

www.malankaralibrary.com

SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA



SYNODAL NEWS

BULLETIN OF THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vol. 27

December 2019

MOUNT ST. THOMAS, KAKKANAD

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mar Pauly Kannookadan (Chief Editor)

Mar Jose Puthenveetil

Mar Sebastian Vaniyapurackal

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor (Editor)

Fr. Abraham Kavilpurayidathil

.....

Published by Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia
 P.B. No. 3110, Kakkanad P.O.,
 Kochi 682 030, India

Design & print Viani Printings, Kochi
 Phone : 0484 2401635

CONTENTS

Editorial..... 05

XXVII Synod (2019), Session I

Inaugural Address..... 10
Report..... 17
Decisions..... 75
Concluding Address..... 81

XXVII Synod (2019), Session II

Inaugural Address..... 85
Report..... 90
Decisions..... 123
Concluding Address..... 127

Pastoral Letters/Circulars

Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session I- Malayalam (1) 132
Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session I –English (1) 137
Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session I –Malayalam (2)..... 141
Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session I –English (2) 151
Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session II- Malayalam..... 159
Circular after XXVII Synod (2019), Session II -English 168
Pastoral Letter on Sabhadinam 2019 - Malayalam 176
Pastoral Letter on Sabhadinam 2019 – English 181
Circular after Ad limina Visit 2019 - Malayalam 185
Circular after Ad limina Visit 2019 – English..... 191
Circular on Preshithavaram 2019 – Malayalam..... 196
Circular on Preshithavaram 2019 – English 199

Decrees/Documents

Decree of the Major Archbishop appointing
Mar Antony Kariyil CMI the Vicar of the Major Archbishop
for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly 203

Decree of the Major Archbishop appointing
Rev. Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil Bishop of the Eparchy of Bijnor 206

Decree of the Major Archbishop appointing
Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya 208

Decree of the Major Archbishop appointing
Mar Jose Puthenveetil Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad 210

Guidelines approved by the Synod of Bishops of the
Syro-Malabar Church on the Office of the Vicar of the
Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly 212

Decree of the Major Archbishop conferring Sisters of
St. Martha's Congregation the Major Archiepiscopal Status 215

Decree of the Major Archbishop conferring the title of
Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre on Martha Mariam Archdeacon
Forane Church, Kuravilangad..... 217

Activities of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal 220

Statement of Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia..... 230

EDITORIAL

The Editorial Board is very glad to present this issue of Synodal News with the Acts of the two Sessions of the XXVII Synod (2019) of the Syro-Malabar Church held in January and August 2019. The year 2019 was significant for the Church because of three important events: Pope Francis' declaration of the month of October 2019 as Extraordinary Mission Month; Canonization of Blessed Mother Mariam Thresia, the foundress of the Holy Family Congregation and *Ad limina* visit of the Syro-Malabar Bishops.

In his Apostolic Letter to all the faithful on the occasion of the centenary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* on the Activity of the Missionaries in the World, Pope Francis reminded us that in this world all of us are permanently in a state of Mission. He invited us not to be afraid to undertake, with trust in God and great courage, "a missionary option capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation".

The aim of the Extraordinary Mission Month, as explained in the letter of Pope Francis to Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, was to foster "an increased awareness of the *missio ad gentes* and taking up again with renewed fervour the missionary transformation of the Church's life and pastoral activity. It served as a good preparation by enabling all the faithful to take to heart the proclamation of the Gospel and

to help their communities grow in missionary and evangelizing zeal". In line with the spirit of the celebration of the Extra Ordinary Mission Month, the Major Archbishop, in his inaugural address to the August Synod, mentioned that it was an occasion for us to rejuvenate mission work in the Church and to strengthen our efforts for evangelization, especially in the Eparchy of Shamshabad.

The Church in India rejoices because she has got another canonized saint: Mother Mariam Thresia from the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda and we offer the Lord our gratitude for this great gift of a Saint of the Families. Mother Mariam Thresia founded the Congregation of the Holy Family on 14 May 1914 when she was 38 years old. She was blessed by God that thousands of women joined the congregation. It is amazing to note that the great flourishing of her congregation took place at a time when the world was ravaged by the pain, havoc and destruction of life and property that took place during the time of the First World War. Mother Mariam Thresia went from houses to houses to care the sick, when it was almost forbidden for women to move out of their houses independently. She was a great mother held in great esteem by the people because she acted in her life as a pillar of support to the poor, the oppressed and the sick. She was engaged in a ministry that no other religious had done at that time. She was successful in erecting three houses of her Congregation, building two schools and an orphanage of ten children before her death.

The *ad limina* visit of the Syro-Malabar Bishops took place from 3 - 14 October 2019 along with different programmes in connection with this visit in Rome. It was a time of unique experience for all the bishops as it is expressed in the circular of the Major Archbishop issued after the visit. The audience with the Holy Father was a rich and pleasant experience. During the dialogue with him, Pope Francis shared his views on the New Evangelization. The Holy Qurbana offered at the tomb of St. Peter and in other Papal Basilicas, the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the parish community of the Syro-

Malabar faithful in Rome held at the famous Marian Pilgrim Centre *Divino Amore*, the blessing ceremony of the *Procura -Domus Mar Thoma-* of the Syro-Malabar Church in Rome, the Vigil before the Canonization of Mother Mariam Thresia at the Mary Major Basilica, the canonization ceremony at St Peter's Square and the thanksgiving Qurbana at Basilica of Santa Anasthasia were all moments of grace for the whole Syro-Malabar Church.

Creation of the Office of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly is a new landmark in the history of the Syro-Malabar Church, which had its origin from the apostolate of St. Thomas in India. The Syro-Malabar Church was raised to the status of Major Archiepiscopal Church on 16 December 1992, having its See with the title of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The Major Archbishop, besides being the Father and Head of the whole Syro Malabar Church, is also the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly (CCEO cc. 55-56, 57§3, 151-153). Since the Major Archbishop has to care for the pastoral affairs of the whole Syro-Malabar Church, it was not easy for him to concentrate on the ministry in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Hence, in the January and August Sessions of XV Synod (2007), there was a suggestion to appoint a Protosyncellus Auxiliary Bishop with the title of Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, who could be given the charge of the ordinary administration of the Archeparchy. This suggestion was taken up again in the two Sessions of the XXVII Synod in 2019 and the Office was defined as the *Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly*.

With the approval of the Apostolic See, the XXVII Synod (2019), Session II held in the month of August, created this Office of the *Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly* and approved the guidelines for the same. Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the Bishop of Mandya, was elected the first Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly,

with the title of Archbishop *ad personam* conferred by the Apostolic See. This was announced on 30 August 2019. There were also announcements of other canonical provisions on the same day. Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil was appointed the third Bishop of Bijnor, Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, the new Bishop of Mandya and Mar Jose Puthenveetil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad.

During the Second Session of XXVII Synod (2019), for the first time in the history of the Synod, a meeting of the Secretaries of the Pastoral Councils of the Archeparchies/Eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church was organized on 26 August. The Synod Members spent a day listening to them and interacting with them.

In this issue of the Synodal News (Vol. 27, Nos. 1 – 2, December 2019) we have included documents relating to the two Sessions of the XXVII Synod held in the year 2019. Besides, there are Pastoral Letters and Circulars, Documents related to important ecclesiastical provisions and other usual items. It is hoped that these items will help the readers to be informed of the major events and discussions in the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church.

XXVII Synod (2019)
Session I
07-18 January 2019

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Introduction

At the very outset, I cordially welcome each and every one of you to the First Session of the XXVII Synod of our Church. Although all the preparations were made to hold the Second Session of XXVI Synod from 20-31 August 2018, we had to cancel it due to the calamitous floods and other natural disasters. We had the hope of conducting the Synod at least for a week but the general opinion among the Bishops was to avoid even that.

Spiritual Reflections

I would like to thank Bishop Jacob Muricken for the spiritual reflections relevant in the present situation of the Church.

Welcome to New Bishops

Bishop John Nellikunnel, of the Eparchy of Idukki and Bishop James Athikalam MST, of the Eparchy of Sagar are attending the Synod for the first time after their Episcopal Ordination as full members of the Synod. In the name of all the Synodal Fathers let me offer them our hearty congratulations, best wishes and prayers. Except a few Bishops *emeriti* all our Bishops are attending this Synodal Session.

Flood Relief Works

Let me express my deep appreciation on the wonderful leadership that our Bishops took to respond to the great flood in Kerala and

the havoc it created for the people. It was an act of charity that all our institutions were whole heartedly opened to the public as relief camps and our priests, sisters and the lay faithful have extended consolation, relief and rehabilitation works. Let us be conscious of the fact that the Church could rise to the occasion and give a good witness of Christian charity and mercy. The State Government agencies and other voluntary organizations as well as our Church organizations under the leadership of various eparchies and religious congregations were actively in the forefront of rescue operations. They are still trying their level best to extend all sorts of support to the people who are severely suffering.

Current Issues in the Church

What is foremost in our mind these days are the recent events in the Church that have disturbed the conscience of the people of God regarding ecclesial unity and the holiness of the ministers and consecrated persons in the Church. We will have to deal with these issues connected with the Church during this session of the Synod. In order to solve the problems that arose in connection with the land sale issue in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the Apostolic See has appointed Bishop Jacob Manantheodath of the Eparchy of Palghat as the Apostolic Administrator of the Archeparchy and he is attending this Synod holding this responsibility too.

Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Major Archiepiscopal Status

You might remember that we had a small but solemn celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Major Archiepiscopal Status of our Church on the final day of the past January Synod . We were graced by the esteemed presence of many ecclesiastical dignitaries like the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch His Beatitude Louis Raphaël Sako, along with three Bishops of his Church; Archbishop Cyril Vasil, Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and Father Lorenzo Lorusso, the Under Secretary. His Beatitude Louis Raphaël Sako was elevated to the rank of Cardinal in the consistory held in June last year. Let us all extend to him hearty congratulations!

Visits and Pastoral Collaboration with the Chaldean Church

When I met Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis O.P., Archbishop of Kirkuk & Sulaymania in Rome, he repeated the request which the Chaldean prelates made to the Synod during their visit in January 2018 to have some pastoral collaboration by sending our priests and consecrated men and women to the Chaldean Church. I requested the CMC sisters if it was possible for them to send sisters to begin this pastoral collaboration and they have expressed their readiness in this regard. They have already visited Archbishop Yousif Thomas Mirkis of Kirkuk & Sulaymania and started preparations to begin their mission there. Some of our Bishops made attempts to visit Iraq last month but they could not obtain due visa. I had the plan of handing over the money which we have collected to the Chaldean Patriarch through them but it did not work. Now I hope to meet the Patriarch next month in Rome and I will then hand it over to him. This kind of visits and pastoral collaboration with the Chaldean Church will definitely be a concrete expression of our solidarity to this Church under persecution.

Pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar Faithful in the Gulf countries

The pastoral care of our people in the Gulf countries still remains a problem to be tackled by the Synod and the Apostolic See. Dr Mohan Thomas, the Chief Gulf Coordinator, will come to this session of the Synod to brief the current situation and to request our effective interaction in this matter. There is a new development in Doha regarding the administration of the Church there, as a result of the nomination of the members to the new parish council, which also needs our careful consideration. Let us hope and pray that the upcoming visit of Holy Father Pope Francis to UAE from 3-5 February 2019 may bring forth a favourable outcome for the gulf issue. It seems that there is positive step taken by the Apostolic See to ask the Vicars Apostolic to appoint priests in the Gulf countries for the Syro-Malabar Communities proposed by the Major Archbishop. The Secretary of State has informed the Congregation for the

Oriental Churches of this new measure which may be realized without much delay.

Golden Jubilee of the Eparchies of Sagar, Satna and Ujjain

The eparchies of Sagar, Satna and Ujjain held solemn celebration of their Golden Jubilee from 12 to 18 November 2018. I took part in all those three celebrations and am extremely happy to tell that they have been excellently organized. I remember with gratitude all the former Bishops of these eparchies who have toiled hard to grow them up to the present level and I sincerely congratulate the present Bishops who give effective leadership to these eparchies. As we all know, recently they had to pass through many trials and sufferings due to the attacks by extremist groups vindicating religious fanaticism. Let us remember that every experience of suffering and persecution is only a challenge to rededicate ourselves for Christ and His Kingdom.

Pastoral Visit in Great Britain

It was a delightful experience for me to make pastoral visit to the Eparchy of Great Britain from 24th November to 09th December 2018. The various Holy Qurbana centres were merged into 28 Missions and their inaugurations took place in different places. These Missions eventually will change into Syro-Malabar parishes when they meet the requirements of a parish. I took part also in the celebrations of the conclusion of the Year of Children and the inauguration of the Year of Youth of the Eparchy. I take this occasion to heartily congratulate Bishop Joseph Srampickal for the effective pastoral leadership that he is giving to the Eparchy of Great Britain.

All India Jurisdiction

I would like to share with you a positive understanding of our All India Jurisdiction communicated to me through a letter of the Apostolic Nuncio on 5 July 2018. I quote from his letter: "In compliance with the Letter of the Holy Father Pope Francis to the Bishops of India, on 9 October 2017, the Synod of the Bishops of the

Archiepiscopal Major Syro-Malabar Church is competent to provide to the succession of the Bishop of Bijnor”.

In 1992 when our Church was raised to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church, the faculties concerning liturgical matters and the election of Bishops were reserved to the Roman Pontiff. In 1998 recognizing the sufficient collegial maturity of the Synod, the Apostolic See revoked the first of these reservations. On 3 July 2004, the second reservation also was lifted and our Synod became capable of exercising all faculties without reservations. As per CCEO can. 149, in order to fill the office of eparchial bishop, coadjutor bishops or auxiliary bishop outside the territorial boundaries of the patriarchal church, the synod of bishops of the patriarchal church elects, according to the norms of canons on the election of bishops, at least three candidates and proposes them through the patriarch to the Roman Pontiff for appointment. From the above mentioned communication granting the Synod competency to provide to the office of the Bishop of Bijnor it could be rightly inferred that the Synod can act in future considering the whole of India within the jurisdiction of the Major Archbishop. However, after the historic event of erecting the Eparchy of Shamshabad, there have emerged certain challenges to its jurisdiction from the part of certain bishops, priests and people in different parts of its vast area. This concern also should gain special attention of the Synod.

Saints, Venerables and Servants of God

Our Church is blessed with three canonized Saints: St. Alphonsa, St Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St Euphrasia and three Blessed: Bl. Mariam Thresia, Bl. Kunjachan and Bl. Martyr Rani Maria. The number of Venerables has gone up to five when Servants of God Fr Varghese Payyappilly and Fr Augustine John Ukken were elevated to this status in the year 2018 together with the earlier Venerables Bishop Thomas Kurialacherry, Fr. Mathew Kadalikattil and Fr Joseph Vithayathil. The number of Servants of God in our church is now 11.

We shall thank God for His blessings to our Church and continue our prayers for the ecclesial recognition of sanctity in our Church.

Synod on Youth

The Synod on Youth with the topic Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment was successfully conducted in Rome from October 3-28, 2018. The Church in Kerala has already observed the Year of Youth in 2018. I think along with the insights generated in the Youth Synod we have to foster the participation of the youth in the life and activities of the Church. All the youth movements sprouting in the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit have to be owned and encouraged by the Bishops and Priests. The youth movements like SMYM, Jesus Youth, Fiat etc, should get their rightful place in the communion of the Syro-Malabar Church. Any negative attitude towards them will be counterproductive.

The New Eparchy of Mississauga in Canada

The elevation of the Apostolic Exarchate for the Syro-Malabar Faithful in Canada to the status of an Eparchy and the appointment of Bishop Jose Kalluvilil as its first Bishop on 22 December 2018 is another matter of extreme joy for the whole Church. It was on 6th August 2015 that the Apostolic Exarchate in Canada was erected. The laborious team work of the priests, religious and lay faithful under the efficient leadership of Bishop Jose Kalluvilil has led to the elevation of this Exarchate to the status of an Eparchy within a short period of 39 months. Our sincere congratulations to all of them!

Ad limina visit

As the ad limina visit is announced for September 2019, after consulting the Permanent Synod, I have written to Rome requesting to schedule it in such a way that the visit of the Bishops of our Church comes as the last group of the Indian Bishops, so that we may be able to participate in the canonization ceremony of Blessed Mariam Theresia which is expected to take place in October 2019. I am still waiting for a formal confirmation from the concerned dicasteries to give you a definitive answer in this regard. The construction

work of the Procura in Rome is almost complete. Bishop Stephen Chirappanath and his team of priests have moved to the house after an initial blessing. However, we can have a solemn blessing of the house and a modest function of inauguration in the presence of all our Bishops who will be in Rome for the *Ad limina*.

Conclusion

Let us bear in mind that every Synodal session is an ecclesial act in which the celebrations of the Holy Qurbana, the Liturgy of the Hours, personal prayer, deliberations and decisions in the Synodal sittings and other related activities give us an experience of our leadership role in the Church and society. The Holy Spirit is empowering us in all our ecclesial activities. Pope Francis reminds us: ‘Let us be open up to the Spirit, He will push us forward like the wind pushes a sailing boat’.

Since 1st September 2018 full day adoration is taking place in the chapel of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the intentions covering the whole Church. During the days of the Synod there will be special intercessory prayers for the fruitful conduct of the Synod. May all our prayers bring upon us God’s blessings and let us enter the Synod invoking the mediation of Holy Mary, Mother of God, St. Thomas our Father in faith, St. Geevarghese and all the Saints of the Church, especially St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia Eluvathingal and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed Mariam Thesia, Blessed Kunjachan Thevarparampil and Blessed Martyr Rani Maria.

With these words I declare the First Session of the XXVII Synod 2019 open.

George Cardinal Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

XXVII SYNOD (2019) SESSION I
07-18 JANUARY 2019

REPORT

The XXVII Synod (2019) Session I began with a recollection preached by Bishop Jacob Muricken, at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer and Holy *Qurbana* of the Bishops with the Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry being the main celebrant in which the Third *Qudasha* (The Order of Mar Nestorius) was celebrated for the first time after its promulgation on 8 September 2018. Bishop Jacob Muricken spoke on the importance of unity in the Church especially in the matter of Liturgy. He presented the example of Jesus who prayed for unity of his disciples (Jn. 10:30). Jesus was a man of prayer. Quite often, especially when he was becoming famous, he used to withdraw to the wilderness for prayer. In today's world of materialism, we are expected to be spiritual animators. In this regard he referred to the monastic tradition of the East and hermitic style of spirituality. He reminded the Synod Fathers of their prophetic role and their collegial responsibility to protect the Church in the context of the many challenges we are facing today.

At the request of Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy, the Major Archbishop formally released the Anaphora of Nestorius immediately after the recollection talk, by giving a copy of it to Archbishop George Njaralakatt.

The formal sitting of the Synod began at 2.30 p.m. by the lighting of the lamp by the Major Archbishop and a prayer led by him, after which he proceeded with the inaugural address.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: In his inaugural address, the Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Jacob Muricken for his spiritual reflections very relevant in the present context of the Church. The Major Archbishop welcomed the two new Bishops: Bishop John Nellikunnel of the Eparchy of Idukki and Bishop James Athikalam MST of the Eparchy of Sagar who attend the Synod for the first time as full members of the Synod. He made reference to Bishop Jacob Manethodath who is attending the Synod also as the Apostolic Administrator *sede plena* of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The Major Archbishop expressed his appreciation on the leadership that our Bishops took to respond to the flood in Kerala and the havoc it created for the people. He appreciated the simple but solemn celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Major Archiepiscopal status of our Church on the final day of the past January Synod which was graced by the esteemed presence of many ecclesiastical dignitaries. He gave a briefing about the pastoral collaboration of our Church with the Chaldean Church and informed the Synod that the CMC sisters have already started preparations to begin their mission there. The Major Archbishop shared with the Synod his impression that there is positive step taken by the Apostolic See to ask the Vicars Apostolic of the Gulf Countries to appoint for the Syro-Malabar communities priests proposed by the Major Archbishop. He also expressed the hope that the upcoming visit of the Holy Father Pope Francis to UAE in February 2019 may bring forth a more favourable outcome for the Gulf issue.

Referring to the golden jubilees of the eparchies of Sagar, Satna and Ujjain, the Major Archbishop appreciated the growth of these eparchies amidst many trials and sufferings due to the attacks of extremist groups. He shared his experience of pastoral visit to Great Britain and congratulated Bishop Joseph Srampickal on the effective pastoral leadership he is giving there. He referred to the challenges the eparchy of Shamshabad is facing today which, he added, should gain the special attention of the Synod. The Major Archbishop

informed the Synod of a positive understanding of our All India Jurisdiction which has been communicated to us by the Apostolic Nuncio that we are “competent to provide to the succession of the Bishop of Bijnor”. He congratulated Bishop Jose Kalluvilil for his laborious teamwork with his priests, religious and faithful in Mississauga which has led to the elevation of the Exarchate to the status of an Eparchy within a short span of 39 months.

The Major Archbishop urged the Synod Fathers to thank God for His blessings to our Church through Saints, Blesseds, Venerables and Servants of God and reminded them of their responsibility to continue their prayers for the ecclesial recognition of sanctity in our Church.

Referring to the Synod of Youth in Rome in October 2018 and the celebration of the Year of Youth in Kerala, the Major Archbishop stated that the Youth Movements like SMYM, Jesus Youth, etc. should get their rightful place in the communion of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he has requested Rome to schedule our *ad limina* visit in such a way that we come as the last group of Indian Bishops in order to facilitate our participation in the canonization ceremony of Blessed Mariam Thresia which is expected to take place in October 2019. He expressed his hope that we may be able to have a solemn blessing of our Procura in Rome in the presence of all our Bishops then.

He informed the Synod of the full day adoration that is taking place in the Chapel of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the intentions covering the whole Church. Recalling the fact that every Synodal Session is an ecclesiastical act guided by the Holy Spirit and invoking blessings of God, he declared the first Session of the XXVII Synod, 2019 open.

