



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

Mount St. Thomas, P.B. 3110, Kakkanad, Kochi-682 030, Kerala, India  
Tel: 0484-2424768, 2424780, Mob: 9495038417, Mob: 9447853524  
Email: smcatechesis@gmail.com, Web: www.syromalabarcatechesis.org

---

Mar George Njaralakatt (Chairman)  
Fr. Thomas Melvettath (Secretary)

Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Member)  
Mar Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Member)

---

### **Report of the Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Catechesis for the year 2019-2020**

The Commission for Catechesis joyfully presents the report regarding its main activities from July 2019 to July 2020 before the Synod of Bishops of the Syro Malabar Church.

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

A meeting of the eparchial directors and experts was held on 26 July 2019 at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad. 33 members from 14 eparchies, including directors and experts, participated in the meeting. The orientation talks were given by Fr Joy Pulikan SDB from Christu Jyothi College Bangalore and Fr. Jolly Vadakken from the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda. There were group discussions, reporting and future plans in this session.

#### **2. Meetings of the Commission**

There were four commission meetings, on 1 July 2019, 26 July 2019, 29 August 2019 and 14 January 2020.

The meeting proposed the following suggestions:

1. Give permission for contextualized textbooks if necessary for America, Canada and Great Britain, after due study.
2. Inquire the possibility of conducting Prathibha Sangamam for northern eparchies of India.

3. Prepare a year plan for the commission.
  - a. Arrange at least three commission meetings and two directors meetings in every year.
  - b. Conduct the directors meetings on 21 February and 18 May 2020.
  - c. Conduct the commission meetings on 13 January, 8 May and 20 August
  - d. Conduct Prathibha Sangamam of VII on 16-18 May 2021 and for XII on 27-29 December 2020.
  - e. Arrange a Catechetical Symposium on 24 and 25 October 2020.
  - f. Convene meeting to prepare textbooks of Std XI and XII on 25 January 2020, 8 February 2020 and schema presentation on 21 February 2020.
  - g. Finalized the quotation of the Textbooks printing order and evaluated the Prathibha Sangamam.

### **3. Directors and Text book experts meeting**

#### **a. Text book Experts meeting**

There were 9 experts present along with Chairman Archbishop Mar George Njaralakkatt and commission secretary Fr Thomas Melvettath for the meeting held on 28 February 2020. Expert team prepared and presented the modified schema for the Std XII and XII. The work of text book preparation is assigned to different eparchial directors (see the attachment- (pp.7-8).

#### **b. Directors' meeting**

In the meeting held on 28 February 2020 and 13 directors along with Chairman Archbishop Mar George Njaralakkatt and commission secretary Fr Thomas Melvettath participated. The main agendas of the meeting were the following:

- Evaluation of Prathibha Sangamam of XII.
- Discussion of schema for the text books of STD XI and XII.
- Action plan of the year 2020 (commission meetings, directors meetings, alumni meeting of Prathibhas, textbook rates, reading of new Schema of textbook XI and XII and its approval, and assigned the chapters for writing).

### **4. Zoom conference of the directors**

On 28 May 2020, a video conference of the directors was held to discuss and plan out the catechism classes of the year 2020 due to the Covid19 pandemic. Along with the

Major Archbishop, Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, Commission Chairman Archbishop Mar George Njaralakatt, Episcopal members of the commission Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Mar Joseph Arumachadath and 23 directors from different eparchies participated in the meeting. A common policy was formulated and proposed as the guidelines for the smooth running of Sunday school catechism in the Syro Malabar Church.

**a. The following points were given as guidelines:**

1. Each eparchy must begin Sunday school according the directions of its bishop and find out the suitable means for the implementation of the guidelines by themselves.
2. Online catechism class should be based on catechism textbooks and supplementary textbooks.
3. All students may be given the class promotion on the basis of internal assessment and examination done in the year 2019.
4. Take care to distribute the text books and make available to all students.
5. Conduct students retreat as a part of catechism class.
6. Give proper training to the existing and newly appointed catechism teachers.
7. Give general catechetical orientation to the parents, and ensure the participation of parents and siblings in the catechetical activities of the students.
8. Inspire the children to build a genuine friendship and a positive relationship with Jesus Christ. To achieve this goal, different methods like songs, dances, drama, skit, etc. can be used in catechesis.
9. Give sufficient attention in imparting the Word of God and Hagiography.
10. Give due attention and proper orientation with regard to different societies and pious movements in the Church, like: Holy Childhood, Mission League, SMYM, etc.
11. Steps should be taken to build a good relationship between students and teachers.
12. Eparchies outside Kerala can also strengthen their catechisms through regional or inter eparchial collaboration.

