

REPORT OF THE SYRO-MALABAR SYNODAL

COMMISSION FOR CATECHESIS

2010-2011

The Syro-Malabar Synodal Commission for catechesis is happy to present before the honorable Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church the report regarding its main activities and functioning from August 2010.

New Chairman, Member and Secretary to the Commission

Since from the very beginning of the formation of the Synodal Commission for Catechesis Mar George Alencherry was giving auspicious leadership to this commission as its chairman. Because of his election, as the head of the Church, Mar Jacob Manantheodath has been appointed as the new Chairman of the commission and Mar Pauly Kanookadan as the new member of the commission. On this occasion we remember with gratitude the strenuous leadership of Mar George Alencherry to the catechetical commission and we extend our prayerful greetings in his new mission as the head of our Church. Instead of Fr. Jose Puthiyedath, who has served as the secretary of the commission for last 11 years, Fr. George Danavelil has been appointed as the new secretary of the Synodal Commission for catechesis.

Expert Committee and Diocesan Directors' Meetings.

The expert committee held eight meetings in this year to verify the language of the English edition of our texts, to scrutinize the teachers guide, to prepare the final draft of the book 'guidelines to parents', and to finalize scholarship programmes. In the current year there were five diocesan directors' meetings were held to discuss and coordinate various activities of the commission. In addition to these there was a two day training programme on 'media and catechesis' also conducted for diocesan directors.

Catechism Text

1. Catechism Text in Malayalam

At present the commission publishes catechism texts up to Std. XII in Malayalam and all the Syro-Malabar dioceses in Kerala use this text for their Sunday catechesis.

2. English Edition

From the catechetical center we are publishing English edition of catechism texts up to std. X. Although we have prepared translation of the texts for std. XI and XII expert committed suggested that it needed more corrections. Therefore language corrections of these texts are going on. Current year we have sent the Pdf file copies of these texts to the diocesan directors and various centers of catechesis outside Kerala for their study and evaluations.

3. Hindi Translation

The catechetical committee for the North Indian Missions published the Hindi translation of textbooks up to std. X and the translation works of the XI and XII classes are in progress under the guidance of Bishop Sebastian Vadakkal, convener of this committee.

4. Kannada Translation

Belthangady diocesan catechetical center publishes the Kannada translation of our texts up to std. X.

5. Tamil Translation

The diocesan catechetical center of Thuckalay publishes the Tamil translation of our texts for the first four classes and the translation works of the other classes are in progress.

Teachers Guide

Another important contribution of the Catechetical commission is the publication of teachers' guide based on our texts. This year we have published the teachers guide for std. VIII, IX, & X. On this occasion we would like to thank all who have contributed to the publication of these guides.

Resource Team Training Programme

In the current year we could organize two resource team training programmes. The first training programme was on our XI & XII th standard texts and there were 42 participants attended this programme. 40 Sunday school teachers participated in the second training programme and it was on scholarship programme for XII standard students. Both these programmes were two day training programmes and conducted at Mount St. Thomas from May 09 to 10 and July 09 to 10, 2011 respectively.

Our Future Plans

1. Publication

The future plan of our commission is to publish a book of 200 pages as a 'guideline to the parents' in the faith formation of their children in Malayalam. We hope to publish this book in this scholastic year. In connection with the mission year celebration of the Syro-Malabar Church, the commission publishes a booklet for the Sunday school students. We hope to publish this booklet in August itself.

2. Scholarship

In this scholastic year the commission has announced scholarships for the students of VII, X and XII classes at the Syro-Malabar Church level. Scholarship examinations for Std. VII & X should be arranged by the commission and the top ten will be awarded by presenting, certificate, medal and cash awards.

For std. XII, a special programme has announced to determine the scholarship award winners. In the first step, the scholarship programmes should be conducted at parish, forane, and diocesan levels. In the second step for the selected students from each diocese, two boys and two girls, a three day camp should be conducted at Mount St. Thomas. The main objectives of all these programmes are to create an interest among the students to attend the faith formation classes at the higher secondary level and give an integral Christian vision to the final year students of our Sunday school. Through the various levels of programmes we are evaluating the intellectual, spiritual and social maturity of the participants. On the basis of above said aspects, a boy and a girl will be selected for the award. We have already given the needed training to the resource team who are conducting forane and diocesan level programmes. We have already scheduled dates to conduct the programmes at various levels and Church level programmes will be conducted on 28, 29 and 30th March 2012.

3. Training Programmes

In the coming year we are planning to conduct more training programmes for both teachers and diocesan directors. This will hope to help them carry out their ministry in its fullness.

On this occasion we remember with gratitude our former major Archbishop Mar Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to Mar George Alencherry, Major Archbishop, all the bishops of the Synod, members and

staff of Mount St Thomas for the words of encouragement and wholehearted support. Expecting your continued support and requesting your valuable prayers and blessing,

Yours faithfully,

31.07.2011

Fr. George Danavelil

Secretary