Participants: The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Major Archbishop George Alencherry, Abp. Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Abp. Andrews Thazhath

(Trichur), Abp. Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Abp. George Njaralakatt (Tellicherry), Abp. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Faridabad), Abp. Jacob Thoomkuzhy (Emeritus, Trichur), Abp. George Valiamattam (Archbishop Emeritus, Tellicherry), Bp. Joseph Pallikkaparampil (Emeritus, Palai), Bp. Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Bp. George Punnakottil (Emeritus, Kothamangalam), Bp. Thomas Chakiath (Emeritus Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Bp. Jacob Manathodath (Palghat), Bp. Gregory Karotemprel CMI (Emeritus, Rajkot), Bp. Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Bp. Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Bp. Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Bp. Joseph Kunnath CMI (Emeritus Adilabad), Bp. Mathew Vaniakizhake V.C (Emeritus, Satna), Bp. Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Bp. Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Bp. Sebastian Adayanthrath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Bp. Mathew Anikuzhikattil (Emeritus, Idukki), Bp. Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Bp. Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Bp. Anthony Chirayath (Emeritus, Sagar), Bp. Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Bp. Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Bp. Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Bhadravathi), Bp. John Vadakel CMI (Bijnor), Bp. Bosco Puthur (Melbourne), Bp. Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamarassery), Bp. Raphael Thattil (Shamshabad), Bp. Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Bp. Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), Bp. Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), Bp. George Rajendran SDB (Thuckalay), Bp. Jacob Muricken (Auxiliary, Palai), Bp. George Madathikandathil (Kothamangalam), Bp. Joseph Kollamparampil CMI (Jagdalpur), Bp. Jose Puthenveettil (Auxiliary Ernakulam-Angamaly), Bp. Joy Alappatt (Auxiliary, Chicago), Bp. Ephrem Nariculam (Chanda), Bp. Joseph Kodakallil (Satna), Bp. Jose Kalluvellil (Mississauga), Bp. Antony Kariyil CMI (Mandya), Bp. Prince Antony Panengadan (Adilabad), Bp. Jose Pulickal (Auxiliary, Kanjirapally), Bp. Joseph Srampickal (Great Britain), Bp. Stephen Chirappanath (Apostolic Visitor, Europe), Bp. Thomas Tharayil (Auxiliary, Changanacherry), Bp. Joseph Pamplany (Auxiliary,

Tellicherry), Bp. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal (Curia Bishop), Bp. Tony Neelankavil (Auxiliary, Trichur), Bp. Sebastian Pozholiparambil (Hosur), Bishop John Nellikunnel (Idukki) and Bp. James Athikalam MST (Sagar)

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The Synod approved the designation of the following persons to the various offices and committees for the conduct of the present session:

Moderators: Bishop Raphael Thattil (Convener) and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil.

Tellers: Bishop Sebastian Pozholiparambil, Bishop John Nellikunnel, and Bishop James Athikalam MST.

Committee for the Media: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Convener), Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath.

Committee for the Pastoral Circular: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI.

Liturgical Celebrations: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan.

Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous Synod held in January 2018. The Synod reviewed the implementation of the decisions.

Leave of Absence: The Synod granted leave of absence to a few Bishops from certain sittings of the present Session of the Synod for various reasons.

Finalization of the Agenda: Agenda for the present Session of the Synod was taken up for discussion. After a brief discussion, the agenda was finalized with a few modifications and additions. With these additional items, the finalized agenda consisted of the following items:

- 1 Election to the Office of Bishop of Bijnor
- 2 Request for an Auxiliary Bishop for the Eparchy of Palghat

- 3 Elections for: Permanent Synod, Superior Tribunal, Synodal Commission for Mangalapuzha.
- 4 Information on *ad limina* visit and further discussion on the preparations for the same.
- 5 A sincere and detailed introspection into our Church as it is today and its system and style of functioning and the very many criticisms we receive day after day from very educated, noble people who want the Church to be the Church of Jesus.
- 6 Restoration of communion.
- 7 Dogmatic position of some of the members of the clergy of Ernakulam-Angmaly.
- 8 Ecclesiastical discipline in our Church.
- 9 See of the Major Archbishop.
- 10 Consent of the Synod for the sale of property of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam near Bharath Matha College, Thrikkakara.
- 11 Finding a solution to the present crisis in the Syro-Malabar Church connected to the land deal in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
- 12 Separation of the Seat of the Major Archbishop of Syro-Malabar Church from the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
- 13 Confidentiality of the Synodal discussions.
- 14 Juridical Nature of the Syro-Malabar Church.
- 15 Ecclesiastical discipline in our Church.
- 16 Use of media.
- 17 Grievance Redressal Cells.
- 18 Restoring the ancient system of administration in our Church.
- 19 A discussion of the Content of the letter of the Holy Father of 9 October 2017 and its canonical and pastoral implications.
- 20 The confusing situation in the Diocese of Ahmadabad (Gujarat) propagated by a group by name “SMC4U”.

- 21 The position of the “Western Region Bishops Council” held in Bombay in July 2018 and their decision to approach the Holy See for getting a further relaxation to the provisions (‘relaxations’) granted by the letter of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in the context of Faridabad.
- 22 Making aware of our Bishops and Pastors the need of getting mandate/letters from the Eparchy of Shamshabad when migrant faithful come with the mandate from Latin parishes and priests.
- 23 The effort of priests and Religious of the Syro-Malabar origin incardinated to Latin Dioceses and Congregations to celebrate the Syro-Malabar Liturgy for the Syro-Malabar Faithful remaining attached to Latin parishes.
- 24 Allocation of the vast territories of the Eparchy of Shamshabad to different Eparchies and Religious Congregations of the Syro-Malabar Church.
- 25 Planning about the reorganization of the territories of the Syro-Malabar Mission Eparchies.
- 26 Request for a new secretary to the commission for doctrine.
- 27 *Sensus Fidei*: An opportunity to Evangelise the migrants.
- 28 Pastoral Care of Knanaya Syro-Malabar Community.
- 29 Pastoral Challenges in the Extended Territory of the Eparchy of Ramanathapuram.
- 30 Pastoral Care – Doha, Qatar.
- 31 Apostolic Visitation in Europe.
- 32 Reporting on the Procura.
- 33 Revision of the Syro-Malabar *Qurbana*.
- 34 Liturgical hymns.
- 35 *Recognitio* of the *Anaphoras* of Mar Theodore and of Mar Nestorius – any follow up discussion.
- 36 *Karozoutha* prayer for the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf Region.
- 37 Granting favourable opinion to initiate the Cause of Msgr. Joseph Kandathil.

- 38 Granting favourable opinion to initiate the Cause of Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath VC.
- 39 Granting favourable opinion to initiate the Cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath of the Sisters of Destitute, of Santhidham Mission Province.
- 40 Granting favourable opinion to initiate the Cause of Rev. Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI.
- 41 Granting favourable opinion to initiate the Cause of Sr. Mary Collethama FCC.
- 42 Approval of the Guidelines for Vocation Promotion presented with necessary modifications suggested and fine-tuned accordingly.
- 43 Approval of the Statutes of CML.
- 44 Reporting on the consultations with the Seminary Commissions and the Commission for Clergy regarding the feasibility of a training programme for the formators.
- 45 Discussion on the important points of the report of the Jubilarians' Meet organized by the Clergy Commission.
- 46 Amendments of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
- 47 Discussion on the Revision of the approved list of Marriage Preparation Course Centres.
- 48 "Instituting Complaints Committee in the Diocese and in Diocesan Institutions" proposals of the CBCI.
- 49 Items from the Syro-Malabar *Dalit Vikas* Society.
- 50 Finding sponsors from the parishes in Kerala for the running of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
- 51 Establishing Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centres in different Eparchies in Kerala.
- 52 New suggestions for the presentation of Commissions' report in the Synod.

- 53 Suitable titles for Social Workers and Missionaries.
- 54 *Sabhatharam* to Prof. Mathew Ulakamthara.
- 55 *Vaidikaratnam* to Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjalil.
- 56 *Vaidikaratnam* to Msgr. George Oliappuram.
- 57 Declaring St. Chavara Kuriakose Elias as the Patron of Families.
- 58 Request to confer the title Archpriest to the Vicar of Kuravilangad parish.
- 59 Honouring Rev. Fr. Joseph Maliparampil with the title of *Mahamissionary*.
- 60 Presenting Church/living as Christians, with true witness of Christian values in the present socio-religious, cultural and political context of our country today.
- 61 Our Political stand in view of the forthcoming *Loksabha* elections.
- 62 The matters of Syro-Malabar Youth Movement.
- 63 Venue and Committee for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly.
- 64 Consecrated Virgins.
- 65 Reporting on the Survey of *Syro-Malabar Kudumba Preshitha Kendram Suvarna Jubilee Varsha Kudumba Padana Survey*.
- 66 Report of the Meeting of the PROs and others in the Media – 9 Nov. 2018 – Formation of Media Commission.
- 67 Vilakkannoor – Eucharistic Miracle - Report and discussion (Permanent Synod Decision – 9 November 2018).
- 68 Shekinah TV – Presentation in the Synod.
- 69 Presentation on Deepika.
- 70 Presentation of Reports of the Commissions and Departments:
 - i. Commission for Liturgy
 - ii. Commission for Catechesis
 - iii. Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants
 - iv. Commission for Clergy

- v. Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life & Societies of Ap. Life
 - vi. Commission for Doctrine
 - vii. Commission for Ecumenism
 - viii. Commission for Vocation
 - ix. Commission for Youth
 - x. Commission for Family, Laity and Life + Catholic Congress, Laity Forums, *Mathruvedi*, *Kudumbakoottayma*, Family Apostolate & Pro-life
 - xi. Committee for Public Affairs
 - xii. Committee for Education - Colleges
 - xiii. Committee for Education –Schools
 - xiv. Committee for Major Archiepiscopal Assembly
 - xv. Syro-Malabar Mission (SyMM)
 - xvi. Syro-Malabar *Dalit Vikas* Society
 - xvii. Public Relations Office
 - xviii. Syro-Malabar Internet Mission
 - xix. Liturgical Research Centre
 - xx. Social Mission Network (SPANDAN)
 - xxi. Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal
- 71 Presentation of Reports of Various Major Seminaries and the Institutes:
- i. St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha, Aluva.
 - ii. St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kottayam.
 - iii. Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth.
 - iv. St. Ephrem’s Theological College, Satna.
 - v. *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*, Vadavathoor
- 72 Presentation of Report of the Curia.
- 73 Presentation of the Statement of Accounts and Budget of the Curia.
- 74 Dates for the forthcoming Agenda.
- 75 Scrutiny of the decisions.

Issues of Ernakulam-Angamaly Archeparchy: Land deal and connected issues of Ernakulam-Angamaly Archeparchy were taken up for discussion.

Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented a brief introduction of the whole issue and Bishop Jose Porunnedom with the help of power point gave a chronological evolution of the efforts of the Synod, the Permanent Synod as well as the sub-committee appointed by the Permanent Synod to suggest possible lines of action for a solution. This was followed by interventions of several Bishops. In a later sitting also several Bishops intervened with their suggestions about solving the issue in an amicable manner. Later in another sitting, the Major Archbishop along with Bishop Jacob Manethodath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil gave a briefing about the interaction they had with Msgr. Sebastian Vadakkumpadan, former syncellus, Fr. Joshy Puthuva, former procurator and Fr. Sebastian Manickathan, the present procurator. Bishop Thomas Chakiath too was present in this meeting. This interaction is to be considered as the beginning of the discussion which is to be continued in the coming days which the Bishops plan to have with the Archeparchial bodies of Ernakulam-Angamaly in view of arriving at an amicable settlement.

Consent of the Synod for the Sale of Property of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly: Bishop Jacob Manethodath, the Apostolic Administrator of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly submitted a letter to the Synod requesting the consent of the Synod to permit to sell 11.03 acres of land owned by the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly at Thrikkakara, Vazhakala Village (11 acres, in survey number 479/2 and .03 acres in survey number 478/3) to Chittilappilly Foundation, Thrikkakara, at the rate of Rs. 6.6 Lakhs per cent for 1055.90 cents and for the land under the 11 KV line extending to 47.1 cents at the rate of Rs. 5 Lakh, thus for a total consideration of Rs. 72,04,44,000/- (Rupees Seventy two crores, four lakhs and forty four thousand only). Copies of the consent of the Archeparchial Finance Council and Consultors, assessment of

the value of the land by a committee of experts and the details of the previous alienations were also submitted to the Synod along with the letter (cf. CCEO c. 1036-1038). After a brief discussion, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to grant Bishop Jacob Manethodath permission to sell the above property for the agreed price.

Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly with the Title of Archbishop: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented a proposal regarding appointment of Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly with the Title of Archbishop. This proposal was prepared by Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Jose Porunnedom and the Members of the Committee for Canonical Questions, Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Paul Alappatt. After a detailed discussion in which several bishops participated, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to take necessary steps in this regard at the appropriate time.

An Introspection into our Church: Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI appealed to the Synod to make an introspection into our Church. The Church is attacked today because of sexual, financial and moral scandals among some priests and even among a few Bishops. This, he added, requires that we make a sincere and detailed study of all these matters which should lead us to a renewal at the individual and collective levels. All the Bishops who participated in the discussion opined that this is a relevant topic which should be considered in the context of the latest events that have taken place in the Church. Reference was made to the decisions of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, a sincere implementation of which will go a long way in this direction. It was also suggested to activate existing administrative mechanisms of the Church like *palliyogam*, with a view to making active participation of the laity in the decision making process. According to some, in the changed context of our Church perhaps a returning to our ancient systems with necessary adaptations also may be thought of.

Christian Identity in the Life and Ministry of Priests: Bishop Ephrem Nariculam, while presenting the topic on Christian identity in the life and ministry of priests, spoke about the need to present the Church with true witness of Christian values in the present socio-religious, cultural and political context of our country today. In this connection he stressed the importance of the Church gaining credibility in the society. He added that there is a dire need of practicing priestly discipline in our eparchies. In the interventions of the Bishops, several suggestions came up, the important highlights of which are the following:

- 1 Priests now take up the role of laity by excessive involvement in temporal matters.
- 2 Many priests consider their role as a comfortable profession.
- 3 Often performers are rewarded almost ignoring “the Vicars of Ars.”
- 4 Solutions to these problems can be arrived at only by living genuine liturgical life.
- 5 Making all priests serving in Kerala take up mission work at least for three years in one of our mission eparchies will go a long way in finding a solution to these problems.

The Major Archbishop observed that secularization of priests is a serious disorientation today. This quite often leads to Church-politics and careerism. On the basis of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions it was decided to have a retreat for all the Bishops of the Synod on January 7,8,and 9, 2020 and hold, XXVIII Synod (2020), Session I on January 10,11,13,14, and 15, 2020. It was also decided to entrust a Committee consisting of the Members of the Clergy Commission and Chairmen of Seminary Commissions with the Chairman of the Clergy Commission as the Coordinator, to take necessary steps to discuss in the following session of the Synod the theme of formation of priests and seminarians from three angles: clericalism, safe-environment and missionary orientation.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Msgr. Joseph Kandathil: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Convener, Committee for Canonical Questions, presented a brief report about the study conducted by the Committee as per the direction of Synod of January 2018. After a brief discussion, the Synod decided to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Msgr. Joseph Kandathil.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Fr. Varkey Kattarath VC: Bishop Jacob Manethodath, Apostolic Administrator, Ernakulam-Angamaly, presented a brief account of the life, activities and virtues of Fr. Varkey Kattarath VC, Founder of the Vincentian Congregation. After a few interventions by the Bishops, the Synod decided to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Fr. Varkey Kattarath VC.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI & Sr. Mary Collethama FCC: Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt requested the Synod to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI and Sr. Mary Collethama FCC. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt to constitute a committee as per the Guidelines approved in the Synod 2008 and submit its findings before the Synod.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara requested the Synod to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD. After a few interventions by the Bishops, it was decided to request Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara to constitute a committee as per the Guidelines approved in the Synod of 2008 and submit its findings before the Synod.

Safe Environment Committee: Bishop Jose Porunnedom, referring to POCISO, *Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace* and several scandals, reminded the Synod of the urgency of addressing these issues in our Eparchies. After a brief discussion, it was decided to

request the Major Archbishop to give direction to the Eparchies to constitute Safe Environment Committee and appoint a Safe Environment Director.

Promulgation of the Safe Environment Guidelines: Bishop Jose Porunnedom informed the Synod that the KCBC has already published Guidelines for Safe Environment Programme for Church personnel connected with institutions where minors or vulnerable adults are given particular care and requested the Synod to promulgate it for the use of our Church. After interventions by a few Bishops, it was decided to make necessary adaptations in the Guidelines of the KCBC and promulgate it for the use of our Church personnel.

Training of the Church Personnel: Bishop Jose Porunnedom informed the members of the need to have a training programme for Church personnel in the context of several abuses taking place in the society today. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop, to organize training programme for Church personnel based on the Guidelines for Safe Environment Programme.

Grievance Redressal Cells: Bishop Jose Porunnedom informed the Synod of the need of instituting Grievance Redressal Cells in view of settling disputes at various levels. In the discussion that followed, several Bishops participated and it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to give direction to all our Eparchies to institute Grievance Redressal Cells.

Interaction with FCC Superior General: The Synod had in an earlier sitting discussed the FCC issue and had proposed to invite FCC Superior General to have an interaction with the Bishops. Accordingly Sr. Ann Joseph, Superior General FCC came to the Synod hall at 12.00 noon on Friday, 11 January and the Major Archbishop welcomed and requested her to give a briefing about the problems connected with disciplinary action initiated against Sr. Lucy FCC. Sr. Lucy (aged 54) belongs to Mananthavady province of the Franciscan

Clarist Congregation. At present she serves as a teacher in a school run by the Norbertine Fathers, Mananthavady. She has been violating various rules of the congregation, including the vows of poverty and obedience. Although she had been given warnings from time to time by the Provincials concerned, she was not willing to come to the main stream. Her case has now been referred to the Superior General who in turn has served her the first warning letter with the threat of dismissal from the congregation. In view of maintaining settling the issue in an amicable manner, the Superior General has invited Sr. Lucy to the generalate. It is heard that she might come to the generalate with her supporters and the Media which is likely to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the generalate. The Major Archbishop and all the Bishops who made interventions assured the Superior General of the full cooperation and solidarity of the Synod in this issue and requested her to join another meeting of the Synod at 5.00 p.m. on the same day in which representatives of religious and lay organizations of the Church will participate.

In afternoon sitting of the same day, the Major Archbishop welcomed to the Synod Sr. Ann Joseph FCC Superior General, Justice Cyriac Joseph, Adv. Biju Parayannilam, President AKCC, Dr. Reethamma, President, *Mathruvedi*, Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt, PRO, Fr. Joby Maprakavil MST, Executive Director, SMCIM, Bro. Franco Kannampuzha, Vice-President, SMRC& MMB Superior General, Fr. Sebastian Thundathikunnel VC, Superior General & President KCMS, Sr. Shubha Maria, CMC Provincial, Ernakulam, Sr. Elsy Xavier, CHF Provincial, Aluva, Fr. Roby Alencherry, Director, SMYM. Sr. Ann Joseph, the Superior General, introduced the problem connected with the disciplinary action against Sr. Lucy FCC. This was followed by interventions by all the invitees. Some of them suggested strict disciplinary action while others advised action that should reflect the mercy of the Church and the Congregation. Justice Cyriac Joseph was of the opinion that action should be taken against her as per the FCC constitution. While the action should reflect natural justice and mercy, there shall be no compromise with regard to the insistence

on discipline. Response of the Media or the general public should not come in the way of action. For further discussion on the matter, the Major Archbishop requested the Media Commission to interact with the invitees in the conference hall with a view to arriving at a concrete plan of action.

Issues connected with the Eparchy of Shamshabad: Bishop Raphael Thattil gave a brief description of the Eparchy of Shamshabad. The Eparchy which is spread over 87 Latin dioceses, has a Syro-Malabar population of around one lakh twenty thousand. The highest concentration of our community is in Hyderabad (around 20000) followed by Ahmadabad, Baroda, Jaipur, Patna, Indore, Bhopal and Calcutta. At present 90 priests are serving in different parts of the eparchy. After the erection of the eparchy, three deacons have been ordained for the Eparchy and there are 15 seminarians in different stages of formation. Making reference to the letter of the Holy Father dated 9 October 2017, Bishop Thattil informed the Synod that pastoral care and mission work are the two important dimensions of pastoral implications of the Eparchy. Whereas the former is rather easy and comfortable, the latter requires adequate preparation on the part of priests and sisters. In this context it was suggested that the Church should have a master plan for mission work with resources and personnel. There were concrete suggestions regarding adoption of a mission Eparchy/parish by an Eparchy/parish in Kerala and recruitment of candidates for serving in the mission Eparchies. Taking into account all the above-mentioned suggestions, there was a reference to the earlier decision of the Synod that the Major Archbishop send a pastoral letter regarding the content of the letter of the Holy Father and the erection of the Eparchy of Shamshabad to all the Syro-Malabar Eparchies.

The Situation in Ahmadabad: Bishop Raphael Thattil informed the Synod of a confusing situation created by a group by name 'SMC4U' in Ahmadabad. This group consists of members of Syro-Malabar community who would like to follow Syro-Malabar liturgy without

joining the Eparchy of Shamshabad and is supported by a few priests of Syro-Malabar origin incardinated to the Latin dioceses and religious engaged in pastoral ministry there. In this context he expressed his anxiety regarding the effect of the letter of Cardinal Oswald Gracias. He also shared with the Synod the possibility of some of the Latin Bishops approaching the Apostolic See for getting a further relaxation to the provisions granted by the letter of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in the context of Faridabad. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that we should request the Apostolic See, not to give such a relaxation, through a representation to be signed, if necessary, by all the bishops.

