazhiyile Samsayangal. This is a text book with questions and answers on various topics, which the youth usually ask in their classes, as a hand book for the youth and teachers. It includes eleven sections and the appendices and altogether a 304 page book.

Special thanks to Rev. Dr. Jose Oliapuram, who served as the general editor. We never forget the generous help of Bishop Joseph Pamplany, Mnsgr. Antony Nariculam, Rev. Dr. Mathew Illathuparambil, Rev. Dr. Joseph Nalpathilchira, Rev. Dr. Joseph Kollara, Rev. Dr. Martin Kallungal, Rev. Dr. James Perepadan and Rev. Dr. Augustine Chenatt for the successful completion of this work. Timely interventions and observations from the Catechetical directors were also very useful. We are so happy to say that the book is well appreciated and accepted. Therefore the circulation moved up to more than 70,000 copies. Our whole hearted thanks to all those who took part in this great venture.

#### **b. Teaching Guides (10 Volumes) in English**

Commission published teaching guides of Standard 1 to X in English language. This ten text books are being published in the official site so that it is accessible to all the Syro-Malabar Catechist all over the world.

#### **c. Power Point Presentation (Std I to X) in Malayalam and English**

The commission could publish the power point presentation of our text books. It is arranged in both the languages English and Malayalam for each standard and for each lesson separately. As we know we have 174 lessons altogether in the text book. Sincere thanks to all who helped us for this task.

## **2. Training Programmes**

**a. Resource team training:** The Commission for Catechesis has conducted a Resource team training Programme (Trainers' Training) on Parenting, on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 for the diocesan directors and resource team members, who would facilitate proper training of the catechists at the diocesan level. There were **79** participants including 18 priests, 1 Brother, 21 Rev. Sisters and 29 Gents & 10 Ladies representatives. Resource persons - Bp Mar Joseph Pandarassery, Bp.Mar Raphael Thattil, Bp.Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Dr. Edward Edezhath led sessions on various perspectives.

**b. Training sessions in the diocesan centres:** We could give Catechetical training sessions in various dioceses as per their need. SMCC makes available resource persons for catechetical training programme to various eparchies, mission centres, seminaries wherever requested.

## **3. Corrections and Necessary Changes in Text Books**

Corrections and necessary changes in text books Std 1 to 12 both in English and Malayalam medium has been done. The spelling corrections, correction of Bible passages and quotes, grammar corrections and also the sentence constructions had to be corrected. At the same time many adaptation and corrections were also needed as per the erection of dioceses, canonization of the blessed, etc. All the necessary corrections of teachers guide Malayalam is also done.

## **4. Smart Catechism**

SMART CATECHISM, a multimedia curriculum software owned and operated by Syro-Malabar Catholic Church is almost in function. This is a desktop-based interactive application consisting the study materials of the students of classes 1to 12. SMART CATECHISM is made up of 3 sections. The first being digital information classes, second the audio classes and finally video classes.

Principal objectives are to make every Catechism class Interactive, the best message to be delivered in the best way, use of present day high quality multi-media tools, increase and to improve the participation of children and make it easy and comfortable for the teachers to handle the classes.

This is available in [www.smsmartcatechism.org](http://www.smsmartcatechism.org). We can get entry through our official website namely [www.syromalabar catechesis.org](http://www.syromalabar catechesis.org).

## **5. Prathibhasangamam**

This year we conducted the *Prathibhasangamam* for the students of standard VIIth and XIIth.

The gathering for three days of the selected students who made outstanding performance in the XII standard of our Sunday schools in various dioceses in Kerala was held from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Mount St. Thomas. 76 students from 13 dioceses participated in the Syro Malabar Church level *Prathibhasangamam*. After evaluating the intellectual, spiritual and social maturity of the participants through various levels of programmes, the Major Archbishop distributed the awards to ten students who were selected for special merit awards. Rev. Fr Daey Kunnath, Mr. Nijo Joseph, Honorable Justice Cyriac Joseph, Bp. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Jacob Punnose IPS, Mr. Lijo Cummar, Bro. Naveen Plackalil, Mr. Leo Thadeus led the sessions.

A three day get-together of the selected students of the 7th standard from various eparchies was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at Mount St. Thomas. There were 82 participants from 13 eparchies and Doha. Honorable Justice Kurian Joseph, Bp. Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Rev. Fr Daey Kunnath, Mr. Nijo Joseph, Rev. Fr Paul Robin Thekkath, Mr. Shaji Malippara, Mrs. Beena Manoj were there as resource persons.

## **6. Meetings**

On 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, all the Catechetical directors inside Kerala gathered together for the preparation of Smart Catechism project, Prathibha Sangamam and the Text book correction etc.

There was a special meeting of the directors to finalize the book VISWASA VAZHIYILE SAMSAYANGAL.

This year there was a meeting of all the Catechetical directors of the Church on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Even though it was the first experience, the participants unanimously suggested to have such a meeting once in a year.

## **7. Financial Status**

The main financial source for the functioning of the Commission is the income received from the sale of textbooks. At present we have Rs.5,00,000/- (Five Lakh) in our FD account and Rs. **58,291/-** in our saving bank account as on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 as per our audited account.

## **8. OUR FUTURE PLAN**

Apart from all our usual programmes like Prathibha Sangamam, Resource team Training, Training Sessions in different Dioceses and mission stations etc we plan put up two important initiatives

- a. **A Catechetical Mobile Application:** The commission plans to launch a mobile application of Catechetical text books, teaching aids and other catechetical material. It is sure that it will be very useful to the Catechists, Parents and in a certain extent to the students in the senior classes.
- b. **Audio DVDs:** An Audio DVD of VISWASA VAZHIYILE SAMSAYANGAL and SYRO-MALABAR SABHAYUDE ARADHANAKRAMA VISWASA

PARISEELAM. It will be useful to hear the subject matters and study of both the books for those who do not like to take pain of reading. It will be user friendly even during travel.

In a special way we express our sincere gratitude to Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop, all the Bishops of the Synod, Diocesan directors, members and staff of Mount St. Thomas for their wholehearted cooperation and words of encouragement. In a very special way I remember Mr. John Paul who was the office staff here for more than six years. Rev. Sr. Deena is still serving as the office secretary and it results the office functioning very smooth and attractive. Active welcome to Mr. Antony Panavely, the new office staff has taken charge recently. Expecting your continued support and seeking your valuable prayers and blessings,

Yours faithfully,

01.08.2018

Fr. Jimmy (Thomas) Poochakkatt  
Secretary