



## **Syro-Malabar Catechetical Commission Catechetical Centre**

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### **Report of the Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Catechesis for the year 2018-2019**

The Commission for Catechesis joyfully presents the report regarding its main activities from August 2018 to July 2019 before the honorable members of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro Malabar Church.

#### **1. Directors' Meetings**

There were two meetings of the directors held during this time, one was on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018, and the other on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

##### **a. Directors' meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

15 directors were present along with Chairman Mar Jacob Manethodath and commission secretary Fr Jimmy Poochakatt. The suggestions of the first meeting were the following

- *Prathibhasangamam* should start on first day by 12pm and end last day by 2pm.
- 12<sup>th</sup> std *Prathibhasangamam* date is on 27-29 December, 2019 and 7<sup>th</sup> Std on 21-23 May 2019.
- The order for new books must reach here before the end of December 2018.
- To make available the Pen Drives of *Araathanakrama Viswasaprisheelanam*, *Viswasavazhiyile Samshayangal*.
- While revising the text books begin with XI, XII class text books.
- If possible call also migrant places directors too along with next directors meeting.

##### **b. Directors' meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**

The speciality of the second meeting of the year was the participation of migrant delegates from Kuwait and Dhoha. The participation was 12 dioceses from Kerala, and from dioceses outside Kerala only 4. there were 23 participants along with Commission Chairman Archbishop George Njaralakatt. Major Archbishop greeted the Directors and gave the benedictory message. The main decisions were

- Releasing of new Pen Drive for *Viswasavazhiyile samshayangal*.
- Next *Prathibhasangamam* for 12<sup>th</sup> Std, is on 27-29 December 2019.

- If possible conduct Prathibhasangamam for mission dioceses in India.
- Fixed commission meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July and directors and experts meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> July.
- Go ahead with std XI and XII classes revision procedures.
- No increase text books prize this year only in next year.

## **2. Prathibhasangamam**

The commission organized two *Prathibhasangamam*, one for 12<sup>th</sup> Std on 27-29 December 2018. Total 78 persons participated from different dioceses (maximum 6 students from each diocese). Fr Daey Kunnath MST and Mr. Nijo Joseph Puthussery, Dr. Cyriac Thomas, Bp. Joseph Pandarasserry, Sr. Dr. Rose Jose Chf, Fr. Binnoy CSSR, FR. Francis Pittapilly were there as resource persons. In the presence of Mar Jacob Manothadath, Major Archbishop Cardinal Mar George Alencherry distributed to ten students who were selected for special merit awards

*Prathibhasangamam* for 7<sup>th</sup> Std were conducted on 11-13 May 2019, the total strength was 80. Fr. Daey Kunnath MST and Mr. Nijo Joseph Puthussery, Bp. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Mr Issac Thomas Olieckal, Fr. Sony Kadukunnel, Abp. George Njaralakatt, Fr. Thomas Melvettath led the sessions. In the presence of Abp. George Njaralakatt, Major Archbishop Cardinal Mar George Alencherry distributed the awards to ten students who were selected for special merit awards.

## **3. Text Book Corrections**

The new corrections which are noticed by the diocesan directors and other expert members of the Commission for Catechesis were made in the English and Malayalam text books.

## **4. Training Program**

In the current reporting year the secretary of the commission helped trainings, by in Canada (12<sup>th</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October-2018), Doha On (6-2-19), Kothamangalam (22 June 2019), Ramanathapuram (12-14 July 2019) and Idukki (23 August 2019).

## **5. The New Members of the Commission**

During the meeting of the new commission, Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude to the old members of the Commission for Catechesis on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 especially to Mar Jacob Manothadath Commission Chairman and Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Mar Joseph Pandarasseril the Episcopal members of the Commission and to Fr Jimmy Poochakatt Commission Secretary and office secretary Sr. Deena CSN. Major Archbishop welcomed new Commission Chairman Archbishop George Njaralakatt and Episcopal members Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Mar Joseph Arumachadath (the new Commission and Episcopal members took charge on 16-1-2019). He welcomed also the new secretary Fr Thomas Melvettath (who had taken the charge of the office on

13-5-2019) and the new office secretary Sr. Jislet MSJ (who had taken the charge of office on 4-7-2019).

#### **6. Meetings of the Commission**

The new commission team had its meeting twice, first was on 1<sup>st</sup> July and second meeting was on 26<sup>th</sup> July. The commission evaluated the activities of the office, and of the previous meetings. The commission gave recommendations and new guidelines for the fresh working of the new team.

#### **7. Meeting of the Directors and Experts**

The meeting of the directors and experts was held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019. 33 members from 14 eparchies including directors and experts participated in this meeting. The orientation talks were given by Fr Joy Pulikan SDB from Bangalore and Fr Jolly Vadakken from Irinjalakuda diocese. The group discussions, reporting and future plans were made in this session.

#### **8. Our Future Plan**

##### **a. Prathibhasangamam**

After the evaluations and suggestions the commission supported to continue the *Prathibhasangamam* and announced the dates for the next year. For the Std XII, it will be on 27-29<sup>th</sup> December 2019 and for the Std VII will be in May 2020.

##### **b. The gathering of the participants of previous Prathibhasangamam**

Prathibhasangamam began in 2012 and it is continuing. The present Commission decided to have a meeting of the participants of the previous prathibhasangamam after Easter on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

##### **c. Adult catechesis**

The Commission decided to have a common theme as its motto from this year onwards. Themes for each year will be decided at the meeting of directors and materials will be prepared by the Commission for Catechesis in consultation with directors. The theme selected for this year is *mathapithakalum makkalum*. The teaching note for taking classes will be same for all eparchies of our Church.

##### **d. Initiations for text books revision**

As recommended by the Commission, the revision of text books of Std XI and XII is going to begin this academic year. The last date for giving suggestions is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

##### **e. Training programs**

The Commission has its plan for the training of resource persons and catechetical teachers during this academic year.

##### **f. Upapadam for the fourth standard**

The biography of Bl. Mariam Thresia, foundress of Holy Family Congregation, is approved as upapadam for the fourth standard by the Commission for Catechesis.

## **9. Some requests to the Holy Synod of Bishops**

### **a. Inter Synodal commissions meetings**

We strongly put forward to the Holy Synod of Bishops, to have inter Synodal Commissions meetings, especially of Commission for Catechesis, Commission for Family, Commission for Liturgy and Commission for Youth, and Commission for Evangelization, since all these are related adult catechetical formation of the Church.

### **b. Regional Catechetical Centre**

Whether is it possible to have one regional Catechetical centre for the eparchies in North India? If possible where will be the centre?

## **A word of thanks**

The Commission for Catechesis very cordially remember the former Commission team for their service in the field of catechesis specially Mar Jacob Manathodath Commission Chairman and Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Mar Joseph Pandarasseril the Episcopal members of the Commission and Commission Secretary Fr Jimmy Poochakatt and office secretary Sr. Deena CSN, for their leadership, coordination and 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 Archbishops and Bishops, diocesan directors, members and staff of Mount St Thomas for their wholehearted cooperation and words of encouragement. Expecting your continued support and seeking your valuable prayers and blessings,

Yours faithfully,

01-08-2019

Fr Thomas Melvettath

Secretary, Commission for Catechesis

Mar George Njaralakkatt (Chairman)

Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Member)

Mar Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Member)