Marriage Kuries: Bishop Raphael Thattil informed the Synod that he came to know that some members of our community approach our parishes in Kerala with marriage kuries from Latin parishes. The Bishops who made interventions in this regard opined that this issue has to be properly addressed. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to give direction to our Bishops and priests in the pastoral letter mentioned above regarding the need of getting mandate/letters from the respective eparchies for celebration of sacraments in their home parishes.

Allocation of Territories to Different Eparchies and Religious Congregations: Bishop Raphael Thattil shared with the Synod the possibility of allocating different territories of Shamshabad to other Eparchies and religious congregations of the Syro-Malabar Church. The bishops who participated in the discussion that followed accepted his proposal and suggested that Bishop Raphael Thattil in consultation with the bishops and the major superiors concerned, make a master plan regarding this proposal.

Representation to the Holy Father Regarding Bi-ritualism: The Major Archbishop brought to the attention of the Bishops the letter of Archbishop Cyril Vasil addressed to Bishop Raphael Thattil. This letter is in the context of the interpretation of bi-ritualism by persons concerned. He added that we have to be cautious about

any interpretation of bi-ritualism which may create any confusion, judicial anomaly and anarchy. Several Bishops participated in the discussion and it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to make a representation to the Holy Father in this regard with the signature of all the Bishops.

Pastoral Challenges in the Extended Territory of the Eparchy of Ramanathapuram: Bishop Paul Alappatt gave a briefing about the present status of the Eparchy of Ramanathapuram. He brought to the attention of the Synod a few challenges like lack of sufficient number of priests, and facilities for Eucharistic celebrations, catechism classes, etc., small size of families and poor response of religious congregations to take up pastoral and social activities in the Eparchy. He appealed to the Bishops to lend service of priests for the Eparchy, undertake pastoral care and evangelization in certain areas of the Eparchy, provide maximum possible financial support and motivate various religious institutes to start their houses and apostolates in the extended territory of the eparchy.

Extension of Latin Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Eparchies with Exclusive Jurisdiction: Bishop Thomas Thuruthimattam CST had in an earlier sitting of the current Synodal Session presented the issues connected with the extension of Latin jurisdiction to the Latin faithful residing in the territories of Syro-Malabar Eparchies with exclusive jurisdiction. After intervention by a few Bishops, it was decided to request the Bishops of the eparchies with exclusive jurisdiction to refer the matter to the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization in view of arriving at an amicable settlement of the issue, when a direction comes from Apostolic See regarding this matter.

Pastoral Care in Gulf Countries: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST read out a letter of Dr. Mohan Thomas, Chief Coordinator of SMCA in which he has requested the Synod to take necessary steps towards the announcement of an Eparchy for the Gulf Countries during the papal visit in February 2019 to Abu Dhabi. The Major

Archbishop brought to the attention of the Synod a letter from the Oriental Congregation regarding adequate pastoral care for the Syro-Malabar faithful which the Apostolic See is planning in Gulf Countries. He also informed the bishops that he has been invited by Bishop Paul Hinder, the Apostolic Vicar of Southern Arabia to the solemn Eucharistic celebration and the interfaith conference in connection with the Papal Visit on February 4 and 5, 2019.

Reservation of *Dalit* Christians and the New Bill of Economic Reservation: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented before the Synod the issue of new Bill of economic reservation and denial of reservation to the *Dalit* Christians. Although Indian constitution assures freedom of religion and equality of rights, *Dalit* Christians, though *Dalits* (Scheduled Caste) by birth, are denied provisions of the reservation because they are Christians, which *Dalits* of other religions enjoy. This is a clear instance of discrimination and injustice. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request the *Catholica* Congress to take up the matter with the Government so that necessary legal provisions are made at all levels regarding reservation for *Dalit* Christians.

Representation to the CM of Kerala on behalf of Farmers: There were several discussions in previous Sessions of the Synod regarding problems the agriculture sector is facing today. Many Bishops who made interventions regarding this in the present sitting opined that we should pro-actively respond to this. After some discussion it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to make a representation to the Chief Minister of Kerala requesting him to write off the debts of farmers.

Matters of Syro-Malabar Youth Movement: Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, referring to the bylaws of SMYM, informed the Synod that they had been approved for a term of three years. Though initial apprehensions about the SMYM are slowly disappearing, the bylaws have not been fully accepted in many of our Eparchies. Only after implementing the bylaws in all Eparchies, the final draft

could be presented in the Synod. As the period of approval of the bylaws is getting over soon, it was decided to extend it for another term of three years. In order to strengthen youth apostolate in all Eparchies, Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril gave a few suggestions like conscientizing the Directors of SMYM, interaction of Bishops with SMYM members during the pastoral visit, organizing youth camps aiming at faith formation and not as mere career guidance programme, etc. He requested the Synod to help him identify source of raising funds for organizing activities of SMYM.

Convention of the Youth of Eparchies outside India in Rome:

Bishop Joy Alappatt informed the Synod about the proposed youth convention in Rome in 2020. The participants of this convention are the youth population of the four Eparchies outside India and the Apostolic Visitations in Europe and New Zealand. This convention will be planned under the leadership of Bishop Jose Kalluvilil, in consultation with the Commission for Youth. After a brief discussion it was decided to give approval to this regional convention.

Election of KCYM Office Bearers: Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril informed the Synod that the President of KCYM by turn will be elected from the Syro-Malabar Church this year. Since the upper age-limit of SMYM members is 30, those above that age will not be eligible to be elected to this post. This has led to an unrest among our youth. KCBC has relaxed the upper age-limit by fixing it as 35 till 2020-21. Taking into consideration this provision given by the KCBC and the mind of the youth, it was decided to fix the upper age-limit of SMYM candidates contesting during the coming elections as 35 as a special case.

Request of Consecrated Virgins: Bishop Jose Pulickal presented before the Synod the request of Miss Mary Maleparambil in which she has represented the desire of some unmarried women to live a life of consecrated virgins. She has stated that such women approach the Major Archbishop for his permission for the same not because they could not enter married or consecrated life but

because they have realized that their call is neither to marry nor consecrated life in a congregation but to a life of consecrated virgin. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request Bishop Jose Pulickal to give a reply to Miss Mary Maleparambil and her colleagues in the following line: 1) They may contact the concerned eparchial Bishops and enter into a life of a consecrated virgin within the frame work of existing laws. 2) They can associate themselves with religious congregations which already have such provisions. 3) They can volunteer to work in a mission center or a retreat center which require the service of such women.

Identity Card for Bishops: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST made reference to identity cards used by our priests. These identity cards are being prepared and made available by the Eparchy concerned. Bishop Vadakel suggested that it may be good that Bishops too have identity cards, especially in the present context. All the Bishops who intervened welcomed this suggestion. After a brief discussion it was decided to request Bishop Sebastian Vadakel to take the necessary steps with the help of the Internet Mission (SMCIM) to make identity cards available to all Bishops with the signature of the Major Archbishop.

Sensus Fidei-An Opportunity to Evangelise the Faithful: Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt gave a briefing about the topic - *Sensus Fidei*-an Opportunity to evangelise the migrant faithful. This programme which aims at instructing the faithful, as per the thinking of the Church, is expected to be of immense value to all the faithful throughout the world. It is hoped that this would energize all our migrants with a burning desire to deepen our faith by a renewed evangelization of our communities and would eventually help us overcome the major problems confronting the migrant faithful as members of the Church.

Points from the Jubilarians' Meet: Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop, presented important points that came up during the sharing by priests who celebrated their Sacerdotal Silver and

Golden Jubilee in the year 2017 and 2018. The main idea that came out of the sharing was about the need of connecting synod with priests, religious and laity. After a discussion in which several bishops participated, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to entrust the permanent synod with the task of identifying an appropriate topic for the consideration of the synod which after the study at eparchial level, is to be discussed with representatives of priests, religious and laity for one full day of the Synod. It was also decided to request the Clergy Commission to organize separate meetings of Silver and Golden Jubilarians.

Honours and Titles of the Syro-Malabar Church: Bishop Pauly Kanoorkadan, Convener, Committee for Honours and Titles, presented before the synod following titles for missionaries and social workers among priests, religious and lay persons for their meritorious service: 1. *Preshithatharam* for missionaries, 2. *Samoohya Prathibha* for social workers to priests, religious and laity. The committee also suggested granting the title of Archpriest to the Vicar of every Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre. It was decided to give approval to the above-mentioned suggestions of the Committee.

Posthumous Awarding of Titles: There was a request by Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam to confer posthumously the title of *Mahamissionary* on Fr. Joseph Maliparampil, a visionary and missionary of the Syro-Malabar Church. After a brief discussion, it was decided not to consider requests for posthumous award of titles.

Conferring of *Sabhatharam* and *Vaidikaratnam*: The Major Archbishop had forwarded to the Committee for Honours and Titles the requests of Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam for Prof. Mathew Ulakamthara (*Sabhatharam*), Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt for Fr. Joseph Kuzhinjalil (*Vaidikaratnam*) and Bishop George Madathikandathil for Fr. George Oliappuram (*Vaidikaratnam*). The Committee recommended the conferral of these titles. The Synod

after some discussion decided to confer *Sabhatharam* on Prof. Mathew Ulakamthara and *Vaidikaratnam* on Fr. George Oliappuram.

Declaring St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara as the Patron of Families: The Major Archbishop brought to the attention of the Synod a request of Fr. Paul Achandy, Prior General CMI to declare St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara as Patron of Families. He has substantiated his request on the basis of St. Chavara's unique pastoral accompaniment of families, pioneering retreats for family renewal, *oru nalla appanate chavarul*, which is a testament of a loving father to the families of Kainakiri, etc. During the discussion, it was proposed that we wait till the canonization of Bl. Mariam Thresia as she is considered to be Patroness of Families.

Elections: The Synod conducted the following elections:

- 1 **Election for the Office of Bishop of the Eparchy of Bijnor:** The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 2 **The Permanent Synod:** The Synod elected Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB and Archbishop George Njaralakatt as Members. The nominee of the Major Archbishop was Bishop Jacob Manethodath. As Substitute Members of the Permanent Synod, the Synod elected Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam and Bishop George Madathikandathil. The nominee of the Major Archbishop was Bishop Paul Alappatt.
- 3 **Commission for St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha:** The Synod elected Bishop George Madathikandathil (Chairman), Bishop Tony Neelankavil and Bishop John Nellikunnel (Members) of the Commission for St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha.
- 4 **Synodal Tribunal:** The Synod elected Archbishop Mathew Moolakatt OSB General Moderator for Administration of Justice and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal members of the Superior Tribunal.

Appointment of Commissions: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the following Commissions are reconstituted with effect from 18 January 2019 as follows:

1 Commission for Catechesis

Archbishop George Njaralakatt (Chairman)
Bishop Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Member)
Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Member)

2 Commission for Ecumenism

Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam (Chairman)
Bishop Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Member)
Bishop Joseph Kodakallil (Member)

3 Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants

Bishop Raphael Thattil (Chairman)
Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST (Member)
Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril (Member)

4 Commission for Doctrine

Bishop Tony Neelankavil (Chairman)
Bishop Joseph Pamplany (Member)
Bishop Jose Pulickal (Member)

5 Commission for Clergy

Bishop George Madathikandathil (Chairman)
Bishop Thomas Tharayil (Member)
Bishop Sebastian Pozholiparambil (Member)

6 Commission for Family, Laity and Life

Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt (Chairman)
Bishop Jose Pulickal (Member)
Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil (Member)

7 Commission for Media:

Bishop Joseph Pamplany (Chairman)
Bishop Pauly Kannookadan (Member)
Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal (Member)

Appointment of the Secretary of the Commission for Doctrine:

Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt informed the Synod about the need of appointing a new secretary as Bishop Joseph Pamplany, the secretary of the Commission for Doctrine, has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Tellicherry. In this connection he sought the mind of the Synod regarding the person to be appointed to the office of the secretary. He presented the names of three persons from whom the Synod favoured the appointment of Fr. Francis Pittapillil, who at the moment is serving as the Asst. Secretary of the Commission.

Major Appointments in Mount St. Thomas: During a previous sitting of the present Session of the Synod, there was a suggestion about informing the Eparchies while making important appointments at Mount St. Thomas like Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Finance Officer, etc. In the discussion that was made on the basis of this suggestion it was proposed to make major appointments in Mount St. Thomas by giving a participatory role to all the Eparchies without making any amendments to the existing laws. It was clarified that such provision is not expected to be applicable to the appointment of office bearers of Commissions.

Liturgical Matters: Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, moderator of the sittings, welcomed Fr. Francis Pittapillil, Secretary, Commission for Liturgy. Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, Chairman, Commission for Liturgy, introduced the suggestions and observations of the Special Committee of Bishops regarding the areas of revision of the Syro-Malabar *Qurbana*. After some discussion, the Synod decided the following:

- 1 To have in the *Qurbana* 'Our Father' with the *canona* after 'Glory to God in the Highest'. But its second part, namely, 'Glory be to the Father' and the rest can be given as optional. It is decided to change the wording 'ക്ഷമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ' to 'ക്ഷമിച്ചതുപോലെ'.

- 2 The first *slotha* for Sundays may begin with ‘ഞങ്ങളുടെ പിതാവായ ദൈവമേ,’ and for feast days ‘സ്നേഹപിതാവായ ദൈവമേ.’ ‘ഏറ്റുപറയുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നവരെ’ will be changed to ‘ഏറ്റുപറയുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന ഞങ്ങളെ’ and ‘വിചാരങ്ങളോടും കൂടെ അവർ അങ്ങേക്ക്’ will be changed to ‘വിചാരങ്ങളോടും കൂടെ ഞങ്ങൾ അങ്ങേക്ക്’.
- 3 In *Onithad’Qanke* prayer, the wording ‘അങ്ങ് സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം സ്ഥാപിച്ച പവിത്രീകരിക്കുന്ന മദ്ബഹായുടെ’ will be changed to ‘അങ്ങ് സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം സ്ഥാപിച്ചതും പവിത്രീകരിക്കുന്നതുമായ മദ്ബഹായുടെ’.
- 4 For *Trisagion*, the hymn സർവ്വേശാ നീ പരിശുദ്ധൻ is preferred to പരിപാവനനാം.
- 5 For Ordinary days, one *Slotha* may be sufficient before the reading of the epistle.
- 6 The hymn *Halleluiah* should be sung invariably before the Gospel reading.
- 7 The response of the karezutha shall be ‘ഞങ്ങളുടെ മേൽ കരുണയുണ്ടാകണമേ’ and standing position is proposed for the community during Karezutha.
- 8 Further study is recommended with regard to the appropriateness of choosing other *Onitad’Raze* for ordinary days.
- 9 In the *karezutha* of the deacon after Creed, the ‘Major Archbishops and Archbishops’ can be included along with the ‘Patriarchs’.
- 10 The title of the first anaphora will be ‘ഒന്നാമത്തെ കുദാശക്രമം: മാർ അദായിയുടെയും മാർ മാറിയുടെയും ക്രമം’.
- 11 ഒന്നാം ഗ്ഹാന്ത കുനിഞ്ഞുനിന്ന് കരങ്ങൾ ചേർത്തു പിടിച്ചും മറ്റു ഗ്ഹാന്തകൾ കുനിഞ്ഞുനിന്ന് ഇരുകരങ്ങളും നീട്ടി കരതലങ്ങൾ മുകളിലേക്കു തിരിച്ചുപിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് താഴ്ന്ന സ്വരത്തിൽ ചൊല്ലാവുന്നതാണ്.
- 12 In the Diptychs, the ‘Major Archbishops and Archbishops’ can be included along with the ‘Patriarchs’.

- 13 The wording in the prefatory dialogue ‘പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ സംസർഗ്ഗം’ is preferred to ‘പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ സഹവാസം.’
- 14 The beginning of the third *g’hanta* may be ‘കർത്താവായ ദൈവമേ, ഈ സ്വർഗ്ഗീയഗണങ്ങളോടുകൂടെ’.
- 15 Third *g’hanta* is to be reformulated.
- 16 In the prayer of Institution Narrative, only one sign of cross may be printed on the Taksa.
- 17 In the Intercessory prayer (fourth kusappa), repetition of ‘വേണ്ടി’ can be reduced.
- 18 The intercessory prayer may begin with ‘കർത്താവേ, ശക്തനായ ദൈവമേ, സാർവത്രികസഭയുടെ പിതാവും തലവനുമായ മാർ (പേര്) പാപ്പായ്ക്കും’
- 19 The fourth *g’hanta* is to be reformulated.
- 20 The exhortation of the deacon “Let us pray in silence and reverence. Peace be with us” can be given in the text before the prayer of epiclesis.
- 21 The ending of the prayer of incensing during the rite of reconciliation is to be reformulated with the words, ‘സ്നേഹ പരിമളത്താൽ ശുദ്ധീകരിക്കണമേ’ for the deacon and the community.
- 22 During the time of elevation of the Eucharistic bread, ringing of the bell, incensing and *Arathi* may be done, but only till the end of the prayer of the celebrant.
- 23 The community may raise their hands while reciting “Our Father” before the Holy Communion.
- 24 When the priest blesses the community with the sign of the Cross, the people make the sign of the Cross on themselves.
- 25 There should be time of silence after the communion song and before beginning the thanksgiving prayer.
- 26 The Hymn of Thanksgiving may be composed for the prayer of the community for Sundays and feast days incorporating the ideas of the prayer given in the *Qurbana* Text.

- 27 Appropriate and unanimous suggestion shall be made by the Special Committee with regard to the use of ‘അങ്ങ’, ‘നീ’
- 28 Those parts of the Holy *Qurbana* which require further study and reformulation shall be presented before the Synod after a detailed study by the Commission for Liturgy and arriving at a unanimous decision in the Special Committee.

Interaction with the Apostolic Nuncio: On Tuesday, 15 January, the Major Archbishop welcomed Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, the Apostolic Nuncio and requested him to address the Synod. The Apostolic Nuncio after communicating to the Synod greetings of the Holy Father, invited the Bishops to reflect on communion as mentioned in the letter of Holy Father Pope Francis to the Bishops of India, dated 9 October 2017. The “*Varietas Ecclesiarum*” which is the characteristic of India, suits well with the diversity of this country. In this “*Varietas*” the Syro-Malabar Church has a preeminent role as expressed in the words of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, in an encounter in Rome seven years ago: “The Catholic Church needs the Syro-Malabar Church...Its vitality gives an excellent example to all, especially in the West where insidious effects of the secularism are so widely spread.” Pope Francis has repeated on many occasions that the Holy Spirit does not create uniformity, but unity in diversity. For this reason, the Fathers of the Church of the third and fourth centuries said: “The Holy Spirit, is harmony” because He creates harmonic unity in diversity. Pope Francis in his letter less than two years ago, recalled his predecessor St. John Paul II writing in 1987: “In India, even after many centuries, Christians are only a small percentage of the population and consequently there is a particular need to demonstrate unity and avoid any semblance of division. St. John Paul II had also stated that the need for unity and preservation of diversity are not opposed to one another. The goals outlined by Holy Father Francis in his letter to the Bishops in India should be taken more often into our prayer and his address should be seen

as an invitation as well as an opportunity for growth in faith and communion. This in fact is the vision also of Vatican Council II.

After a few interventions by the Bishops, the Major Archbishop observed that the Syro-Malabar Church had kept communion a prime concern even during the divisions that had taken place in the Church in the 17th Century. He added that we want to keep always this communion within the Universal Church, but would request the Apostolic See to make other Churches understand the specificity of each Church while fostering communion. He then thanked the Apostolic Nuncio for having found time to address the Synod and meet the Bishops individually.

Shekinah Television: On Wednesday, 16 January, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath gave the Synod a brief information about Shekinah Television which is a news channel started under the initiative of Mr. Santhosh Karumathara and owned by a few Catholic Laymen under his leadership, having its Head Quarters at Thalikode, Pattikkad, Thrissur. At the request of Bishop Raphael Thattil, the moderator, Mr. Santhosh gave the details of the Shekinah Channel to the Synod. This Channel will hold Catholic values and will be an organ for the cause of Christ and the Church. It is proposed to launch the channel either on 21st March or 28th April 2019 and he requested the co-operation and the support of the Bishops by making available experts, finance and above all prayers. During the interventions the Bishops suggested that this channel should become a platform for the Church to project Catholic views especially in the background of media attacks on the Church and its leadership. The Major Archbishop communicated to Mr. Santhosh the appreciation of the Synod for his spiritual orientation of his initiative and appealed to the Bishops to help him in whatever way possible.

Report of the Synodal Major Seminaries and *Paurastyā Vidyāpīṭham*: Bishop Remigio Inchananiyil, the moderator, welcomed Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil (Rector, Mangalapuzha), Fr. Emmanuel Attel (Rector, Kunnoth), Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal (Rector,

Satna), Fr. Joy Ainiyadan (Rector, Vadavathoor) and Fr. Andrews Mekkattukunnel (President, *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*).

- 1. St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha:** Fr Mathew Illathuparampil, the Rector presented the report of the Seminary for the academic year 2017-18. The report appreciated the leadership given to the Seminary by the Synodal Commission. During the academic year the Seminary had 206 students. The Seminary is served by 19 Resident Staff, 25 Visiting Professors and 17 Auxiliary Staff. Through the Spiritual, Intellectual, Human, Pastoral and Missionary formation, the Seminary gives adequate formation for the future priests of our Church. Sufficient opportunities are given to the students to develop their intellectual and pastoral aptitudes. In view of improving the quality of priestly formation the report suggested a staff-updating programme, empowering parents of the seminarians to become good formators and insisting on seminarians and priests using Christian names in public.
- 2. Paurastya Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham, Vadavathoor:** Fr. Andrews Mekkattukunnel, President of *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* presented the report of the Institute. The *Vidyāpīṭham* has 6 professors, 8 lecturers, 9 teachers on probation and 51 visiting faculty. The total number of students is 273. The newly erected Institute of Eastern Canon Law was inaugurated on August 27, 2017 by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry in the meeting presided over by His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos and attended by 28 Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church. In order to accommodate 30 students of this Institute, the existing infrastructure is being enlarged by constructing a new Block with local contribution. The report proudly mentions numerous books and articles published by the teaching staff.
- 3. St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor:** Fr. Joy Ainiyadan, the Rector, presented the report of the St. Thomas Apostolic

Seminary which has 218 Students hailing from 23 Eparchies and 7 religious congregations. There are 20 resident staff, 45 visiting professors, 4 resident spiritual directors and 19 auxiliary staff. Being situated in a place inhabited by various non-catholic Christian denominations, the seminary arranges various ecumenical programmes. In view of making the formation meaningful it is suggested that the seminarians become spiritual persons by resorting to interior silence, cherishing in their hearts an intense longing for the fullness of the Spirit of God and taking bold initiatives to simplify the ways of worship.

