



# Syro-Malabar Catechetical Commission

## Catechetical Centre

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Mar Jacob Manathodath (Chairman)

Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Member)

Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt (Secretary)

Mar Joseph Pandarasseril (Member)

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## REPORT OF THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS; 2016 - 2017

The Commission for catechesis joyfully presents the report regarding its main activities from August 2016 to July 2017 before the honourable members of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church.

### 1. Corrections and Necessary Changes in Catechism Text Book

The major work that has been done in this year is corrections and necessary changes in the Catechism text books Std 1 to 12 both in English and Malayalam medium. Even though it was a huge work, we did it with the co-operation of diocesan directors and many catechist well wishers of our Church. 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.

We have gone through all the English and Malayalam text books in three phases. Primarily from the office, then from the diocesan centres and finally again from the central office. It is needed to thank sincerely Rev. Sr. Deena CSN and Mr. John Paul for their dedicated service in this venture.

The teachers guide Malayalam is under the correction process and will be alright in no time.

### 2. Publication of Holy Communion Text Book in English

We could publish the text book for the first reception of Sacrament of Reconciliation and solemn reception of Holy Communion.

### 2. Smart Catechism

As per the well-built suggestion from the last August Synod of Bishops, and also proposal from various personalities from the field of Catechesis, the commission has decided to start a SMART CATECHISM online move in English, in Hindi and in Malayalam, from the Church Catechetical Centre.

## **Project Outline**

Today the whole education system is getting adapted to the latest available technology. Our Catechism teachings play a vital role in the faith formation and character formation of teenagers. All the surveys and studies are proving the interactive methods can influence more on the target audience. Even the mentors and educators belong to Catholic church can easily adapt with interactive learning and teaching methods. The above-mentioned proposal can be good milestone in history of Syro-Malabar Catholic Church.

SMART CATECHISM is a multimedia curriculum software owned and operated by Syro-Malabar Catholic Church. 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.

## **Objectives**

- Make every Catechism class Interactive.
- The best message to be delivered in the best way.
- Use of present day high quality multi-media tools.
- Tutor handbook prepared to clarify the concerned topic they are dealing with.
- Increase and to improve the participation of children.
- Make it easy and comfortable for the teachers to handle the classes.

## **Digital interface**

The information in each chapter is a web-based database. In order to have a varied experience, the related audio-video and images of each paragraph is made available.

- ✓ Supporting pictures of each class (depend on the availability from Internet)
- ✓ Supporting videos (depend on the availability from Internet)

## **Audio Classes**

This section of SMART CATECHISM is contained with the audio clips of each chapter.

## **Video Demo Classes**

In this section, we have videos with 30-minute duration, consisting of sessions taken by the catechism teachers of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church for their students in a classroom environment. This 30-minute video contains the catechism Demonstration 4 type

## **Smart Apps**

This is also available online and in Android phones, iOS and Windows

We can include POC BIBLE AND AUDIO BIBLE (Approvals from the authority is required)

## **Videos**

- ✓ Short films
- ✓ Documentaries

(We can organize All Kerala catechism Short film/ documentary competitions selected entries can be used as videos)

Now we air Std X and will be followed all the standards in one year time.

## **4. Training Programmes**

The Synodal Commission for Catechesis has conducted a Resource team training Programme (Trainers' Training) on Parenting, on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016 for the diocesan directors and resource team members, who would facilitate proper training of the catechists at the diocesan level. There were **55** participants including 18 priests, 13 Rev. Sisters and 28 Gents & 3 Ladies representatives. Resource persons- Rev.Fr Paul Karedan, Psy. Vipin V. Ronald, Psy. Sony Thomas Olicken, Ms. Bhagya Mary B. Manual, Ms. Aleena James Ms. Nayana Mathew led sessions on various perspectives.

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.

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> Dec to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017 at Mount St. Thomas. 52 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, Mr. Alex George, Mr. Bino P. Jose, Mr. Mario Joseph, Mr Roble P. Mathew, Mrs. Beena Manoj led the sessions.

A three day get-together of the selected students of the 7th standard from various eparchies was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at Mount St. Thomas. There were 47 participants from 12 eparchies. Rev. Fr Daey Kunnath, Mr. Nijo Joseph, Mr. Varghese Paul, Sr. Lisny SD, Mr Roble P. Mathew, Adv. Charley Paul, Rev. Fr Paul Robin Thekkath were there as resource persons.

## **6. Meetings**

Three meetings of the diocesan directors were held to discuss and coordinate various activities of the commission. Regular meetings for the preparation of Smart Catechism project and meetings for the preparation of Prathibha Sangamam, Text book Revision etc had been met with as per necessity.

## **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.500, 000/- in our FD account and Rs. 41,072/- in our saving bank account as on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 as per our audited account.

## **OUR FUTURE PLAN**

### **1. Book with questions and answers**

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 is under preparation.

.We try to prepare an English teaching guide by this academic year as per the strong request of English Medium Teachers.

We have a plan to have the correction work of Teaching guides Malayalam as it was done in Text books.

### **2. Prathibhasangamam**

Encouraged by the appreciation of the *Prathibhasangamam* among the students, this scholastic year also the Commission has announced *sangamam* for the students of the XII and VII<sup>th</sup> standard. It will be conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2017 for the XII standard and that for VII standard will be in May 2018.

### **3. Catechetical Symposium 13<sup>th</sup>,14<sup>th</sup> oct 2017)**

Two days Catechetical Symposium is being planned on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere gratefulness to Mar Jacob Manathodath, Chairman of the Catechetical Commission, Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy 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, 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,

01.08.2017

Fr. Jimmy(Thomas) Poochakkatt  
Secretary