13. While implementing these guidelines proper care is to be taken to strengthen their catechetical systems.

**b. Some recommendations by this meeting**

1. Receive the available resources from other eparchy. Possibilities available at present in the other eparchies are:
  - a. Archeparchy of Trichur informed that telecasting catechism classes on 8June 2020 onwards through Shekinah TV.
  - b. Archeparchy of Changanacherry informed that the class of Rev. Fr Pauly Maniyatt on Eucharist was helpful for them in training catechism teachers.
  - c. Archeparchy of Ernakulum- Angamaly prepared Kids Cat, Domus Cat etc for catechism students.
  - d. Books on Saints' are available in the eparchy of Kanjirapally and archeparchy of Kottayam.
  - e. On the basis of 13 theological subjects, eparchy of Mananthavady conducted Examinations for catechism teachers.
  - f. The eparchy of Pala is offering the possibility of Syriac study to catechism students.
  - g. Archeparchy of Thalasserry is conducting competition on Model Video Classes and power point presentation for catechism teachers.
  - h. Special emphasis is given to family catechesis in eparchies of Palghat and Irinjalakuda.
  - i. The eparchy of Thamarassery informed that programs conducted on the basis of Church and Bible was remarkable.
  - j. The eparchy of Kothamangalam is planning to offer online classes.

**5. Prathibha Sangamam**

The commission could organize only one *Prathibha Sangamam*, due to Covid-19 situation. It was for Std XII on 27-29 December 2019. The other Prathibha Sangamam planned for the Std VII students in May 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the Prathibha Sangamam for Std XII, 82 students participated from different eparchies (maximum 6 students from each eparchy). The resource persons were Mar. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, Fr Daey Kunnath MST, Fr Manu Pottananiyil

MST and Mr. Shibu Joseph, Mr. Pauly Thomas, Fr. Binnoy Uppumackal CSSR, Fr. Francis Pittapillil and Rtd, Justice Kurian Joseph. Prathibha Sangamam was inaugurated by Abp. Antony Kariyil. In the presence of Commission Chairman Abp Mar George Njaralakkatt, the Major Archbishop Cardinal Mar George Alencherry distributed the awards to the ten Prathibhas and delivered the concluding message.

#### **6. Rectifying Textbooks and Smart Catechism**

The commission rectified the mistakes noticed by the diocesan directors and other experts in the English, Malayalam text books and in smart catechism.

#### **7. Training Program**

In the reporting year, the secretary of the commission took classes in the training programs conducted in Ramanathapuram (12-14 July 2019), and Idukki (23 August 2019), Kuwait from 14 to 24 September 2019, and Online Class for catechism teachers of Archeparchy of Thalasserry on 11 July 2020. One week catechism seminar planned in May 2020 for teachers, parents and children in Qatar was cancelled due to Covid19.

#### **8. Eparchial Catechism Teachers Meet**

In the current year, the secretary of the commission participated and felicitated the eparchial catechism teachers meetings in Thalasserry on 9 November 2019 and in Irinjalakuda on 15 December 2019.

#### **9. You Tube classes on Solemn Holy Communion**

The solemn Holy Communion classes are uploaded in the YouTube on April and May 2020. All Malayalam catechism text books are under preparation to upload in you tube with the help of Internet Mission and Media Commission of our church.

#### **10. New Sunday school in Singapore**

With the help of the Syro Malabar Migrant Commission, the commission for catechesis initiated the catechetical formation of the migrant community in Singapore on 7 June 2020 and commission secretary addressed the students on 14 June 2020.