- 4. St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna:** Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector presented the report of St. Ephrem's Theological College. In the academic year 2017-18, there were 68 Seminarians in the College. The Seminary has 6 resident staff, 30 visiting professors and 7 auxiliary staff. Besides the spiritual and intellectual formation, the Seminary stresses pastoral and missionary dimensions. Reference was made to the attack on priests and seminarians during Christmas carol singing in a village called Bhumahar. However, the seminarians still visit villages regularly. Unlike other seminaries, St. Ephrem's is not receiving any contribution from the students for the maintenance of the seminary. As the funding agencies may stop contributing at any point of time, it is necessary to identify source of financial assistance for the seminary. Some parts of the seminary building needs urgent repairs and renovation.
- 5. Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth:** Fr Emmanuel Attel, the Rector, presented the report of the Seminary. The total strength of the Students is 187, hailing from 20 eparchies and 12 religious congregations. The formation stresses on the spiritual, intellectual, human, missionary and pastoral dimensions. As the seminary faces financial constraints, the report suggested enhancement of eparchial contribution. The Seminary is trying to raise funds from the parishes to overcome the deficit. In the

current year the seminary could raise about 90 Lakhs through the parishes. The Rector expressed his gratitude to the Seminary Commission and the Synod of Bishops for their paternal solicitude towards the Seminary.

The presentation of the report was followed by observations of the Chairmen of Seminary Commissions and interventions by several bishops. The Bishops appreciated the commitment and dedication of Rectors and staff members of seminaries in giving proper training to the young candidates to priesthood. They recollected in particular the exemplary role played by the seminaries during the flood. At the same time the Bishops pointed out several areas which need improvement. The following are the important highlights of their observations and suggestions:

Resistance to face hardships in life, lack of proper motivation, reluctance to show priestly identity (use of priestly dress), absence of role models, lack of prayerfulness, clericalism, lack of belongingness to the Church, use of abusive and indecent words, generation gap, tendency to consider priesthood as a profession, increase of secular outlook and decline of spiritual dimension, formation given in the context, but actual life in the international context (example – use of mobile phones), do not live formation after the ordination due to lack of interiorization in the seminary, need for human formation, training for formators, interaction among professors of major seminaries and minor seminaries, evaluation of staff, training for positive interaction and positive use of social media, homilies to be interpretation of gospels and not mere narration of stories, erosion of values in the families, teamwork in the seminaries, negative criticisms against Church authorities.

The Rectors thanked the bishops for their observations and assured them that the directives given will be implemented.

The Major Archbishop thanked Rectors, President and Professors of the seminaries and the *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* for organizing all the activities of the seminaries and the institute in an orderly and

smooth manner amidst the conflicting counter witness situation in the Church and society today. He appreciated the special witnessing role played by the seminaries during the flood. The Major Archbishop then made the following observations:

- 1 As Jesus had formed the twelve disciples together with his public ministry so the Synod and the entire Church also should be together with the formation of our young candidates in the seminaries.
- 2 We should be able to identify the root cause of several issues that we find among the seminarians. It has to be remembered that they are living in a special cultural environment that is being developed today. Even Jesus had to face similar situations as he had to train the twelve against the spirit of the world.
- 3 Gap between the life of the young candidates in the seminary and their life after ordination is to be understood in the context of the culture of the presbyterium of their Eparchy that is being imposed on them.
- 4 Formation is to be understood in an ecclesial dimension as the task of the whole church – parents, formators, priests and bishops. Against this background we could think about making of vacant and extra spaces available in our seminaries for theological training of the laity where seminarians will be trained along with the people.
- 5 Synodal commissions for seminaries shall not stop with two formal visits to the seminaries. They are expected to be with the seminaries through periodical dialogues with them.
- 6 We should think about an international seminary in view of training our seminarians for eparchies outside India according to the Syro-Malabar genius.
- 7 Ascetic and contemplative dimensions of the formation should be given adequate importance.
- 8 Directives of the Synod to the seminaries are to be executed through a dialogue process.

The Secretary of the Synod thanked the Rectors of the Seminaries and the President of the *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*.

Follow up of the Presentation of Reports of the Major Seminaries:

On the basis of presentation of reports and the intervention by the Bishops, it was decided to request the Seminary Commissions to discuss with the Rectors following topics:

- 1 Different aspects of finance in the seminary, including allowance of the professors.
- 2 Promoting use of Baptismal names.
- 3 Uniformity of vacation for seminaries in Kerala.
- 4 Involvement of professors in Pastoral and missionary activities.
- 5 Dress code in seminaries (from Minor Seminary onwards)
- 6 Participation of all the professors in common prayers.

Training Programme for Seminary Formators: As requested by the Synod in a previous session Bishop Thomas Tharayil presented a training programme for the seminary formators. He suggested strengthening the existing centres for the formation of formators by sending candidates to such centres instead of starting a new course or institute. In the discussion that followed, several suggestions came up like the need to introduce mentoring in the seminaries, giving adequate importance to human values in formation, need to standardize procedures for personality assessment of minor seminarians, establishing a separate desk for priestly and religious formation under the Curia Bishop or the Clergy Commission, etc. It was decided to request the Major Archbishop to take necessary steps towards making obligatory 1. One year diploma or two year degree programme for new formators or mentors in the major seminaries, if they have to be made permanent staff members, 2. A seven day programme for the existing staff members who have not attended the above-mentioned diploma or degree programme, and 3. An annual updating programme for all the staff members. It has also been decided to request the clergy commission to conduct short term formation courses for the existing staff members.

Report of the Commission for Liturgy: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Francis Pittappilly, the secretary for the commission for Liturgy. After a brief introduction by Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS, Chairman of the Commission, Fr. Francis Pittappillil presented the report of the Commission for Liturgy from August 2017- 2018. The Commission's central activity of the reporting year consists of the preparation and publication of the Liturgical texts on behalf of the Bishops of the Synod, with the collaboration of the central Liturgical Committee. In the discussion that followed it was suggested that prayers that could be omitted in the private Mass, confusion caused by the paranthesis with the expression "*Filioque*" in *credo*, posture of celebrant's hands in epiclesis prayer in the Anaphora of Nestorius...etc shall be presented before the Synod after a detailed study by the Commission and arriving at a unanimous decision in the Special Committee. The Major Archbishop expressed thanks to the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission.

Report of the Commission for Catechesis: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jimmy Pochakkatt, the secretary of the Commission for Catechesis who presented the report. Bishop Jacob Manethodath, the Chairman of the Commission informed the Synod that the major works that has been done this year were publication of Catechism text books and starting of smart Catechism and training programmes. In the interventions that followed Bishops expressed their concern about many youngsters not keeping Christian faith in spite of systematic Catechetical instructions we give them. It was suggested that this issue could be addressed by helping them learn, internalize and live the Word of God. The Major Archbishop expressed thanks to the Chairman and secretary of the Commission.

Report of the Commission for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Sebastian Muttamthottil MCBS, the secretary of the Commission who presented the report. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST referring to the present situation brought to the attention of the Synod the

need for redefining the mission policy of the Church. The Church today has the right to take care of the pastoral care of the faithful in most countries of the world and she can fulfill her *Ad Gentes* mission responsibilities there under their own Bishops and pastors. After some discussion it was decided to authorize the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral care of the Migrants to start the process of revision of the mission policy of the Syro- Malabar Church, with the help of an expert committee appointed for the purpose and present the final draft within one year.

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST made special reference to the significant role played by our Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry while highlighting the innumerable graces that have been showered upon us by God during the past few years. The Major Archbishop recollected the valuable contributions of his predecessors Antony Cardinal Padiyara who was also the Apostolic Visitator for India and Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, Apostolic Visitators Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI (USA), Bishop Joseph Pallikkaparampil (Europe), Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI (India), Bishop Raphael Thattil (India), and members of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB and Bishop Mathew Arackal in making the present status of our Church a reality. He made a special reference to Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST who as the Chairman of the Commission for the past 10 years, had made significant contributions because of his consciousness of the concept of the Evangelization.

Revision of the Approved List of Marriage Preparation Course Centres: The Major Archiepiscopal Curia has been receiving several queries with regard to the existing list of approved marriage preparation course centres. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, referring to such queries, clarified that with the new canonical provisions marriage preparation centres are organized

under the supervision of concerned eparchial Bishops. He added that marriage preparation course conducted by the Apostolic Vicariates of Northern and Southern Arabia has been approved by the Commission. Normally the Commission gives its approval to such courses if they are of the duration of three full days and as per the syllabus approved by the Syro-Malabar Church.

Report of the Commission for Clergy: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jimmichan Karthanam, the secretary of the Commission for Clergy and invited him to present the report. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath briefed the Synod about the activities of the Commission for the year 2017-2018 details of which were presented by the secretary: Get together of Silver and Golden Jubilarians, get together of deacons, interaction with experts on ongoing formation, and ongoing formation programme conducted for Northern Syro-Malabar eparchies. During the intervention by the Bishops, there was a suggestion that the Commission organize inter-eparchial get together of priests in view of removing the distance among the different eparchies and bringing them together emotionally and psychologically. The Major Archbishop thanked the Chairman and the Secretary for their efforts for making the programmes for Clergy meaningful and effective.

Report of the Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated life and Apostolic Life: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Shabin Karakunnel CST, Secretary of the Commission who presented the report. Bishop Jose Porunnedom pointed out the role played by Consecrated Women and Men in creating a spiritual ambience in the Church. In the discussion that followed a few important issues especially in the case of Consecrated Women like decline in vocation, desire of some of them to leave the Religious life and demand for huge money with the support of their family, dissatisfaction because of lack of recognition (including monetary incentive) of their work were brought to the attention of the Synod. At the end of the discussion, it was decided to request the Commission for

Consecrated Life and Apostolic Life to look into the present crises of the life of the Consecrated men and women on the basis of a scientific study. It was also decided to request the Major Archbishop to instruct the eparchies to give sisters who are appointed to help in parishes reasonable allowance.

Report of the Commission for Doctrine: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Francis Pittappillil, the executive secretary of the commission. In the report presented by Fr. Francis Pittappillil, he made reference to the regional meetings organized by the Commission at Pala, Muvattupuzha and Calicut and publication of the hand book for eschatology "*Yuganthya Deivasastaram*". Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt intervening in the discussion observed that doctrine is in the hands of each priest. The faithful will live the doctrine as it is taught by the priests. Priests therefore are to be properly educated in this matter. Since there are aberrations, Commission should be aware of its responsibility. Bishop Tony Neelankavil the newly appointed Chairman of the Commission requested the guidance and support of Bishop Kallarangatt in organizing various activities of the Commission. The Major Archbishop appreciated the significant contributions the Commission gives in promoting relevant contextual reflection on Christian faith and suggested to organize an international symposium. The moderator thanked Fr. Francis Pittappillil.

Report of the Commission for Ecumenism: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Cherian Karukaparambil, secretary of the Commission for Ecumenism who presented the Ecumenical activities undertaken by the Commission in the reporting year like Ecumenical Christmas gatherings, ecumenical Bible Conventions, Unity Octave Prayer, etc. The report gave few suggestions for fostering ecumenical relationships- promotion of prayer for the unity, ecumenical awareness programme for seminarians, clergy and religious, promotion of Ecumenical priests gathering, etc. The Synod appreciated the work of the Commission and thanked the Chairman and the secretary for their dedicated service.

Report of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Antony Moolayil, the General Secretary of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life and all other secretaries of the various branches of the Commission: Fr. Joseph Kollakompil (Family Apostolate), Fr. Lawrence Thaikattil (*Kudumbakoottayma*), Adv. Jose Vithayathil (Laity Forums), Adv. Tony Punchakunnel (Catholica Congress), Mr. Sabu Jose (Pro-Life Activities) and Mrs. Rosily Paul Thattil (*Mathruvedi*).

- a) **Report of Family Apostolate:** Fr Joseph Kollakombil, the Secretary, presented the report of Family Apostolate. After giving a brief description of the Family Apostolate, he expressed certain concerns, chief of which is the late marriage culture that is promoted today which may lead to deterioration in moral values of marriage and family. He suggested that this issue could be addressed by promoting marriage from age 21 onwards. He also presented a report of a family survey conducted in the eparchy of Idukki on the impact of *Humanae Vitae* in our Church. Bishops while appreciating the efforts he took in conducting the survey made reference to the surveys undertaken in some eparchies and suggested that similar surveys may be organized from time to time in view of strengthening moral values of our faithful.
- b) **Report of *Mathruvedi*:** Mrs. Rosily Paul Thattil, the Secretary, presented the report of *Mathruvedi*. The main activities of the *Mathruvedi* in the reporting year were Bodhini (Leadership training classes), Paristithisamrakshanam (Environment protection), Swasrayathwam (Training for self-employment), etc. She made reference to the special participation of the *Matruvedi* in Orissa-Kandamal Charity Mission Visit together with KCBC Women's Commission.
- c) **Report of *Kudumbakoottayma* (Family Units):** Fr. Lawrence Thaikattil, Director, presented the report of *Kudumbakoottayma*. In addition to presenting the routine

activities of Kudumbakoottayma, he observed that there is a feeling that priests who are to lead families do not have adequate formation in this matter and suggested that parish priests, especially the young should be given ample training to involve in the family apostolate more creatively. This can be made possible through the ongoing formation of the priests.

- d) Report of Laity Forums:** Adv. Jose Vithayathil, the Secretary, presented the report of Laity Forums. He briefed the Synod about the different Laity Forums like History and Research Forum, Dalit Forum, Science and Technology Forum, Professionals Forum, Agricultural Forum, Media Forum and Entrepreneurs Forum. The activities of the Forums include cooperation with all movements of INFAM and eradication of various problems in agricultural sector, efforts at reinstating reservation of Dalit Christians, making use of the Media to spread Christian moral values, etc.
- e) Report of Pro-Life Activities:** Mr. Sabu Jose, the Secretary, read out the report of the Pro-life Apostolate. He briefed the Synod about the various activities of the Apostolate like conscientization programmes, the proposed get together of the blind and Holy Qurbana in braille language for them during the third week of March 2019 in Mount St. Thomas, etc. While the Church should come strongly against abortion, the parents are to be made aware of the importance of having many children in the family.
- f) Report of Catholica Congress:** Adv. Tony Punchakunnel, Secretary of Catholica Congress read out the report of the year 2017-18. He shared with the Synod the sincere efforts of Catholica Congress during the crisis that the Church had recently when the Church leadership was attacked, when the sacrament of confession was made a topic of ridicule by the Media, etc. He suggested that persons who think and work along with the Church and are acceptable to the general public should

be considered while nominating to different bodies and the Church leadership should encourage the efforts of the Catholica Congress in resolving problems connected with agriculture.

g) **Report by the General Secretary:** Fr. Antony Moolayil, the General Secretary of the Commission, winding up the presentation and discussion, made the following suggestions:

- 1 To constitute eparchial commission of Family, Laity and Life (a miniature form of the central commission).
- 2 To communicate instantly the Church news, responses and even crises at least to the lay leaders of the Church.
- 3 To organize a session during the Synod with a view to listen to the eparchial pastoral council secretaries and other lay representatives.
- 4 To constitute a think-tank of moral theologians, advocates, doctors, etc. in order to defend and respond when there are issues related to family, marriage and life.
- 5 To find out different realms of accompaniment dreamed by Pope Francis to the wounded and those living in difficult situations like homosexuals, cohabiters, divorced, those who keep aloof from the Church, those who lament about injustice done to them, etc.

In the discussion that followed it was clarified that the activities of the Media Forum should be under the supervision of the Media Commission. There was a general feeling that the time allotted for the presentation and discussion of the activities of this commission was too insufficient. Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission, while making reference to the genesis of the commission under the inspiration of the Late Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, thanked all his team members and wished all the best to the new Chairman, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt sought the guidance of Bishop Mathew Arackal in planning and executing various activities of the Commission. The Major Archbishop thanked the Chairman, Members and Secretaries of the Commission.

Proposal of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life: Bishop Jose Pulickal, Member, Commission for Family, Laity and Life, brought to the attention of the Synod the proposals which the members of the Commission for Family, Laity and Life had placed for the consideration of the Synod in a previous sitting of the current session. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to instruct all the eparchies to implement following proposals of the Commission: 1. To constitute diocesan commission for Family, Laity and Life (a miniature form of the central commission), 2. To form a central council of pastoral council secretaries and organize a session during the Synod to listen to them, and 3. To constitute a Think Tank of moral theologians, advocates, doctors, etc. under the leadership of the Commission to defend and respond when there are issues related to family, marriage and life.

Report of the Commission for Youth: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Roby Joseph Alencherry, the Secretary of the Commission who read out the report of Commission for Youth. After highlighting the important events, he proposed an Assembly of the Youth in continuation of the Synod of Youth in Rome. The Major Archbishop suggested to organize Youth Assembly at regional levels: Region outside India, North Indian region and South Indian Region. In this connection Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, the Chairman, requested the Synod to help the Commission identify source of finance to take up its various activities. In the discussion that followed it was decided to request all the Archeparchies and eparchies to contribute 10,000.00 each during this year for the functioning of the Youth Commission and SMYM. There was also a suggestion regarding constitution of Youth Council (in line with the Pastoral Council) in our eparchies with a view to taking our youth as the stakeholders of our Church. The Moderator thanked Fr. Roby Joseph Alencherry.

Report of the Commission for Vocation: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Sebastian Muttamthottil MCBS who read out the

report. The activities mainly consisted of the Vocation Promoters meet and Training Programme for Vocation Promoters. With regard to the resistance of some people in the admission of the candidates to priesthood and consecrated life, it was suggested that such issues are to be addressed by establishing personal contacts with the people concerned.

Modification of Statutes of the *Cherupushpa Mission League (CML)*: The *Cherupushpa Mission League* is now under the patronage of the Syro-Malabar Synod and in Kerala it functions under the guidance of KCBC. Since the Commission for Vocation is entrusted with the task of guiding CML, it helped the CML modify its statutes to fit into the new system. Fr. Sebastian Muttamthottil MCBS, the secretary of Commission for Vocation presented before the Synod the modifications suggested for the statutes. After a brief discussion it was decided to approve the statutes of CML with the suggested modifications.

Guidelines for Vocation Promotion: Fr. Sebastian Muttamthottil MCBS, Secretary of the Commission for Vocation presented before the Synod the guidelines for Vocation Promotion. The Commission for Vocation had presented to the Synod the first draft in August 2017. As suggested by the Synod, these guidelines were scrutinized by a committee which suggested a few modifications. The second draft of the guidelines had been presented to the Synod in January 2018. The Synod made some observations and suggestions and asked the Commission to fine tune the guidelines and present it in the next Synod. The draft was given to the bishops, seminary Rectors, Major Superiors, Vocation Promoters and other experts. Incorporating their suggestions the Commission prepared the final draft which has been presented before the Synod for its approval. After a brief discussion it was decided to give approval to the Guidelines for Vocation Promotion. The Major Archbishop thanked the Chairman and Secretary of Commission for Vocation for keeping the activities of the Commission always alive.

Report of the Committee for Major Archiepiscopal Assembly:

Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Sebastian Muttamthottil MCBS, Secretary of the Committee for the Follow up Programmes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and invited him to present the report. After presenting a report with regard to the implementation of 10 proposals of the Assembly by the eparchies, he placed before the Synod second set of 10 proposals for its consideration:

- 1 Conscientization programmes and retreats shall be conducted to all those who come into leadership roles in the Church like *Kaikars*, Altar servers, Catechism Teachers, Office bearers of Family Units, etc.
- 2 Bureaucratic attitude should be avoided in Church-related administrative matters. Offices should keep a pastoral mindset and make themselves accessible to people.
- 3 Courteous words and approaches should come from priests and religious in their dealings with people, especially the youth.
- 4 For environmental protection, clean parish or campus projects should be implemented.
- 5 Help Desks are to be established to inform the young people of the various job opportunities as well as to help the deserving to receive subsidies from the Government.
- 6 It is highly deplorable that the marginalized in our society are undergoing great hardships and have become victims of violence. We have to come out in support of Dalits, women, children and religious minorities. We have to work hard to secure their due rights from the Government.
- 7 Missionaries should be invited to our parishes and eparchies to share their experiences and to obtain support for their missionary endeavours.
- 8 Parish feasts should become a common celebration and the tradition of entrusting the celebration to a single individual or family should be discouraged.

- 9 Priests and the religious have to strive hard to accompany the faithful who are experiencing great crisis on account of their failed marriages and help them to lead a good family life. Select and train the successful couple to help in such pastoral ministries for families.
- 10 Institutes of consecrated life in the Syro-Malabar Church shall establish their houses and provinces in migrant places. Even though they have established in Latin rite dioceses, they have to be celebrating their liturgy according to the Syro-Malabar rite in their houses and convents.

After a discussion in which several Bishops participated it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to instruct all the eparchies and Institutes consecrated life for men and women to implement the second set of 10 proposals of the fourth Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly presented by the Committee for the Follow up Programmes.

Major Archiepiscopal Assembly 2021: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Convener, Committee for Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, brought to the attention of the Synod the need to finalize venue, topic, and constitution of the committee for the conduct of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly 2021. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the Permanent Synod to suggest venue, committee and topic for the fifth Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and present it in the second session of XXVII Synod (2019) Session 2, August 2019.

