

## REPORT OF THE MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS

2012-2013

The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for catechesis is glad to present before the honorable Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church the report regarding its main activities from August 2012-July 2013.

### MEETINGS

Five diocesan directors' meetings were held to discuss and coordinate various activities of the commission. Besides, the expert committee of the SMCC convened three meetings; one was to prepare the final draft of the books *Mathapithakalum Viswasapariseelanavum* and the other two meetings were for preparing the draft of the text book on Mystagogical Catechesis.

### ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Publication of Text Books

At present the commission publishes catechism text books up to Std. XII in Malayalam and English. All the Syro-Malabar dioceses in Kerala use Malayalam text and dioceses outside of Kerala and various centers of catechesis use English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil and Marathi translations of the text for their Sunday catechesis. We also publish teachers' guide based on our texts in Malayalam and in current year we will be publishing it in English.

#### 2. *Mathapithakalum Viswasapariseelanavum*

We released a book, *Mathapithakalum Viswasapariseelanavum*, during the synod that was held in January 2013 as a 'guideline to the parents' in the faith formation of their children. We place on record our heartfelt gratitude to the Major Archbishop for requesting through a circular the clergy and laity to make this book

widely known and properly used. We earnestly appeal to the Synodal Fathers to do the needful so that the book may reach every family of our Church.

### **3. Training Programs For Diocesan Directors And Resource Team Members**

The commission could conduct two workshops of two days each on ‘new media and catechesis’ for the diocesan directors and resource team members. They were conducted by media professionals that turned out to be very useful for the ministry.

### **4. Power Point Presentation of The Catechism**

As a teaching aid to catechists we could prepare the Power Point presentation of the catechism text. We have already handed them over to the diocesan directors. We hope that this will make the catechism classes more attractive and create better interest among the students in Sunday classes.

### **5. Competitions for Catechists And Sunday School Students**

In connection with the year of faith celebration we have conducted an essay competition for religious sisters and lay catechists on ‘Second Vatican Council and the catechetical ministry of the Church’. 126 catechists participated in the competition. The result is already announced and the awards will be distributed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

For the Sunday school students there was a power point presentation competition based on our textbooks. 53 contestants submitted their presentations. The result is announced and the awards will be distributed in December 2013.

### **6. Training Programs in Dioceses and Migrant Centers**

In connection with the celebration of the year of faith, under the initiative of the SMCC we could conduct training programs in more than 32 centers for catechists

in different dioceses. The topics included, *Porta fidei*, Second Vatican Council, Catechism of the Catholic Church and *YouCat*.

In the current year the commission could also conduct 18 training programs for catechists in different dioceses and in various migrant centers based on our text books, method of teaching and the ministry of catechesis.

### **7. *Prathibhasangamam***

In the wake of the appreciation of the first *Prathibhasangamam* among the students, this year we conducted the second *Prathibhasangamam*. 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 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Mount St. Thomas.

It was conducted to create an interest among the students in the ongoing faith formation 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 programs 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 programs ten students were selected for special merit awards, which were distributed by the Major Archbishop.

Three days get together of the selected students of the 7th standard from various eparchies, was held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at Mount St. Thomas. There were 41 participants from 11 eparchies. James F. Kallely (Archdiocese of Trichur) and Namitha George (Diocese of Palakkad) were selected for special merit award.

We keep in contact with the participants of the *Prathibhasangamam* and hope that within a few years we will be able to create a group of youngsters who can contribute creatively and will give powerful witness to the faith formation ministry of our Church.

## **FINANCIAL STATUS**

The main financial resource for the functioning of the Commission is the income received from the sale of textbooks. We remember with gratitude the financial assistance of €5000/- given by L'Oeuvred'Orient for conducting the training program. At present we have Rs. 20,000,00 in our FD account and Rs. 8,08,353 in our bank account. The accounts in a detailed way are enclosed with this report.

## **OUR FUTURE PLANS**

### **1. Publication**

By the continuous demand from dioceses outside the proper territory of the Church and migrant centers, in this academic year we are publishing the teachers' guide in English.

The drafting committee of the text book on Mystagogical Catechesis had prepared the first draft of the book and it is already sent to various diocesan centers and subject experts for their study and evaluation.

### **2. Teaching Aids**

To make the catechism class more attractive and create interest among the students the commission is planning to prepare various teaching aids to catechists including short video clips, power points presentations, charts, pictures etc. We hope that this will help the catechists to make their ministry more effective and fruitful.

### **3. *Prathibhasangamam***

In the wake of the appreciation of the *Prathibhasangamam* among the students, in this scholastic year the commission has announced *sangamam* for the students of the XII and VIIth standard. Church level *sangamamm* will be conducted

on 26, 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> December 2013 for the XII standard and that for VII standard will be in April 2014.

#### **4. Training Programs**

In the coming year we are planning to conduct more training programs to form a resource team who can facilitate proper training to the catechists at the diocesan level. Moreover SMCC has prepared a team of experts to conduct training programs at diocesan centers /migrants centers for the catechists.

At this juncture, we remember with gratitude the dedicated and self-less service rendered by Rev. Sr. Phonsy CHF, our office secretary. We extend our cordial welcome to Rev. Sr. Lisni SD, the new office secretary of the Commission.

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, Mar Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop, all the Bishops of the Synod, members and staff of Mount St Thomas for their words of encouragement and wholehearted cooperation. Expecting your continued support and requesting your valuable prayers and blessings,

Yours faithfully,

22.07.2013

Fr. George Danavelil

Secretary