#### **11. Publication of New Upapadam**

The book entitled *St. Mariam Thresia: Patroness for Families* is approved by the commission as new Sunday school Upapadam. The new Upapadam text is released both in Malayalam and English by His Beatitude Major Archbishop Cardinal Mar George Alencherry on 8 June 2020 on the occasion of Permanent Synod.

## **12. Our Future Plans**

- a. To arrange Prathibha Sangamam** for Std XII and VII classes on 27- 29 December 2020 and in May 2021 respectively.
- b. To convene Alumni Prathibha Sangamam (29December 2020).**
- c. To prepare a handbook for Adult catechesis**  
The theme selected for this year is *Mathapithakalum makkalum*.
- d. Preparation of the new text books for Std XI and Std XII.**
- e. Make available all catechetical classes on YouTube.**

Upload the classes of all catechism Malayalam text books in online platforms.

## **13. Request to the Synod of Bishops**

- a. Convene a meeting of Inter Synodal commissions** like Liturgy, Youth and Evangelization, for creating a common platform for the adult catechesis of the Church.

## **A word of thanks**

In a special way the commission expresses our sincere gratitude to Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, our Major Archbishop, all the members of the synod of bishops, eparchial directors and 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

30-July-2020

The Commission for Catechesis  
Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad

Attached copy of the schema

## **New Schema**

### **STD - X1**

#### **Ernakulam**

1. ഈശോയുടെവ്യക്തിത്വം
2. ഈശോയുടെവ്യക്തിത്വത്തിന്റെസവിശേഷതകൾ
3. ക്രൈസ്തവവ്യക്തിത്വം

#### **Irinjalakkuda**

4. കുദാശകൾ - കൗദാശികജീവിതം (വി.കുർബാന, അനുരഞ്ജനകുദാശ)
5. ക്രൈസ്തവ മനസ്സാക്ഷി
6. ജീവിതവിളികൾ

#### **Palakkad**

7. സ്നേഹിക്കാനും ജീവൻനൽകാനും
8. അദ്ധ്വാനം, സമ്പത്ത്, സാമൂഹ്യനീതി
9. സഭയുടെസംഭാവനകൾ (സഭയുടെസാമൂഹിക, സാമ്പത്തിക, വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ, കാർഷിക, ആതുര സേവനമേഖലയിലെസംഭാവനകൾ)

#### **Kanjirappally**

10. പ്രകൃതിസംരക്ഷണം, ജീവസംരക്ഷണം
11. സഭയും, ശാസ്ത്രവും, യുവജനങ്ങളും, രാഷ്ട്രീയവും
12. ഭൂമിയുടെഉപ്പുപോഷകത്തിന്റെ പ്രകാശവും  
(രാഷ്ട്രീയരംഗംസൂചിപ്പിക്കണം)

## **STD – XII**

### **Thalasserry**

1. ക്രൈസ്തവവിശ്വാസം
2. വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ ഉറവിടങ്ങൾ (വചനത്തിന്റെ വ്യാഖ്യാനം)
3. ഇതരമതങ്ങളും ക്രിസ്തീയമതത്തിന്റെ അനന്യതയും

### **Palai**

4. ഇതരക്രിസ്തീയ സമൂഹങ്ങളും കത്തോലിക്കാസഭയും
5. ക്രിസ്തീയജീവിതശൈലി (ആദ്ധ്യാത്മിക ജീവിതം, അനുഷ്ഠാനങ്ങളും ആചാരങ്ങളും)
6. മാതൃഭക്തിയും വിശുദ്ധരോടുള്ള വണക്കവും

### **Trichur**

7. ക്രിസ്തീയജീവിതം പോരാട്ടത്തിന്റെ ജീവിതം
8. വിശ്വാസം നേരിടുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികൾ
9. ക്രിസ്തീയജീവിതത്തിന്റെ പ്രലോഭനങ്ങൾ

### **Changanacherry**

10. ക്രിസ്തീയജീവിതവും നവമാധ്യമങ്ങളും
11. ക്രൈസ്തവയുവത്വം നേരിടുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികൾ
12. നിങ്ങൾ എന്നിക്സാക്ഷികളായിരിക്കുവിൻ