Amendments of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara presented before the Synod suggestions for updating the statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly given in the particular law of the Syro-Malabar Church regarding the number of participants from priests, religious and laity. After a discussion it was decided to request the Committee for Canonical Questions, to propose amendments to the statutes of the Assembly, in collaboration with Bishop Pauly

Kannookadan, taking into consideration the provisions of CCEO, Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church and the changes that have taken place in the society and the church over the years and present them in the following session of the Synod.

Report of LRC: Secretary of the Synod, Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI welcomed Fr. Peter Kannampuzha, Executive Director, LRC and invited him to present the report of LRC. Fr. Kannampuzha presented the principal activities of LRC, namely, research seminars, publications, St. Thomas Christian Museum, *Mar w-alah* Syriac Academy and new projects, especially the construction of the St Thomas Heritage and Research Centre. Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Chairman, LRC requested the Bishops to encourage the LRC activities and promote visit to our Museum by families, catechism students, etc. This, he said, will foster close contact of our people with the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. He also sought more subscriptions to our Journal—*Thomas Christian Heritage* and other publications. As Fr. Peter Kannampuzha is completing his term, the Major Archbishop thanked him for his committed service in the LRC and wished him all the best in his future ministry. Fr. Peter in his reply thanked the Major Archbishop and all the Bishops for the cooperation and good will they have been extending to him.

Report of the Public Affairs Committee: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr George Madathiparampil, Secretary of the Committee for Public Affairs. In his report Fr. George made reference to some of the issues that should have been handled within the Church but were brought out to the public view and were used to tarnish the entire Church. Local issues were projected as common issues of the Church. He suggested that bold initiatives are needed as we have been made passive listeners to the distorted presentation of the Church. The Moderator thanked Fr. George Madathiparampil.

Report of the Committee for Higher Education: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr George Madathiparampil, Secretary of the Committee for Higher Education, who presented the report of its

activities. In the report he made reference to several meetings of Managers, Principals, Teachers, Student Leaders and those in charge of Campus Ministry. All such meetings focused on the need to strengthen the Catholic commitment of our colleges. Some of our colleges have attained the status of autonomy and more than 10 catholic colleges were placed in the list of first 100 colleges of the country. While taking pride in these, we should remember some of the shortcomings of our colleges like their inadequacy of Catholic atmosphere in the campus. The Moderator thanked the Secretary.

Report of the Committee for School Education: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr Jose Karivelickal, Secretary of the Committee for School Education, who presented the report. He highlighted some of the problems that our schools are facing today like delay in the approval of the appointment of teachers by the Government, not considering subdivisions in the community quota, steps being taken by the Government to give the right of appointment in all Aided Schools to the PSC, etc. In the discussion that followed Archbishop Andrews Thazhath suggested that we should stand together in getting these issues resolved by the Government. If necessary we should have recourse to the courts and all of us should come forward to bear the court expenses. The Moderator thanked the Secretary.

Media: Bishop Jose Porunnedom suggested the following Media strategy for the Church which could be used by our eparchies: 1. Mobile App of the Syro-Malabar Church 2. Face Book Page/Whats App 3. Online News Channel. He suggested that each eparchy appoint a Media Director (preferably a priest) and two or three dedicated persons (preferably below 25) to activate the Media strategy.

Presentation of Report of the Meeting of the Media: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented a brief report about the meeting of PROs, Public Affairs Committee, Media Forum, Representatives of SMCIM, SMYM and Catholic Congress held on 9 November 2018.

This meeting was an effort to revamp our activities in the Media, including the social media. In the present scenario the Media has taken up a very important role. The Church should not be inactive; it has to make use of the Media and assert ourselves as the strongest Church in Kerala. In the discussion that followed, several Bishops participated. Some of the highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- 1 There appears to be a media war against the Church and its leadership on the basis of a planned agenda in which those who hate the Church also actively participate.
- 2 We fail to expose the shallowness of these allegations and defend the Church by presenting and explaining the truth to the public.
- 3 We should have dedicated persons who will be able to give timely and effective response to the attacks made against the Church.
- 4 Mobile app needed to transmit our messages with great speed to the whole church and to every faithful.
- 5 A well-furnished office with a person in-charge who can be a priest and other supporting lay staff with networking with eparchial PROs and ably assisted by a think-tank and content makers and a legal cell working in collaboration with the KCBC and the CBCI.
- 6 Friendly relationship with media persons to be promoted through informal gatherings.
- 7 A well-furnished studio with video conferencing facility at Mount St. Thomas to make quick and easy communication and intervention in the Media possible.

After interventions by the Bishops, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to constitute a Media Commission.

Action against Cyber Crimes: In continuation with the discussion the Synod had in a previous sitting about the media war against the Church and its leadership, it was decided to authorize the Curia

Bishop to take necessary steps, in consultation with the Internet Mission and the Media Commission, towards filing cases with civil authorities regarding false propaganda against the Church and to disown individuals and organizations who claim themselves to be representatives of the Church and damage the good name of the Church. It was also decided to request the Media Commission to give a press release at the earliest about the above-mentioned situation and the church's action in this regard.

Report of the Public Relations Office (PRO): Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt, the spokesperson of the Syro-Malabar Church, presented our external public relations activity as part of our communication strategies: Syro-Malabar News Mobile App, Whatsapp; Syro-Malabar PRO, E-Mail: syromalabarpro@gmail.com; Mobile phone group, Press release and Press briefs, Channel discussions, Press Conferences, Face Book; Syro-Malabar PRO and a private and unspecified group to propagate our news. In the discussion that followed the Major Archbishop clarified that with the constitution of the media commission, communication with the media will hereafter be supervised by the media commission. The Major Archbishop appreciated the service of the PRO and thanked him in the name of the Synod.

Syro-Malabar Internet Mission: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Joby Maprakavil MST, the Executive Director of SMCIM. Bishop Jose Porunnedom informed the Synod that the main works of the reporting year were Web designing, Software development, Mobile app development, Matrimony Net work, YOU Tube Channel, Small media productions, Photography, Videography, Social Media Management, Data base Management, Web Portal Management... etc details of which were presented by the secretary with the help of the power point. During the discussion, Fr. Joby suggested to appoint a full time Internet Mission Director in eparchies (at least a regent or a staff) to complete the data collection. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Jose Porunnedom for his efficient

leadership which has brought the Internet Mission to its present heights and expressed his gratitude to Fr. Joby Maprakavil MST for his dedicated service.

Report of the Sro-Malabar Mission: The secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Kuriakose Azhakath MST, secretary cum Treasurer of SyMM who presented the major programmes of the SyMM with the help of the power point: Celebration of the *Preshithavaram*, sponsor a missionary seminarian, a missionary sister and a missionary kit, get together of the benefactors, publication of the magazine “Mission Support”, etc. Bishop Raphael Thattil requested the wholehearted support of all the Bishops in its activities. The Major Archbishop appreciated the service of Bishop Raphael Thattil, Fr. Kuriakose Azhakath and their team.

Report of Syro-Malabar Dalit Vikas Society: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Kuriakose Azhakath MST, Secretary and Mr. George Jacob, Vice-President, of the Syro-Malabar Dalit Vikas Society (SDVS). It was established in January 2017 under the initiative of Bishop emeritus Gregory Karotemprel CMI, with the aim of helping at least ten Dalit students per year from eparchies of proper territory to do higher studies in medicine, engineering, MBA, MCA, etc. After presenting the financial status and details of beneficiaries of the reporting year, the secretary suggested to reserve a particular percentage of jobs to the Dalit Christians in all our institutions, to identify and promote sponsors who can support the academic expense of the Dalit students and entrust each parish the task of identifying at least five families who can support the SDVS. The Major Archbishop and the Bishops who intervened in the discussion appreciated the committed service of Mr. George Jacob in the SDVS. The moderator thanked Fr. Kuriakose Azhakath and Mr. George Jacob.

Report of SPANDAN: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Michael Vettikkatt, the Chief Coordinator, to present the report of SPANDAN, Syro-Malabar Social Development Network. Bishop

Mathew Arackal, the Chairman, while articulating the aims and objectives of SPANDAN informed the Synod that SPANDAN works as a coordinating agency of social welfare activities of our church. Fr. Michael in his report presented the details of the interventions of our Church in Okhi and flood disasters. Bishop Mathew Arackal made reference to the social ministry award and thanked the Chicago Syro-Malabar Eparchy who had donated Rupees 1,89,000 towards organizing this award. The Major Archbishop thanked the Chairman, members and the chief coordinator for the efforts they are taking for the growth of SPANDAN.

Report of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Thomas Adopillil, the Acting President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal and invited him to present the report. Fr. Adopillil informed the Synod that he is presenting the report on behalf of the President, Fr. Jose Chiramel who could not attend today's meeting because of his ill health. In his presentation Fr. Adopillil highlighted the various activities of the Tribunal and requested the Bishops to promote the distribution of *Eastern Legal Thought* among members of the eparchial tribunal by purchasing sufficient copies. In the discussion that followed there was a reference to the handing over of the responsibility of publishing *Eastern Legal Thought* to the Institute of Eastern Canon Law at *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*. As a decision has not been arrived at regarding this even with several meetings, it was decided to request the Curia Bishop to convene a joint meeting of representatives of the Institute of Eastern Canon Law at *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* and the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal to submit its suggestion regarding publication of *Eastern Legal Thought* to the Permanent Synod. The Moderator thanked Fr. Adopillil.

Report of the activities of the Curia: Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor made a power point presentation of the various activities of the curia, visits of the important guests to curia, and main programmes of the Major Archbishop, in and outside

India. As Fr. Antony Kollannur is completing his three terms, the Major Archbishop recollected his service for the last fifteen years. Fr. Antony had been able to tide over the problems connected with his serious ill health and has been serving the curia as its chancellor with full commitment and dedication. While thanking Fr. Antony for whatever he had been to the curia for the last fifteen years, the Major Archbishop wished him all the best in his ministry in the Archeparchy of Trichur. Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop, also thanked Fr. Antony on behalf of the Curia. Fr. Antony Kollannur thanked the Bishops for the cooperation and goodwill they have been extending to him during the last 15 years.

Financial Report of the Curia: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the finance officer who presented the statement of accounts of receipts and payments from 1.4.2017 to 31.3.2018. He also presented before the Synod details of the fund collected for flood relief. After a brief discussion, it was decided to give an amount of Rupees 1,13,05,294 towards Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund in addition to Rupees 50 lakhs which had already been given through the KCBC and distribute the remaining amount of 2,21,24,858.46 among the Archeparchies of Ernakulam- Angamaly and Changanacherry and the eparchies of Idukki, Irinjalakuda, Mananthavady, Tamarassery and Kanjirappally as per the intention of the donors for flood relief. As Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil is completing his two terms as finance officer of the Curia, the Major Archbishop, Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman Finance Commission and Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal expressed sincere appreciation and gratitude for his committed service for the last ten years and wished him all the best in his ministry in the eparchy of Tamarassery. Fr. Mathew thanked the Bishops for the cooperation and goodwill they have been extending to him during the last 10 years.

Fundraising for the Major Archiepiscopal Curia: The Curia Bishop proposed the idea of finding a few sponsors from each parish of our

eparchies to contribute to the running of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. He said he will do the coordination in this regard and the Synod agreed to his proposal.

The Curia Bishop drew the attention of the Synod to previous decision to convene a meeting of Rectors, Vicars and *Kaikars* of Pilgrim Centres and Churches which are financially sound and to appeal to them to contribute annually towards meeting the expenses of the Curia. He also said that the Bishops have already given the names of such 50 pilgrim centres and the above-mentioned meeting will be convened at the earliest.

Recommendation of the Major Archbishop for Projects: The Major Archbishop wanted to know the mind of the Synod regarding the procedure to be followed when religious congregations approach with the request to recommend their proposals for financial assistance to the funding agencies of the Church. During the discussion that followed, the Bishops suggested that such requests are to be routed through the Bishop concerned. An understanding was arrived at that project proposals to the RUACO will be only for the common projects of the Church and submitted by the Major Archbishop. Hence it was decided to request Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Chairman, Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, to inform the SMRC that all the proposals for financial assistance to the funding agencies of the Church which require the recommendation of the Major Archbishop are to be forwarded with the recommendation of the Bishop of the eparchy concerned.

Apostolic Visitation in Europe: Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Cherian Varicatt, Coordinator General and Finance Manager for the Apostolic Visitor for Syro-Malabar faithful in Europe, and invited him to present report about the Apostolic Visitation in Europe. He shared with the Synod through a power point presentation the developments that have taken place in Europe ever since we started

activities of Apostolic Visitation under the able leadership of Bishop Stephen Chirappanath. He brought to the attention of the Synod also a few challenges the visitation is facing today: Locating Faithful, Collecting data of priests/ brothers/ sisters, Finding dedicated priests for service, Difficulty in getting placed a priest in a Diocese, etc. The Major Archbishop and the Bishops appreciated the sincere efforts of Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, Fr. Cherian Varicatt and their team. The Moderator thanked Fr. Varicatt.

Report of the *Procura*: Bishop Stephen Chirappanath presented before the Synod a brief report of the *Procura* in Rome. As the construction work is almost over, he invited all the Bishops to attend the inauguration of the *Procura* which is expected to be held during our *ad limina* visit. Referring to the generous contribution by the eparchies towards the construction of the *Procura*, he thanked all the Bishops and invited them to visit *Procura* and if necessary stay there during their visit to Rome. The Bishops congratulated Bishop Stephen and his team for making the concept of *Procura* in Rome a reality within a very short time.

Inviting the Holy Father to the Inauguration of Procura in Rome:

There was a suggestion to invite the Holy Father to the inauguration of Procura in Rome. Decision in this regard will be taken by the Major Archbishop in consultation with the Permanent Synod.

***Ad limina* Visit to Rome:** Bishop Stephen Chirappanath gave a briefing about *ad limina* visit to Rome. He brought to the attention of the Synod that this year's *ad limina* visit coincides with the canonization of Bl. Mariam Thresia, Blessing of *Procura* in Rome and Silver Jubilee of the Syro-Malabar parish in Rome. He gave a tentative plan of all these events. The Bishops made a few suggestions about their participation details of which will be decided in the following Session of the Synod.

New Way of Presenting Commission Reports: The Curia Bishop proposed a new way of presenting commission reports. He said that the secretaries could be requested to submit their reports

towards the end of July every year and they could be printed in a book form. The highlights of the reports could be shown in power point presentation instead of each secretary reading them individually. However, all the secretaries should be asked to be present on the stage to introduce themselves and give clarifications to the doubts and questions. The Pastoral Council secretaries also are to be invited to share their views about the Church and society. This way the voice of the laity will be heard better in the Synod.

In the interventions that followed Bishops opined that the presentation of the reports by individual commission secretaries is an occasion for the Synod to interact in a better way with each commission. However, it was proposed that the report of the commission for Family, Laity and Life could be presented separately allotting them more time for discussions and clarifications.

The Major Archbishop said in his intervention to ask the secretaries to bring a summary of the report in one or two pages and present it for 10 minutes. Moreover, they should also suggest a few points to facilitate the discussions.

There arose also another proposal of preparing a format to help the secretaries in submitting the report in a systematic way.

Press Release from the Synod: The Major Archbishop while thanking Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Raphael Thattil for their service in preparing Press Release to the media, clarified that with the constitution of the Media Commission, Press Release from the Synod hereafter will be given to the media under the supervision of the Media Commission.

Circular of the Major Archbishop: Bishop Joseph Pamplany, Chairman, Media Commission presented draft of the Major Archbishop's circular to be read out in all the parishes and institutions have Sunday Holy *Qurbana* for the people regarding the

important decisions of the Synod. After a few modifications, the Synod approved it.

Schedule of the Forthcoming Synodal Sessions:

- 1 10.00 am August 19 to 06.00 pm August 30, 2019 – Synodal Sittings
- 2 10.00 am January 07 to 06.00 pm January 09, 2020 – Retreat
09.00 am January 10 to 06.00 pm January 15, 2020 – Synodal Sittings
- 3 10.00 am August 17 to 06.00 pm August 28, 2020 – Synodal Sittings

Scrutiny of Decisions of the XXVII (2019), Session I: The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XXVII (2019), Session I, including the decisions of the final day and the Synod gave its final approval for them.

Conclusion of the Synod: The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present session and gave the concluding address. He thanked God for the special assistance he gave during this session to find ways and means towards solving the difficult problems that had come up during the past one year in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly seriously affecting the image of the Church as a whole. He made reference to the advances the Synod could make in the fields of liturgy, priestly formation evangelization and formation of a new commission: the media commission. He appreciated the presence of his Excellency Giambattista Diquattro, the Apostolic Nuncio for his address to the Synod and availability to meet the Bishops individually. He reminded that the newly established ecclesiastical realities both within India and abroad should be our primary concern in the years to come. The Major Archbishop reminded the duty of seminary commissions and the clergy commission of working together in view of bringing out priests with their ecclesial commitment. He expressed his satisfaction about the vigour and vitality that the Bishops were

able to find in this session, getting over the slow pace of the life of the Church created by the flood in Kerala and the cancelation of August 2018 Synod. The Major Archbishop requested the Bishops to join him in thanking the Apostolic See for the all the provisions that have been granted to us to experience almost fully our *sui iuris* ecclesial reality. He congratulated Bishop Anthony Chirayath who was just stepped into the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Year and Bishop Jacob Muricken and Bishop Tony Neelankavil who have completed their sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations. The Major Archbishop mentioned the names of Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer, Fr. Peter Kannampuzha, the Executive Director LRC and Fr. Paul Robin Thekkath, the former Vice-Chancellor II who are completing the term of Office and taking up other ministries in the Church. He remembered with gratitude all of them for their valuable contribution towards the functioning of the Synod and the growth of the Church. He thanked all who have helped to conduct the Synod in a fruitful and effective manner. Invoking God's blessings up on our Church, the Major Archbishop declared the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church Session I closed.

Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, Secretary
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DECISIONS

- 1 To fix the upper age limit of SMYM candidates contesting during the coming KCYM elections as 35 as a special case, taking into consideration the mind of the youth and the relaxation of upper age-limit by the KCBC fixing it as 35 till 2020-21.
- 2 To grant favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Msgr. Joseph Kandathil.
- 3 To grant favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Fr. Varkey Kattarath VC.
- 4 To request Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt to constitute a committee as per the Guidelines approved in the Synod of 2008 and submit its findings before the Synod regarding the cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI and Sr. Mary Collethama FCC.
- 5 To request Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara to constitute a committee as per the Guidelines approved in the Synod 2008 and submit its findings before the Synod regarding the cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD.
- 6 To request the Major Archbishop to give direction to the eparchies to constitute Safe Environment Committee and appoint a Safe Environment Director.
- 7 To make necessary adaptations in the Guidelines of the KCBC on Safe Environment Programme and promulgate it for the use of our Church personnel.

- 8 To request Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop, to organize training programme for Church personnel based on the Guidelines for Safe Environment Programme.
- 9 To request the Major Archbishop to give direction to all our eparchies to institute Grievance Redressal Cells.
- 10 To request the Seminary Commissions to discuss with the Rectors following topics:
 - 1 Different aspects of finance in the seminary, including allowance of the professors.
 - 2 Baptismal names to be used by the seminarians.
 - 3 Uniformity of vacation for seminaries in Kerala.
 - 4 Involvement of professors in Pastoral and missionary activities.
 - 5 Dress code in seminaries (from Minor Seminary onwards)
 - 6 Participation of all the professors in common prayers.
- 11 To request the Major Archbishop to constitute a Media Commission.
- 12 To request the Major Archbishop to give direction in a pastoral letter to our Bishops and priests regarding the need of getting mandate/letters from respective eparchies for celebration of sacraments in their home parishes.
- 13 To request the Major Archbishop to take necessary steps towards making obligatory
 1. One year diploma or two year degree programme for new formators or mentors in the major seminaries, if they have to be made permanent staff members,
 2. A seven day programme for the existing staff members who have not attended the above-mentioned diploma or degree programme, and
 3. An annual updating programme for all the staff members.

- 14 To request the clergy commission to conduct short term formation courses for the existing staff members of Seminaries.
- 15 To request the Committee for Canonical Questions, to propose amendments to the statutes of the Assembly, in collaboration with Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, taking into consideration the provisions of CCEO, Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church and the changes that have taken place in the society and the church over the years and present them in the following session of the Synod.
- 16 To extend the approval of the bylaws of SMYM for another term of three years.
- 17 To give approval to the convention of the youth population of the four eparchies outside India and the Apostolic Visitation in Europe and New Zealand.
- 18 To authorize the Curia Bishop to take necessary steps, in consultation with the Internet Mission and the Media Commission, towards filing cases with civil authorities regarding false propaganda against the Church and to disown individuals and organizations who claim themselves to be representatives of the Church and damage the good name of the Church.
- 19 To request the Major Archbishop to entrust the permanent synod with the task of identifying an appropriate topic for the consideration of the synod which is to be discussed with representatives of priests, religious and laity for one full day of the synod.
- 20 To entrust the Clergy Commission to organize separate meetings of Silver and Golden Jubilarians.
- 21 To give approval to the titles of 1. *Preshithatharam* for missionaries, 2. *Samoohya Prathibha* for social workers, to priests, religious and laity and 3. Archpriest to the Vicar of every Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre.

- 22 To confer *Sabhatharam* on Prof. Mathew Ulakamthara and *Vaidikaratnam* on Fr. George Oliappuram.
- 23 Those parts of the Holy *Qurbana* which require further study and reformulation shall be presented before the Synod after a detailed study by the Commission for Liturgy and arriving at a unanimous decision in the Special Committee.
- 24 To entrust a Committee consisting of the Members of the Clergy Commission and Chairmen of Seminary Commissions with the Chairman of the Clergy Commission as the Coordinator, to take necessary steps to discuss in the following session of the Synod the theme of formation of priests and seminarians from three angles: clericalism, safe-environment and missionary orientation.
- 25 To give an amount of Rupees 1,13,05,294 towards Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund in addition to Rupees 50 lakhs which had already been given through the KCBC and distribute the remaining amount of 2, 21, 24, 858.46 among the Archeparchies of Ernakulam- Angamaly and Changanacherry and the eparchies of Idukki, Irinjalakuda, Mananthavady, Thamarassery and Kanjirappally as per the intention of the donors towards flood relief.
- 26 To approve the statutes of CML with the suggested modifications.
- 27 To give approval to the Guidelines for Commission for Vocation.
- 28 To entrust the Commission for Consecrated Life and Apostolic Life to look into the present crises of the life of the Consecrated men and women on the basis of a scientific study.
- 29 To request the Major Archbishop to instruct the eparchies to give sisters who are appointed to help in parishes adequate allowance.
- 30 To authorize the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral care of the Migrants to start the process of revision of the

mission policy of the Syro- Malabar Church, with the help of an expert committee appointed for the purpose and present the final draft within one year.

- 31 To request the Curia Bishop to convene a joint meeting of representatives of the Institute of Eastern Canon Law at Paurastya Vidyapitham and the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal to submit its suggestion regarding publication of Eastern Legal Thought to the Permanent Synod.
- 32 To instruct eparchies and Institutes consecrated life for men and women to implement the second set of 10 proposals of the fourth Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly presented by the Committee for the Follow up Programmes.
- 33 To request the permanent Synod to suggest venue, committee and topic for the fifth Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly and present it in the second session of XXVII Synod (2019) Session 2, August 2019.
- 34 To request the Major Archbishop to instruct all the Eparchies to implement following proposals of the Commission Family, Laity and Life: 1. To constitute diocesan commission for Family, Laity and Life (a miniature form of the central commission), 2. To form a central council of pastoral council secretaries and organize a session during the Synod to listen to them, and 3. To constitute a think tTank of moral theologians, advocates, doctors, etc. under the leadership of the Commission to defend and respond when there are issues related to family, marriage and life.
- 35 To request the Major Archbishop to make a representation to the Holy Father regarding the interpretation of bi-ritualism which may create confusion, judicial anomaly and anarchy with the signature of all the Bishops.
- 36 To request the Major Archbishop to make a representation to the Chief Minister of Kerala requesting him to write off the debts of farmers.

37 To hold the Forthcoming Synodal Sessions:

10.00 am August 19 to 06.00 pm August 30, 2019 – Synodal
Sittings

10.00 am January 07 to 06.00 pm January 09, 2020 – Retreat

09.00 am January 10 to 06.00 pm January 15, 2020 – Synodal
Sittings

10.00 am August 17 to 06.00 pm August 28, 2020 – Synodal
Sittings

Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI,

Secretary Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur

Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

CONCLUDING ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

The Synod has come to a close! Let us thank the Lord for the special assistance that He has given us during this session especially to find ways and means towards solving the difficult problems that arose during the past one year in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly seriously affecting the image of the Church as a whole. Through prayerful reflections and intercessory prayers before the Holy Eucharist by the grace of God functioning of the Synod proved to be an experience of reconciliation and peace. The line of action taken by the synod to solve the problems may be followed up faithfully, gradually establishing greater peace and harmony in the hearts and minds of everyone concerned.

During this Synod we could make advances in the field of liturgical renewal, priestly formation and the evangelization mission of the church. The formation of Media Commission will be highly helpful to have an effective use of the media avoiding the negative forces prevalent in this field.

The presence of His Excellency Giambattista Diquattro, the Apostolic Nuncio and his address to the Synod proved helpful to foster further the spirit of communion in our church and with the other *sui iuris* churches. It is to be highly appreciated that His Excellency could find time to meet the Bishops individually and give his responses and guidance for their pastoral ministry. Let us thank His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio for his concern and love towards our Church.

It is remarkable that the various commissions, committees and other organs of the Synod are functioning properly promoting the growth of the church. The extraordinary enthusiasm found in the newly established ecclesiastical realities both within India and abroad is highly encouraging. The Bishops, Priests and the Laity are in great unity working hard for the missionary and pastoral life in the new Eparchies and Apostolic Visitations. Let us offer greater support for their endeavours! A new evangelization drive all throughout India should be our primary concern in the years to come.

The time we spent for greater effectiveness of the formation programmes of priests and consecrated persons have proved worthwhile. The Seminary Commissions and the Clergy Commission have to work together to devise new ways for bringing out priests with more spiritual and ecclesial commitment. The unity of Priesthood of priests together with the Bishops only can give a fruitful witnessing priestly ministry for the Laity in the church. This Synodal session has helped us find new vigour and vitality for all the Bishops, getting over the slow pace of the life of the church created by the flood in Kerala and the cancellation of the August 2018 Synod. This new strength and enthusiasm that we have gained should be translated into the life of our eparchies and missionary activities.

Let us have confidence in the Lord and be guided by His spirit in all our endeavours and let communion be our concern in life and ministry within the Syro-Malabar Church and with other *sui iuris* Churches in the universal communion. Let us thank the Apostolic See for all the provisions granted to us helping to us experience almost fully our *sui iuris* ecclesial reality.

Even if is the final day of the Synod, let me place on record our hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to Bishop Anthony Chirayath who has just stepped into the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee year and Bishop Jacob Muricken and Bishop Tony Neelankavil who have completed their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations.

I would like to mention the names of Fr Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, Fr Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer, and Fr Peter

Kannampuzha, Executive Director, LRC, and the CSN Sisters who will be leaving the Major Archiepiscopal Curia after completing their terms of service to other ministries in the Church. Along with them is to be remembered Fr Robin Paul Thekkath, the former Vice Chancellor II, who has terminated his service in July 2018 to pursue higher studies in Rome. They have contributed much for the functioning of the Synod and the growth of the Church to a great extent. May the Lord reward them for the service here in the curia and grant them His choicest blessings for their future ministry and service in the Vineyard of the Lord!

I thank Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Remigiuse Inchananiyil who have beautifully moderated the proceedings of this Session of the Synod. I also thank Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the Synodal Secretary and Fr Vincent Cheruvathoor, the Vice Chancellor of the Curia who worked untiringly day and night for the good conduct of the Synod, especially to prepare the minutes of the Synod. Thanks are also due to the Secretaries of various Commissions, the CSN Sisters and other members of the Staff and their helpers who serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The next Synodal Session is scheduled from 10.00 a.m. on Monday 19 August 2019 to 06.00 p.m. on Friday 30 August 2019.

While thanking all of you for the love and concern which you express towards me and for the wholehearted support you give for my humble service, I entrust our Synod, the priests, the religious and the lay faithful of our Church to the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Thomas, our Father in faith, St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia and all the Blesseds of our Church.

With these words I formally declare the First Session of the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

XXVII Synod (2019)
Session II
19-30 August 2019

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

Today we enter into the Second Session of the XXVII Synod, committing our thoughts and sentiments to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. I thank Bishop Antony Prince Panengaden for giving us an inspiring talk for the recollection. He could effectively lead us to various biblical passages enabling us to meditate deeply on our ministry as Shepherds to take care of the flock that God has entrusted to us. Bishop Prince himself was the preacher this time for the annual retreat of the Bishops of KCBC. Let us thank God for the special gift of preaching with missionary zeal that the Lord has granted him.

I extend a most cordial welcome to all of you to this Session of the Synod. Out of 63 Bishops, except six emeriti Bishops, all others have confirmed their attendance. This is the first Session of our Synod after the demise of Bishop Mar Abraham D. Mattam, who left us for the heavenly abode on April 16, this year.

It was in the year 1968 he was appointed Exarch of the newly formed Exarchate of Satna. In 1977 the Exarchate was raised to the status of an Eparchy and Mar A.D. Mattam was appointed its first Bishop. During his tenure as the Exarch and later as Bishop he gave a new direction and foundation to the Evangelization and the Apostolic work in the mission field of India. He was successful in

starting educational institutions, convents, and churches in all the district headquarters. Schools were started also for the differently abled children.

He has authored several books and has written a number of articles in various periodicals. The depth of his knowledge in theology, liturgy, spirituality and the history of our church has enlightened and inspired everyone. He was a good teacher and writer on these subjects. His research on the nature and the history of the early St. Thomas Christians, has given great contributions to the Church in India as a whole and to the Syro-Malabar Church in particular.

Bishop Mattam was a role model and guide to all the priests, religious and the lay people of the Church. He led a very happy and active retired life in the Vincentian Generalate, Edapally. After having fulfilled all his responsibilities faithfully he accepted the final call of the Divine Master. I remember with gratitude the Vincentian Congregation which has well taken care of him during his retired life. I also thank the Eparchy of Satna for organizing a solemn funeral service attended by a good number of bishops, priests, consecrated men and women and the local people. Let us express our heartfelt condolences to the Eparchy of Satna and the Vincentian Congregation and remember our beloved Bishop Abraham Mattam constantly in our prayers.

Let us also recall the memory of Fr. Jose Chiramel who passed away on 18th June, this year. As you know he was the President of the Major Archiepiscopal Ordinary Tribunal and the Postulator General. His service to the Church has been highly praiseworthy and will be ever remembered in the history of this Curia.

In this Session, as you all know, we have to make very important decisions regarding the administration of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. We have sought divine assistance for our deliberations in the Synod during the time of recollection and the

Holy *Qurbana*. Now also we have prayed at the beginning of this first sitting. Let us continue this prayerful spirit during all our discussions and activities of the Synod. We can also have frequent recourse to the Eucharistic Lord during intervals having personal moments of adoration in the chapel.

We have to take important decisions regarding the election of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, assignment of new Offices for Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, election of the Bishop of Bijnor and the procedure on the terna for the auxiliary bishop of the Eparchy of Palghat and the auxiliary bishop for the Malankara community in the Archeparchy of Kottayam.

The joyful events that await us in October this year are the *ad limina* and the canonization of Blessed Mariam Thresia. After the canonization ceremony, there are celebrations both in Rome and at Kuzhikkattussery. On the occasion of the *ad limina* visit we have the blessing of the house of Procura fixed on 12th of October. On our way to Rome for the *ad limina* visit some of us will join the global convention of the Catholica Congress in Dubai on 30th September.

At the invitation of Bishop Paul Hinder I participated in the pastoral visit of the Holy Father Pope Francis in Abu Dhabi from 3-5 February 2019. As requested by the Congregation for Oriental Churches, we made a study on the papal document promulgated on the occasion under the auspices of the Doctrinal Commission and we intend to send it to the Apostolic See. We have to think of taking more effective steps before the Apostolic See to get the jurisdiction for pastoral care of our people in the Gulf countries.

The organization of the pastoral and evangelization work of the Eparchy of Shamshabad have to be given special attention. I take this occasion to appreciate Bishop Raphael Thattil and his team for the great progress that the Eparchy has already achieved and I would

like to thank the Eparchies and the Congregations of consecrated life who have taken different areas of the vast Eparchy for pastoral and evangelization activities.

Though not in the same intensity of the previous year, this time also heavy rainfall and consequent flood and landslips have created damages all over Kerala especially in the areas of the Eparchies of Thamarassery, Mananthavady, Tellicherry, Palghat, Changanacherry and Idukki. During times of natural calamities our Christian conscience should urge us to reach out to the affected people irrespective of caste and creed consideration. Let us thank all the relief workers, especially the social service societies of our eparchies.

I congratulate Bishop Antony Chirayath who is in the Golden Jubilee Year of his Priestly Ordination. I also specially remember Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI and Archbishop Joseph Powathil who have entered into *Navathi* on 19th March and 14th August respectively and Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy who will enter into same on 13 December this year. I offer them prayerful wishes and God's blessings in the name of all the members of the Synod.

I would like to inform the Synod that the CMC have started a Mission in the Chaldean Church of Iraq in the Catholic Archeparchy of Kirkuk-Sulaimaniya. They have started teaching in a school and their service is well appreciated by the local church.

This is the first time that Fr Vincent Cheruvathoor, assists the Synod as Chancellor and Fr Abraham Kavilpurayidathil as Vice Chancellor. I welcome them both to the Synod hall.

The team of Sisters from the CSN has completed their term of service here in the Curia and we gave them a grateful farewell. The new team of Sisters from the Congregation of Medical Sisters St Joseph (MSJ) has arrived and started their service with full vigour and enthusiasm.

Let us enter into this Synodal Session with great confidence in God and with the spirit of communion among ourselves. The Holy Spirit will empower us in all our ecclesial activities. Pope Francis reminds us: 'Let us be open up to the Spirit, He will push us forward like the wind pushes a sailing boat'.

Let us also invoke the mediation of Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas our Father in faith, St. Geevarghese and all the Saints of the Church, especially St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia and St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed Mariam Thresia, Blessed Kunjachan Thevarparampil and Blessed Martyr Rani Maria.

With these words I declare the Second Session of the XXVII Synod 2019 open.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

REPORT

The XXVII Synod (2019), Session II began with a recollection preached by Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan, at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer and Holy *Qurbana* of the Bishops with the Major Archbishop George Cardinal Alencherry being the main celebrant.

Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan spoke about the crucial importance of this Session of the Synod. Making reference to Micah 7:8 he observed that we will be able to overcome the present challenges. In this context he said that we should submit ourselves fully to the Holy Spirit. In the first Synod of the Church though there were differences of opinion, they came out of the Synod with one mind and heart under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Acts 15). We should also exercise our prophetic role while speaking to the people after having discerned the Word of God. This requires that we be in the presence of God listening to His Word (Ezek. 33:6-7). We should also have the mind of Jesus who did not regard the equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself taking a form of a slave (Phil. 2:1-11). Referring to 1 Cor 13, Bishop Prince reminded the Synod members of our responsibility to make others comfortable which requires love and mercy from our part.

The formal sitting of the Synod began at 2.30 pm by the lighting of the lamp by the Major Archbishop and a prayer led by him after which he proceeded to the inaugural address.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: In his inaugural address the Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan for his spiritual reflections. The Major Archbishop appreciated the special gift of preaching which the Lord has granted to Bishop Prince.

Referring to the sad demise of Bishop Mar Abraham D. Mattam VC, the former Bishop of Satna, the Major Archbishop spoke about the valuable contributions Bishop Mattam had made to the Syro-Malabar Church in general and the Eparchy of Satna in particular. He also expressed heartfelt condolences to the Eparchy of Satna and to the Vincentian Congregation. The Major Archbishop recalled the memory of the late Fr. Jose Chiramel who was the President of the Major Archiepiscopal ordinary Tribunal and the Postulator General.

The Major Archbishop informed the Bishops that we have to make certain important decisions during this Synod, such as election of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, assignment of new offices for Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveettil, Election of the Bishop of Bijnor and the procedure of the terna for the Auxiliary Bishop of Palghat and the Auxiliary Bishop for the Malankara Community in the Archeparchy of Kottayam. The joyful events that await us this year are the *Ad limina* and Canonization of Blessed Mariam Thesia in Rome and the Global convention of the Catholica Congress in Dubai.

Making reference to the visit of the Holy Father Pope Francis in Abu Dhabi in which the Major Archbishop participated, he spoke about the urgency of taking more effective steps to get jurisdiction for the pastoral care of our people in the Gulf countries. Appreciating Bishop Raphael Thattil and his team for the great progress that the Eparchy of Shamshabad has achieved, the Major Archbishop thanked the Eparchies and the Congregations of Consecrated life which have taken different areas of the Eparchy of Shamshabad for pastoral and evangelization activity.

The Major Archbishop thanked all the relief works that were initiated by our Eparchies during the heavy rain fall and consequent flood and landslips.

The Major Archbishop congratulated Bishop Antony Chirayath, who is in the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination, Archbishop Joseph Powathil and Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI who have entered in the *Navathy* and Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy who will be entering in to the same this year.

The Major Archbishop appreciated the initiative of the CMC Sisters who have started a Mission in the Chaldean Church of Iraq in the Catholic Archeparchy of Kirkuk-Sulaimaniya.

The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor the Chancellor, Fr. Abraham Kavilpurayidathil Vice-Chancellor, Fr. Joseph Tholanickal, the Finance Officer, Fr. Thomas Adoppillil, President of the Major Archiepiscopal Ordinary Tribunal and Postulator General, Fr. Joji Kallingal, Executive Director of Liturgical Research Centre (LRC), Fr. Thomas Melvettom, Secretary of the Commission for Catechesis, Fr. Robin Thalachelloor, Secretary of the Commission for Media and the MSJ Sisters who have started their service with full vigor and enthusiasm here.

Recalling the fact that every Synodal Session is an ecclesial act guided by the Holy Spirit and invoking blessings of God, the Major Archbishop declared the second Session of XXVII Synod 2019 open.

Participants: The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Major Archbishop George Alencherry, Abp. Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Abp. Andrews Thazhath (Trichur), Abp. Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Abp. George Njaralakkatt (Tellicherry), Abp. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Faridabad), Abp. Jacob Thoomkuzhy (Emeritus, Trichur), Abp. George Valiamattam (Archbishop Emeritus, Tellicherry), Bp. Joseph Pallikkaparampil (Emeritus, Palai), Bp. Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Bp. George Punnakottil (Emeritus, Kothamangalam), Bp. Thomas Chakiath (Emeritus Auxiliary,

Ernakulam-Angamaly), Bp. Jacob Manethodath (Palghat), Bp. Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Bp. Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Bp. Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Bp. Joseph Kunnath CMI (Emeritus Adilabad), Bp. Mathew Vaniakizhake V.C (Emeritus, Satna), Bp. Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI (Emeritus Chanda), Bp. Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Bp. Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Bp. Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bp. Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Bp. Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Bp. Anthony Chirayath (Emeritus, Sagar), Bp. Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Bp. Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Bp. Joseph Arumachadath MCBS (Bhadravathi), Bp. John Vadakel CMI (Bijnor), Bp. Bosco Puthur (Melbourne), Bp. Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamarassery), Bp. Raphael Thattil (Shamshabad), Bp. Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Bp. Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), Bp. Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), Bp. George Rajendran SDB (Thuckalay), Bp. Jacob Muricken (Auxiliary, Palai), Bp. George Madathikandathil (Kothamangalam), Bp. Joseph Kollamparampil CMI (Jagdapur), Bp. Jose Puthenveetil, Bp. Joy Alappatt (Auxiliary, Chicago), Bp. Ephrem Nariculam (Chanda), Bp. Joseph Kodakallil (Satna), Bp. Jose Kalluvellil (Mississauga), Bp. Antony Kariyil CMI (Mandya), Bp. Prince Antony Panengadan (Adilabad), Bp. Jose Pulickal (Auxiliary, Kanjirapally), Bp. Joseph Srampickal (Great Britain), Bp. Stephen Chirappanath (Apostolic Visitor, Europe), Bp. Thomas Tharayil (Auxiliary, Changanacherry), Bp. Joseph Pamplany (Auxiliary, Tellicherry), Bp. Sebastian Vaniyapurackal (Curia Bishop), Bp. Tony Neelankavil (Auxiliary, Trichur), Bp. Sebastian Pozholiparambil (Hosur), Bishop John Nellikunnel (Idukki) and Bp. James Athikalam MST (Sagar).

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The Synod approved the designation of the following persons to the various offices and committees for the conduct of the present session:

Moderators: Bishop Raphael Thattil (Convener) and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil.

Tellers: Bishop Sebastian Pozholiparambil, Bishop John Nellikunnel, and Bishop James Athikalam MST.

Committee for the Media: Hereafter the Media Commission will take care of the duties of the Committee for Media: Bishop Joseph Pamplany (Chairman), Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal (Members).

Committee for the Pastoral Circular: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener), Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI (Members).

Liturgical Celebrations: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan.

Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous Synod held in January 2019. The Synod reviewed the implementation of the decisions.

Leave of Absence: The Synod granted leave of absence to a few Bishops from certain sittings of the present Session of the synod for various reasons.

Finalization of the Agenda: Bishop Raphael Thattil moderated the Session. Agenda for the present Session of the Synod was taken up for discussion. After a brief discussion the Agenda was finalized with a few modifications and additions. The finalized agenda consists of the following items.

1. Confidential Matters
2. Information on *Ad limina* visit and further discussion on the preparations for the same
3. Election of Rectors: Mangalapuzha and Vadavathoor
4. Election of President of Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham , Vadavathoor
5. Centenary of Syro-Malabar Hierarchy in 2023.
6. Petition of the differently abled people
7. Conferring the title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre to St Mary's Forane Church, Kaduthuruthy of the Archeparchy of Kottayam

8. Proposal to amend article 198/1 of the particular law on Friday abstinence.
9. Regarding Marriage banns.
10. Disparity of cult marriages becoming common
11. Regarding the duration of the validity of the certificate of the Marriage Preparation Course
12. Regarding Syro-Malabar Apostolic Visitation New Zealand
13. Request of Dr. Mohan Thomas to appoint a commission in the Synod to pursue issue of Gulf Eparchy
14. Expansion of the Cherupushpa Mission League to the Eparchies and other Provisions outside India
15. Meeting of the Major Superiors
16. Matters related to Youth Commission
17. Implementation of the Posture of priests in the Holy Qurbana by the Synod
18. The need of properly trained lectors to read the book of OT and Epistles
19. Who shall announce the Marriage Banns and decide the proper time of announcing the Marriage Banns in relation to the Holy Qurbana?
20. Some of the liturgical matters from the last Synod.
 - a. Insertion of the Filioque in the Creed of the Qurbana
 - b. Questions with regard to the prayers that can be omitted in Private *Qurbana*
 - c. Use of You and Thou (അങ്ങൻ, നീ) in the Liturgical Prayers
 - d. Proper vestments for the celebration of the sacramentals.
21. Presentation of Reports of the Commissions and Departments:
 - i. Commission for Liturgy
 - ii. Commission for Catechesis
 - iii. Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants

- iv. Commission for Clergy
 - v. Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life & Societies of Ap. Life
 - vi. Commission for Doctrine
 - vii. Commission for Ecumenism
 - viii. Commission for Vocation
 - ix. Commission for Youth
 - x. Commission for Family, Laity and Life + Catholic Congress, Laity Forums
 - xi. Forums, *Mathruvedi*, *Kudumbakoottayma*, Family Apostolate & Pro-life
 - xii. Commission for Media
 - xiii. Committee for Education – Colleges & Schools
 - xiv. Syro-Malabar Mission (SyMM)
 - xv. Syro-Malabar Dalit Vikas Society
 - xvi. Public Relations Office
 - xvii. Syro-Malabar Internet Mission
 - xviii. Liturgical Research Centre
 - xix. Social Mission Network (SPANDAN)
 - xx. Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal and Office of the Postulator General
22. Presentation of Reports of Various Major Seminaries and the Institutes:
- i. St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha, Aluva.
 - ii. St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kottayam.
 - iii. Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth.
 - iv. St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna.
 - v. Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham, Vadavathoor
23. Presentation of Report of the Curia.

24. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts and Budget of the Curia.
25. Dates for the forthcoming Agenda.
26. The Eparchy of Shamshabad extending to all India: problems and possibilities of Migrant care and Ad Gentes mission
27. Mr. Joseph Nadackapadam (Palakunnel), Chicago – Recommended for *Sabhatharam Award*
28. Request from Bp. Jose Porunnedom to confer the title Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre on Holy Cross Forane Church Nadavayal in the Eparchy of Mananthavady
29. Election for the Synodal Commission for Vadavathoor.
30. Discussion on Deepika
31. Suspension of auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly
32. The permanent pastoral governance of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
33. Land issue at the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly: Regularisation, Reconciliation, Restitution
34. Extension of Latin Jurisdiction to the Latin faithful residing in the territories of Syro-Malabar Eparchies.
35. Heavy rainfall and consequent flood and landslips
36. Canonization of Blessed Mariam Thresia
37. Accumulated Mass stipends
38. Special Commission for Evangelization
39. Follow up meeting of Chairman, Seminary Commission
40. Matters arising from the Previous Synod
 - Requesting favourable opinion of the synod to initiate the Cause of Fr Bruno Kaniyarakath CMI, Sr Collethamma and Sr Fidelis Thaliyath SD
 - Meeting of the Pastoral Council Secretaries scheduled for August 26 Monday, 10.30 to 4.00pm

- Amendments of the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly
- Venue, committee and topic for the fifth Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly
- Safe Environment Committee in accordance with Vos estis lux mundi
- Follow up of the meeting of Vicars/Rectors/Kaikars of Pilgrim Centres/important churches

After a brief discussion, it was decided to take up first the issues of Archeparchy of Ernakulam- Angamaly.

Interaction with Msgr. Mitja Leskovar, *Chargé d'affaires*: The Major Archbishop welcomed Msgr. Mitja Leskovar, Chargé d'affaires of the Apostolic Nunciature in India and invited him to address the Synod. Msgr. Leskovar communicated the following messages to the Synod.

1. Condolences, prayers and blessing of His Holiness Pope Francis to the relatives of the deceased and injured during the heavy rainfall and flood in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat communicated by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State.
2. Communication from His Eminence Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, that Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveettil have full right to participate in the Synodal Assembly. The two Bishops shall await, as approved by the Holy Father, that the Synod of Bishops assigns them a new destination, taking care that a genuine reconciliation be done among the parties for the good of the Syro-Malabar Church and of the people of God.

After an interaction in which several bishops participated the Secretary of the Synod, Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI thanked Msgr. Mitja Leskovar for his visit and sharing.

Issues connected with Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly: Bishop Raphael Thattil, the moderator invited the Synodal members to suggest the methodology to be adopted while discussing this

matter. It was decided to take up first the issues of Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly for discussion during this Session of the Synod. To begin the discussions, Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal read out the related documents. The issues connected with the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly were discussed in various sittings of the Synod.

Mediation Council: The issue of settling civil and criminal cases related to the issues in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly was taken up for the discussion. It was suggested that settling of the cases would be necessary to take the Archeparchy in its onward journey. After due discussion on this matter, it was decided to entrust the Mediation Council of KCBC consisting of judges: Rtd. Justice Kurian Joseph (Chairman), Rtd. Justice Pius Kuriakose (Member), Rtd. Justice Abraham Mathew (Member), Rtd. Judge K. C. George (Member) and Rtd. Judge Daniel Pappachan (Member).

New Pastoral Ministry for Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil:

As per the papal decision to assign new destinations for Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, the Synod took up the matter for a detailed discussion in which several Bishops participated.

Guidelines on the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly: Bishop Raphael Thattil read out the letter issued by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, dated 20 March 2019 (Prot. N. 157/2018) giving two modifications on the Draft of the Guidelines on the Office of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. He then presented the revised document about the Office of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the Draft of the Guidelines for the Office of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop. This was followed by a discussion in which several Bishops participated. It was decided to request Archbishop Andrews Thazhath to fine-

tune these documents and present them in a later sitting of the Synod for its approval.

In another sitting, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented the Guidelines of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly which were fine tuned as per the direction of the Synod. After a detailed discussion on this subject, it was decided to approve the Guidelines.

Elections: The Synod conducted the following elections:

- 1 Election to the Office of the Bishop of Bijnor: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 2 Election to the Office of the Vicar of Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 3 Election to the Office of the Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 4 Election to the Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 5 Seminary Commission, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor: Following Bishops were elected to the Seminary Commission: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Chairman), Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt (Member) and Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI (Member).
- 6 Liturgical Research Centre: The following Bishops were elected: Bishop Tony Neelankavil (Chairman) and Bishop Jose Pulickal (Episcopal Member).
- 7 Rector, St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 8 President, *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*, Vadavathoor, Kottayam: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.
- 9 Rector, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.

Appointment of Commissions/Committees: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the following Commissions/Committees are reconstituted with effect from 24 August 2019 as follows:

Commission for Vocation

Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Chairman)

Archbishop George Njaralakatt (Member)

Bishop Jacob Muricken (Member)

Director of Syro-Malabar Mission:

Bishop Raphael Thattil

Committee for Canonical Questions:

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Convener)

Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil (Member)

Bishop Paul Alappatt (Member)

Committee for Honours and Titles:

Bishop Pauly Kannoorkadan (Convener)

Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Member)

Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil (Member)

Communicating decisions of the Permanent Synod: Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara brought to the attention of the Synod the need to communicate to all Bishops the decisions of the Permanent Synod for a better liaisoning between these two bodies. After a brief discussion, it was decided to request the Major Archbishop to send decisions of the Permanent Synod-the confidential ones by post and others by e-mail to all the Bishops.

Meeting of the Synod with the Major Superiors: The meeting of the Synod with the Major Superiors of the various Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life was held under the auspices of the Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, in the main auditorium of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The meeting began with a prayer song led by Sr. Jessy MSJ. Cardinal George Alencherry, the Major

Archbishop, inaugurated the meeting. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, the Chairman of the Commission welcomed the gathering. Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Bishop Jose Chittooparambil CMI, the members of the Commission, Sr. Mercy Nedumpurath SABS, President of the Syro-Malabar Religious Conference, Fr. Francis Kureekal MST, the Vice-President and Fr. Shabin Karakunnel CST, the Secretary of the Commission, graced the occasion on the stage. Bro. Franco Kannampuzha MMB, the Superior General of the Malabar Missionary Brothers, anchored the meeting. A total of 173 Major Superiors and other representatives participated.

The Major Archbishop, in his inaugural address, pointed out that all of us are the members of the mystical body of Christ. It is the intimate union with Jesus that guides us. We bear witness to Jesus by acts of mercy and charity. We should not be worried about the decline of the vocation to the Consecrated life. For what matters is quality and not very much the quantity. The Major Archbishop appealed to the consecrated men and women to take up the challenges of mission work in India and abroad. He congratulated the CMC and the CMI Congregations for their initiatives in taking up mission work in Iraq.

Fr. Paul Parathazham, Director, St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, presented a paper about the findings on the quality of life and effectiveness of Ministry of the Consecrated in India today. The findings of this paper are based on a survey conducted between 2004-2013 among 2165 (365 men and 1800 women) consecrated persons. The paper brings out the growing comfort culture, attachment to position and power and lack of involvement in the lives of the poor pointing to serious erosion of prophetic commitment among the consecrated. Fr. Paul concluded his paper stating that reinforcing the prophetic thrust of vocation to consecrated life is an urgent imperative.

This was followed by a discussion in which several bishops and consecrated men and women participated. Archbishop Andrews

Thazhath gave a briefing about the issues connected with Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the practical steps initiated by the Synod in solving them.

Bishop Jose Porunnedom invited Sr. Mercy, President of SMRC to submit to Fr. Shabin Karakunnel CST, Secretary of the Commission, her proposals regarding strengthening of Vocation Bureau, celebration of Holy Qurbana on Sundays in the convents where there are senior sisters, tension between North and South and settling liturgical controversies. Fr. Shabin shall present these proposals in the Synod along with the SMRC report. The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks proposed by the Secretary.

Meeting with the Pastoral Council Secretaries: A special meeting was organized with the Pastoral Council Secretaries of the Eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church. The meeting was held in the main auditorium of the Curia from 10.30 am to 4.00pm.

Participants: The following Pastoral Council Secretaries from 22 Eparchies took part in the meeting: Mr. Bitty B. Nedunilam (Belthangady), Mr. Jomy Mathew (Bhadravati), Fr. Bibin Thekkekkara (Chanda, Substitute), Dr. Dominic Vazheeparambil (Changanacherry), Mr. P.P. Jerard (Ernakulam), Mr. P.J. Thomas (Faridabad), Mr. Jacob Chackathara (Hosur), Mr. Luka Vattakuzhiyil (Idukki), Mr. Telson Kottoly (Irinjalakuda), Dr. C. P. Johnson (Kalyan), Adv. V.C. Sebastian (Kanjirapally), Mr. George Kelakam (Kothamangalam), Mr. Sebastian Palamparambil (Mananthavady), Dr. Mathew Mampra (Mandya), Mr. Siju Sebastian Kaimanal (Palai), Mr. Denny Thengumpally (Palghat), Mr. T.K. Cyriac Chooravady (Ramanathapuram), Adv. P.T. Chacko (Shamshabad), Mr. Joby Moolayil (Tellicherry, Substitute), Dr. Chacko Kalamparambil (Thamarassery), Mr. Y. John Thachacode (Thuckalay) and Dr. Mary Regina (Trichur). Fr. Antony Moolayil, the Secretary of the Synodal Commission for Family, Life and Laity also participated in the meeting.

The meeting began with a hymn to the Holy Spirit. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, the Chairman of Synodal Commission for Family, Laity,

and Life, welcomed the participants. Qualifying the meeting as a historic one, Bishop Kallarangatt invited the Secretaries to make interventions with cordiality and nobility. He said that we are Easter people, a people of hope. In the background of the *motu proprio Sedula Mater*, he reminded the participants that every believer is *altera ecclesia*. The lay people are not merely collaborators, but co-responsible with Bishops and priests. We must be aware of the dangers of clericalism and laicism. We need to build up laity who defends the Creed and the History of the Church.

Bishop Raphael Thattil moderated the session. He invited the Secretaries to share their views with faithfulness, prudence and creativity. In the first session, all the Secretaries gave a briefing about the functioning of the Pastoral Council in their Archeparchies and eparchies and their opinions and evaluations of the problems in the Church mainly in the background of the issues in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The second session was held soon after the lunch in which the Secretaries discussed the relevant topics of common interest, which could be taken up in the Pastoral Council meetings in their eparchies.

The third session of the day was the interaction between the Bishops and the Pastoral Council Secretaries. The Bishops also made several interventions, after which the Major Archbishop addressed the gathering. Cardinal Mar George Alencherry expressed his satisfaction over the interaction with the Pastoral Council Secretaries. Making a reference to the issues in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, he admitted that, being the most responsible person, there were failures on his part too, for not containing the problem. But he shared his optimism regarding the future. He said that the Synod Members are discussing the problems with an open heart with the intention of solving all the issues. He invited the collaboration of all to accept the decisions of the Synod.

The Major Archbishop stressed the fact that the Church is a participatory Church. We should give up the attitude of domination

and speak a language of humility, without creating jealousy for others. He said that the lay participation cannot be limited to the *Pothuyogam* and the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly. We should think of more ways and means for ensuring the participation of the laity in the Church matters. Inviting the laity to be actively involved in the society, the Major Archbishop asked them to become members of Catholica Congress and thus to create a strong platform for the laity in the Church and the society. He concluded his address thanking everyone who put their efforts to organize and to execute the meeting. Moderator Bishop Thattil thanked everyone, in a special way, the Secretaries for their graceful presence and noble interventions.

The salient proposals or observations emerged in the sharing and interactions:

1. The decision to invite the Pastoral Council Secretaries to listen to and to interact with the Members of the Synod is highly appreciated. This noble gesture of respecting the role of the laity in the Church should be continued in the coming years.
2. The recent happenings in the Church in common and in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in particular are unfortunate. They really damaged the image of the Church causing public scandal.
3. Strict disciplinary actions are to be taken against all those who are involved in scandalous activities of indiscipline. The Synod should not be afraid of taking actions yielding to pressure from outside imposed by individuals or groups.
4. The ordinary faithful look at the Synod hoping to find solutions to the problems and to reinforce discipline in the Church.
5. It is advisable to shift the Major Archiepiscopal See from Ernakulam-Angamaly to some other Eparchies.
6. An immediate ceasefire should be declared with regard to the provocative interventions in the social media.

7. The *Catholica* Congress should be strengthened as the platform of the laity of the Syro-Malabar Church to promote lay leadership and to facilitate social and cultural interventions.
8. Witnessing the faith is more important than material development.
9. The priests and the religious who are caught up in financial and sexual misconducts should be punished properly rather than just being given a transfer.
10. The seminary formation needs to be thoroughly revised. The aptitude and the conduct of the young priests call for the same.
11. Uniformity in the celebration of the Liturgy is essential for the unity in the Church. This is much more essential in migrant eparchies where there are faithful from all eparchies. Disunity in liturgical matters has weakened the Church and failed her in giving a testimony of unity and love.
12. Unity in the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is to be ensured in the whole Church.
13. Care should be taken to give sufficient representation to all Eparchies in the appointment of Bishops and while appointing priests to the various Offices in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
14. *Palliyogam* should be reintroduced (after the model of *Sabhayogam*).
15. The Family Units should be strengthened.
16. The forged documents case should not be withdrawn. It is essential to continue the investigation to find the truth behind the fabrication of the documents. The culprits should be punished.
17. The retreat Centers which propagate different spirituality and spiritual theories often cause division in the Church. The competition among them is also a matter of concern.
18. The youth in the Church should be encouraged and promoted. Now, for many reasons, the youth are getting away from the Church.

19. A Syro-Malabar Pastoral Council could be established to facilitate the participation of the laity in the governance of the Church.
20. The language of the Holy *Qurbana* in English should be modified.
21. The Media Commission needs to ensure that only the official spokespersons represent the Church in channel discussions.
22. The spirit of regionalism in the Church should be discouraged.
23. Auxiliary Bishops for different Zones in the Eparchy of Shamshabad need to be appointed.
24. Need to take steps to solve the membership problem in the migrant Eparchies.
25. The Synod should condemn the hunger strike which took place inside the Archbishop's House, the protest march of priests of Ernakulam-Angamaly, those involved in the forged documents' case and the similar incidents and the persons involved in them.
26. There is difficulty in following the Synod position in the Holy *Qurbana* in some eparchies.
27. The issue of *Love-Jihad* needs to be addressed seriously.
28. Laity could be appointed in the key positions of the Church.
29. The Special Committee Reports on the issues of Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly should be made available to the people.
30. Prominence should be given to Pastoral Council Secretaries in the important events of the eparchies/parishes.
31. Prepare the youngsters to take up government jobs including civil service. The number of Christians in this area is gradually declining.
32. The Church should take initiatives in opening schools, colleges, hospitals etc. outside Kerala.
33. Ensure pastoral collaboration among the Eparchies of Thuckalay, Hosur and Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.
34. Get the help of laity in the financial administration of the Church.

35. We should make the faithful aware of the minority rights and facilities that are available with central/state governments.
36. We should be cautious about the plan to implement Uniform Civil Code, National Education Policy, Church Act etc.
37. The Church should adopt timely political stand, reading the signs of the time.
38. A data bank of the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church should be prepared to get a realistic picture of the community.
39. The decision of the Synod shall be accepted by all the eparchies.
40. The problems faced by farmers, especially by those in the Western Ghats should be a serious concern for the Church.
41. We should distinguish between spiritual and temporal. Bishops and priests shall concentrate on spiritual, leaving temporal matters to the laity.
42. The laity should come forward with their initiatives in various social and cultural activities. Membership in Catholica Congress is the first step in this regard.
43. Need to promote the study of the teachings of the Popes on Oriental traditions.
44. Steps should be taken to connect the youth who reach Australia, Canada and other foreign countries with the Eparchies in the countries concerned, in view of accompanying them in their social and spiritual life. This is equally applicable to the main cities in India like Mangalore, New Delhi, Bangalore etc. A letter from the proper parish priest will facilitate this process.
45. Woman secretary to the Pastoral Council is to be encouraged.
46. In the coming years, laity could be invited to the Synod to discuss a relevant theme.
47. Parents should encourage the youngsters, especially girls, to the vocation of religious life.

48. The Church should act as the conscience of politics without taking sides.
49. We should promote missionary activities among the laity.
50. The laity should make use of the existing structures like family units, parish council, *Pothuyogam* etc. to get involved in the activities of the Church.
51. Members of the Pastoral Council are to be given training in Church related matters.
52. The laity should be promoted to assume roles in party politics. The coming Panchayath election is to be faced with due preparations in this regard.

Resignation of Bishop Mathew Arackal: The Major Archbishop read out the resignation letter submitted by Bishop Mathew Arackal, upon completion of age on 10 December 2019. The Synod requested the Major Archbishop to take appropriate action.

Conferring the Title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan presented the requests of Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB and Bishop Jose Porunnedom to confer the title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre on St. Mary's Forane Church Kaduthuruthy in the Archeparchy of Kottayam and Holy Cross Forane Church Nadavayal in the Eparchy of Mananthavady respectively. After a brief discussion the Synod decided to declare the above mentioned Churches as Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centers.

Sabhatharam Award: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan presented the request of Bishop Jacob Angadiyath to confer the title of *Sabhatharam* on Mr. Joseph Nadackapadam (Josekutty Palakunnel) of the Eparchy of Chicago. After a brief discussion the Synod decided to confer the title of *Sabhatharam* on Mr. Joseph Nadackapadam.

Mission Appeal by Bishop of Shamshabad: In the meeting of Vicars, Rectors and *Kaikars* of important churches and Pilgrim Centers held in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia on 10 July 2019, the participants had welcomed the idea of the Bishop of Shamshabad making

mission appeal in the Pilgrim Centers and important churches. After short intervention by a few Bishops on this matter, it was decided to permit Bishop Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad, to make mission appeal in the Pilgrim Centers and important churches in various Eparchies after due consultation with the Local Bishop concerned.

Special Commission for Evangelization: Bishop Raphael Thattil gave a briefing about the concerns the Latin Bishops expressed in the meeting of the Special Commission for Evangelization that was held recently in Bangalore immediately after the Standing Committee Meeting of the CBCI.

1. The Latin Bishops raised their concerns about the contract of the religious belonging to the Syro-Malabar Church working in Latin dioceses. In the meeting of the Special Commission for Evangelization, our Bishops responded that they respect the contracts already entered into by the religious with the Latin Dioceses before the erection of the Eparchy of Shamshabad. But they added that the religious Congregations should have freedom to start houses and mission centers in the Eparchy of Shamshabad without any kind of interference of the Latin Dioceses and that they would like to have formation houses, Provincial Houses and all other Houses and centers which do not come within the contract attached to Eparchy of Shamshabad.
2. Another concern of the Latin Bishops was about the entry of Latin dioceses to our Eparchies with exclusive territory. They expressed their views about the inherited patrimony when the dioceses were erected.
3. Another suggestion was regarding Joint Guidelines to be issued to the faithful by the Bishops of all the three *Sui iuris* churches. This request, it was observed, was not an urgent one.

In the discussion that followed several Bishops made interventions. Some of the important suggestions are the following:

- a. There should be a general policy at the CBCI level for sharing property and the faithful.
- b. There should be an open dialogue among the concerned Bishops to negotiate in view of settling the issue with mutual agreement.
- c. When the Syro-Malabar Eparchies were erected, the land had been allotted for their use by the Apostolic See which was given earlier to the Catholic Church irrespective of the consideration of any rite.

In this regard the Synod requested the Major Archbishop to write to the Bishops of the Eparchies with exclusive jurisdiction to present in the forthcoming Synod the details about the land received from Latin Hierarchy.

Canonization of Blessed Mariam Thresia and Other celebrations:

Bishop Pauly Kannookadan gave details of the Canonization Ceremony of Blessed Mariam Thresia in Rome on 13 October 2019. He invited all the Bishops to participate in the thanks giving Holy Qurbana at 2.00 pm on 12 November 2019 at Kuzhikkattussery. Bishop Joseph Srampickal informed the Synod that Blessed Cardinal Newman will also be canonized on 13 October 2019 along with Blessed Mariam Thresia by Pope Francis in Rome. Bishop Jose Chittooparambil invited the Bishops to the birth Centenary Celebrations of the late Bishop Jonas Thaliyath in Rajkot on 12 November 2019.

Heavy Rainfall and Consequent Flood: The Synod evaluated the recent heavy rainfall and consequent flood in several parts of the country. Bishops gave a briefing about the damages in their Eparchies. Many of our people have been affected because they lost their houses. The general understanding was not to make an appeal for a general collection of funds but encourage mutual help among the Eparchies.

Syro-Malabar Apostolic Visitation in New Zealand: Bishop Bosco Puthur informed the Synod that he has not been able to carry out

effectively his responsibilities of Apostolic Visitation as the Syro-Malabar Church does not have jurisdiction in New Zealand. In the brief discussion that followed it was decided to request the Apostolic See either to extend the jurisdiction of the Eparchy of Melbourne to New Zealand or appoint Bishop Bosco Puthur also as the Exarch of New Zealand.

Apostolic Visitation in Europe: Bishop Stephen Chirappanath brought to the attention of the Synod an important problem which he faces in his Apostolic Visitation in Europe especially in Vienna as some Religious do not respect the directive of the Apostolic See regarding the presentation of candidates to dioceses to take up pastoral ministry. In the brief discussion that followed it was decided to speak directly to the Major Superiors of such Religious Congregations.

Vocation to Brotherhood: The Major Archbishop brought to the attention of the Synod the concern of the Malabar Missionary Brothers (MMB) about the promotion of vocation to Brotherhood. In the discussion that followed it was decided to request the Bishops to encourage the vocation to the Brotherhood through their Pastoral Letters.

Spandan Award Presentation: *Spandan* Award Presentation was held in the afternoon on 28 August in the Conference Hall. The Major Archbishop inaugurated the meeting. In his inaugural address the Major Archbishop observed that the activities of *Spandan* bring out the social face of our Church. He congratulated the award winners for their committed service in the social ministry and presented the awards to Fr. Varghese Alumchuvattil (the representative of priests Eparchy of Gorakpur), Sr. Adv. Suma Jose SD (the representative of the Religious) and Mr. U.C. Paulose (the representative of the Laity, Eparchy of Belthangady). Bishop Mathew Arackal presided over the meeting, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath introduced the award winners and Bishop Jacob Angadiyath felicitated them. Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI welcomed the gathering and Fr. Michael Vettikatt proposed the vote of thanks.

Report on the Joint Meeting of the Clergy Commission and Seminary Commissions: Secretary of the Synod Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI welcomed Fr. Joji Kallingal, Secretary, Clergy Commission and invited him to present the report of the joint meeting of the Clergy Commission and Seminary Commission together with the Major Seminary Rectors held on 26 April 2019 at Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The topics discussed in the meeting were clericalism, safe environment, missionary orientation, use of baptismal names, uniformity of vacations, involvement of professors in the pastoral and missionary activities, dress code in seminaries, participation of professors in common prayers, etc. Golden Jubilarians' gathering will be held on November 7, 2019; Silver Jubilarians' gathering on November 21, 2019 and Deacons Meet on December 3, 2019.

Future activities of the Commission include refreshing course for the Major Seminary Teaching Staff and ongoing formation for Clergy. In the brief discussion that followed it was decided to request the Clergy Commission to conduct an ongoing formation programme for priests in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for a duration of two weeks. It was also decided to request the Eparchies of the participants to meet the expenses of such programmes. The Major Archbishop congratulated and thanked Bishop George Madathikandathil, the Chairman, Bishop Sebastian Pozholiparambil, Member and Bishop Thomas Tharayil, Member, Fr. Joji Kallingal, Secretary and Sr. Joina MSJ, Office in-charge Clergy Commission for the initiatives they take in the execution of the various activities.

Report of the Synodal Major Seminaries and *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* (PVP), Vadavathoor: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil (Rector, Mangalapuzha), Fr. Emmanuel Attel (Rector, Kunnoth), Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal (Rector, Satna), Fr. Joy Ainiyadan (Rector, Vadavathoor) and Fr. Andrews Mekkattukunnel (President, *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham*).

1. St Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha: Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil, the Rector presented the report of the Seminary

for the academic year 2018-19. The report appreciated the guidance given by the Synodal Commission for the Seminary. During the academic year the Seminary had 249 students (108 for Philosophy, 141 for Theology) hailing from different eparchies and religious congregations. The Seminary is served by 22 Resident Staff and 31 Visiting Professors. Following the widely accepted four pillars of formation, namely, Spiritual, Intellectual, Human and Pastoral, the Seminary was able to give adequate formation for the future priests of our Church. The Seminary gives sufficient opportunities to the students to develop their intellectual and pastoral aptitudes and their social commitment. Special mention is to be made about the relief work provided to the victims of flood during August 2018 by converting the Seminary campus as a Flood Relief Camp.

2. **St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor:** Fr Joy Ainiyadan, the Rector, presented the report of the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary. The report says that the Seminary Community structured in the pattern of the ideal community of Jesus and his disciples is modeled on the perfect community in the Holy Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Seminary has 24 Resident Staff, 65 Visiting Staff and 281 Students, hailing from different Eparchies and Religious Congregations. The Seminary tries to impart integral formation to its students, visualized by the Charter for Priestly Formation in the Syro-Malabar Church. The report proudly mentions of the numerous publications of books and articles by the Teaching Staff.
3. ***Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham (PVP), Vadavathoor:*** Fr. Andrews Mekkattukunnel, President of *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* presented the report of the Institute. The total number of students is 308. During this academic year the PVP started two new departments in the M.Th. section: Syriac Theology and Biblical Studies. Next year the PVP plans to start another department for Pastoral Theology and Counseling. There is a proposal to start two new

faculties too: Philosophy and Ecumenical and Inter Religious studies. The report says that the financial situation of PVP is to be improved. The report expresses gratitude to His Beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry, the Chancellor and the Synod members.

4. **Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth:** Fr. Emmanuel Attel, the Rector, presented the report of the Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth. The total strength of the students is 200 including a few religious day scholars, hailing from 19 eparchies and 13 religious congregations. The formation stresses on the spiritual, intellectual, human, missionary and pastoral dimensions. One of the remarkable features of the liturgical life of the seminary is that every day all the Staff members join the concelebration. The Seminary is trying to raise funds from the parishes to overcome the deficit. Besides, there is the dire need of a permanent auditorium. The Rector expressed his gratitude to the Seminary Commission and the Synod of Bishops for their paternal solicitude towards the Seminary.
5. **St. Ephrem's Theological College, Satna:** Fr. Joseph Ottapurackal, the Rector presented the report of the St. Ephrem's Theological College. The total strength of the Students is 61 including a few religious day scholars, hailing from different eparchies and Religious Congregations. The Seminary is served by 10 Resident Staff and 40 Visiting Professors. Besides the spiritual and intellectual formation, the Seminary stresses pastoral and missionary dimensions. A special feature of the Seminary is that the whole Seminary Community celebrates together the Holy Week and the Easter. The report expressed gratitude to the Synodal Commission members for its effective guidance.

At the end of the presentation of reports, the Major Archbishop thanked all the Rectors of Seminaries and the President of *Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham* for their commitment and dedication. He said that the social dimension is helpful for social witnessing. This however

should not be at the expense of spiritual vision which should be seen in the participation of the Holy Eucharist, Liturgy of Hours, Rosary and other spiritual activities. Above all every seminarian should have personal commitment to the Church and Christ.

Referring to the Good Shepherd Seminary, the Major Archbishop suggested that Kunnoth Seminary, while keeping the general nature of a Major Archiepiscopal Seminary, should have orientation towards not only the Malabar region but also to the whole State of Karnataka: as Tellicherry Province has three Eparchies in Karnataka-Belthangady, Bhadravathi and Mandya. He reminded the bishops of their responsibility to develop missionary orientation among the priests. In this context he suggested that after completing their higher studies, priests should be encouraged to serve as teaching Staff the seminary of Satna for a few years.

Ad limina Visit: Bishop Stephen Chirappanath, the Procurator of the Syro-Malabar Church in Rome, gave details of the schedule of the *Ad limina* visit, the blessing of the *Procura* and the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Syro-Malabar parish in Rome.

Accumulated Mass Intentions: Bishop Jacob Manethodath brought to the attention of the Synod the letter of Congregation for the Oriental Churches Prot. No. 121/2012 dated April 27, 2016 regarding the question of offerings made for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Copy of this letter was made available to all the members of the Synod for their information.

Draft of Raza Text: Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS presented the revised draft of *Raza* Text and requested the Synod members to give their suggestions by 15 November 2019.

The time gap between the death of a person and the initiation of the Cause of Canonization: The Synod discussed about the time gap between the death of a person and the initiation of the Cause of Canonization. There was an opinion to fix the number of years taking into account the increased number candidates to sainthood.

After a brief discussion, it was decided not to put any limit regarding the time gap to begin the process respecting common law, which stipulates five years after the death of the candidate.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI & Sr. Mary Collethamma FCC: The January Synod 2019 had asked Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of Palai, to constitute a Committee as per the guidelines approved in the 2008 Synod. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt presented before the Synod the findings of the Committee regarding the life, activities and virtues of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI and Sr. Mary Collethamma FCC. After a few interventions by the Bishops, the Synod decided to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniarakath CMI and Sr. Mary Collethamma FCC.

Granting Favourable Opinion to Initiate the Cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD: The January Synod 2019 had asked Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Bishop of Faridabad, to constitute a Committee as per the guidelines approved in the 2008 Synod. Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara presented before the Synod findings of the Committee regarding the life, activities and virtues of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD. After a few interventions by the Bishops, the Synod decided to grant its favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD.

Vocation Promotion: Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Chairman, Commission for Vocation brought to the attention of the Synod the issue of decline in Vocation to religious and priestly life. As this is a matter of concern for us necessary steps should be taken to strengthen Vocation promotion. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the Commission for Vocation to conduct training programmes for the Vocation Bureaus in the Archeparchial level.

Chrupushpa Mission League (CML): Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Bishop in charge of CML sought the opinion of the Synod regarding extension of activities of CML to foreign countries. After a brief discussion it was decided to extend the activities of CML to the

eparchies outside India, after the structural pattern followed in India which could gradually assume a global nature.

Marriage Preparation Course: The question of time frame for the validity of marriage preparation course was taken up for discussion. After a few interventions by the bishops it was decided not to fix any specific period for the validity of marriage preparation course consulting also the KCBC Guidelines.

Liturgical Research Centre: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan presented a project for the collection of local fund towards the construction of the Heritage and Research Centre. He explained the plan of the LRC to collect an amount of rupees 3 crores through different types of sponsors: Platinum, Dimond, Golden and Silver Sponsors. After a brief discussion, it was decided to permit the LRC to find out local sponsors according to the above mentioned pattern.

Colloquium between Theologians and Retreat Preachers: Bishop Tony Neelankavil, Chairman of Doctrinal Commission brought to the attention of the Synod the theological inaccuracies of certain retreat preachers in our Retreat Centers. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the Doctrinal Commission to organize a Colloquium of the Syro-Malabar Theology Forum and the Retreat Preachers.

Allowance of the Teaching Staff in Seminaries: Bishop George Madathikandathil, Chairman, Seminary Commission for Mangalapuzha Seminary presented before the Synod the request for increasing the allowance of the teaching Staff in Major Seminaries. At present they get 8,000/- per month. If this is to be increased the fees of the Seminarians also must be enhanced. After a brief discussion in which several Bishops participated, it was decided to fix rupees 10,000/- per month as allowance for teaching staff in Seminaries.

Certificate Course on Safe Environment Programme: Bishop George Madathikandathil informed the Synod that sufficient instructions are given in our seminaries regarding the Safe Environment Policy

of the Church and the State. In the discussion that followed it was decided to request all the seminaries to organize a Certificate Course on Safe Environment Programme for all the Major Seminarians before their diaconate.

Financial Administration of the Eparchies: The Synod took up the issue of financial administration in the Eparchies. After a brief discussion it was decided to request the Committee for Canonical Questions to present in the forthcoming Session of the Synod, guidelines regarding financial administration in the Eparchies.

Rashtra Deepika: The Secretary of the Synod welcomed the representatives of Deepika: Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel, Fr. Bobby Mannamplackal, Fr. Michael Vettikkatt, Fr. Regi Manackalett and Fr. Roy Kannanchira CMI. Fr. Mathew Chandrankunnel gave an update of the financial crisis of Deepika. In the discussion that followed in which several bishops participated, many suggestions came up to solve the financial crisis. The suggestion that appeared to be feasible was that each Province should come forward to own Deepika after the pattern of the Archeparchy of Trichur, which under the leadership of the concerned Bishops, had evolved a project to increase the circulation and revenue through advertisements.

Activities of SMYM: Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, the Chairman of the Youth Commission, informed the Synod that four SMYM youth leaders and the Secretary Fr. Joseph Alencherry have gone to Belgium to attend Fim CAP General Body Meeting to get affiliation of SMYM to Fim CAP. He also reported the new reorganization of ICYM. He put forward before the Synod the request of the Youth that they get more representation in the parish councils and pastoral councils in each Eparchy.

Ecumenism and Dialogue: Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam requested the Bishops to appoint Directors for the Commission of Ecumenism and Dialogue in their respective Eparchies. He suggested that each Eparchy should have definite programmes for interactions with non-Catholic Christians and members of other religions.

Implementation of Safe Environment Programme: Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop presented the topic in the light of the *motu proprio, Vos estis lux mundi*. In the discussion that followed, it was decided to constitute structures in the Eparchial, Archeparchial and Major Archiepiscopal levels to implement the Safe Environment Programme. This process could be adopted, if needed, by Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life at the General level. The Synod also decided to authorize Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia bishop, to formulate the necessary guidelines and procedures to be followed in the execution of Safe Environment Programme.

Commission for Catechetics: Archbishop George Njaralakatt, the Chairman of the Commission for Catechetics presented the following points for the consideration of the Synod: 1. *Prathiba sangamams* are being successfully organized every year in the month of May for VII Class students and in the Month of December for XII Class students under the auspices of the Commission for Catechesis. The Eparchies outside Kerala may contact the Secretary of the Commission if they plan to have the *sangamam* in their Eparchies. 2. The Commission intends to revise the catechetical text books of classes XI & XII. The eparchial Directors are requested to inform the Commission the changes to be brought about and the themes to be included in the process of revision. 3. The English version of Catechetical books prepared by the Commission is being used in the English speaking countries. But the style of language and the examples, pictures etc. do not seem to fit into the context of those countries. In this regard, decision is to be made whether the Commissions for Catechesis in the concerned Eparchies could be authorized to take up this process of adaptation or it should be taken up by the Central Commission itself.

Venue of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: In the discussion about the forthcoming Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, it was

decided to hold the forthcoming Assembly in 2022 January and to request the Permanent Synod to decide the venue.

Circular on Synodal Decisions: Bishop Joseph Pamplany read out the draft of the Circular on Synodal decisions. After a detailed discussion in which several Bishops participated, the Synod approved the Circular and decided to publish it at the conclusion of the Synod.

Scrutiny of the Decisions of XXVII Synod (2019) Session II: The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XXVII Synod (2019) Session II and gave its approval.

Dates of Forthcoming Synods:

07 January 2020 to 09 January 2020 (10 am -06 pm) - Retreat

10 January 2020 to 15 January 2020 (09 am - 06 pm) - Synodal Sitzings

17 August 2020 to 28 August 2020 (10 am - 06 pm) - Synodal Sitzings

Conclusion of the Synod: The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present Session and gave the concluding address highlighting the important events. The long cherished wish of the Synod to appoint a Bishop with special administrative power for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly has been realized with the appointment of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop in the person of Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI with the title of Archbishop, which is a historic step in the life of our Church. We could make the appointment of Rev. Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil as the new Bishop of Bijnor and the transfer of Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to the Eparchy of Mandya and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil to the Eparchy of Faridabad as the Auxiliary Bishop. Fr. Mathew Koikara CMI was appointed the Administrator of the Eparchy of Mandya. The Major Archbishop extended best wishes and prayers to all of them for a successful ministry.

As major part of this Synodal Session was for discussion on the problems and the issues being faced by the Church, the Synod could not devote much attention to the other items in the agenda. But

the Major Archbishop added that the Synod could make almost all the impending elections and appointments of Commissions, Committees and other organs of the Church. In this context, the Major Archbishop made a reference to the evaluation of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants and the Commission for Clergy. Since many things could not be discussed in detail about the seminary formation, the Major Archbishop requested the Seminary Commissions to compensate it through their more intensive involvements in the seminary formation. He drew the attention of the Synod Members to the concern that we should have towards the poor and the downtrodden. Through the social activities of *Spandan* and the other activities of charity, we should be able to become another Christ and a Church with a difference. The Major Archbishop concluded his message thanking all those who helped in one way or other for the efficient functioning of the Synod. Invoking God's blessings upon our Church, the Major Archbishop declared the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church (2019) Session II closed at 6 pm on 30 August 2019.

Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI

Secretary, Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DECISIONS

1. To take up first the issues of Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly for discussion during this Session of the Synod.
2. To request Archbishop Andrews Thazhath to fine-tune the documents about the Office of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop and present them in a later sitting of the Synod for its approval.
3. To request the Major Archbishop to send decisions of the Permanent Synod- the confidential ones by post and others by e-mail to all the Bishops.
4. To constitute a committee consisting of retired judges and representatives of bishops including bishops from Ernakulam to settle all the cases connected with the land deal and fake documents.
5. To request the bishops to give their suggestions about the report prepared by the Media Commission on the land sale in writing to Bishop Joseph Pamplany. He will fine tune it and prepare a short note of three to four pages and submit it in a later sitting of this Session for its approval.
6. To entrust the Vicar of the Major Archbishop with the task of bringing back discipline among the deviants.
7. To constitute a Synodal Committee for Dialogue and Reconciliation consisting of Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Convener), Archbishop George Njaralakatt (Member),

Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Member), Bishop Jose Porunnedom (Member) and Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal (Member) to help the Vicar of the Major Archbishop in this process.

8. To take appropriate disciplinary action against the deviants in the forthcoming Session of the Synod if efforts of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop and of the Synodal Committee for Dialogue and Reconciliation does not seem to yield the desired result.
9. To authorize the Vicar of the Major Archbishop to dissolve or suspend or revive or reconstitute Curia and other Canonical Bodies: College of Consulters, Finance Council, Presbyteral Council and Pastoral Council of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in consultation with the Major Archbishop.
10. To request the Major Archbishop to issue a letter of warning to Fr. Augustine Vattoly through Fr. Jose Puthiyedath, the Proto-Syncellus of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly asking him to refrain from conducting the protest demonstration against the dismissal of Sr. Lucy Kalappurackal from the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC).
11. To approve the Guidelines on the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
12. To give a Press Release from the part of the Synod stating that :
 - the problems raised by the *Athiroopatha Samrakshana Samithy and Almaya Munnettam* are being discussed in the Synod.
 - some decisions are subject to the approval of Apostolic See
 - the decisions will be communicated to the general public at the conclusion of the Synod and
 - misleading statements and speculations should be avoided by all

13. To constitute a Mediation Council consisting of Retired Judges: Rtd. Justice Kurian Joseph (Chairman), Rtd. Justice Pius Kuriakose (Member), Rtd. Justice Abraham Mathew (Member), Rtd. Judge K. C. George (Member) and Rtd. Judge Daniel Pappachan (Member) to settle the civil and criminal cases related to the issues in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.
14. To declare St. Mary's Forane Church, Kaduthuruthy in the Archeparchy of Kottayam and Holy Cross Forane Church, Nadavayal in the Eparchy of Mananthavady as Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centers.
15. To confer the title of *Sabhatharam* on Mr. Joseph Nadackapadam, Eparchy of Chicago.
16. To permit Bishop Raphael Thattil, Bishop of Shamshabad, to make mission appeal in the Pilgrim Centers and important churches in various Eparchies after due consultation with the Local Bishop concerned.
17. To request the Apostolic See either to extend the jurisdiction of the Eparchy of Melbourne to New Zealand or appoint Bishop Bosco Puthur also as the Exarch of New Zealand.
18. To speak directly to the Major Superiors of Religious Congregations who present their candidates directly to dioceses without even informing the Apostolic Visitor to Europe.
19. To request the Bishops to promote vocation to Brotherhood through their Pastoral Letters.
20. To request the Clergy Commission to conduct an ongoing formation programme for priests in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas for a duration of two weeks.
21. To request the Eparchies of the participants of the ongoing programmes for priests to meet the expenses.

22. To grant favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Fr. Bruno Kaniyarakath CMI and Sr. Mary Collethama FCC.
23. To grant favourable opinion to initiate the cause of Sr. Fidelis Thaliyath SD.
24. To conduct training programmes for the Vocation Bureaus in the Archeparchial level.
25. To extend the activities of CML to the eparchies outside India, after the structural pattern followed in India which could gradually assume a global nature.
26. Not to fix any specific period for the validity of marriage preparation course consulting also the KCBC Guidelines.
27. To permit the LRC to find out Platinum, Diamond, Golden and Silver Sponsors to collect an amount of rupees three crores towards meeting the expenses of the construction of Heritage and Research Centre.
28. To request the Doctrinal Commission to organize a Colloquium of Syro-Malabar Theology Forum and the Retreat Preachers.
29. To request all the seminaries to organize a certificate course on Safe Environment Programme for all the Major Seminarians before their diaconate.
30. To request the Commission for Canonical Questions to present Guidelines regarding financial administration of eparchies in the forthcoming Session of the Synod.

Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, Secretary
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

CONCLUDING MESSAGE OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

As this Session of the Synod is coming to a close, let us turn our hearts and minds to God almighty who has shed abundant blessings on all of us and on all those who have worked hard for the conduct of this Synodal assembly. We experienced a special presence of Christ with us similar to His presence with the disputing, hesitating and doubting disciples in the Gospel. He guided us through the Holy Spirit and has led us through the discussions and decisions of the Synod. The prayerful reflection on the first day animated by Bishop Prince Antony Panengadan, the celebrations of the Holy Qurbana and the excellent homilies of the principal celebrants, the moments of adoration and prayer that we spent in the chapel, the fraternal sharings and various interactions with concerned persons and groups and our own group discussions, all helped us in a special way to the path of reconciliation. Let us hope and pray that the decisions we have taken and the action plans that we have proposed will gradually take us to greater unity and peace in the Church. We have arrived at a road map of reconciliation, with practical steps to be implemented with determination from our part.

We should be specially thankful to the Holy Father and the dicastery of the Eastern Churches for the timely interventions and the guidance given all through the moments of crisis during the past two years. We thank also the Apostolic Nuncio His Excellency

Giambattista Diquattro who has sent his First Counsellor Msgr. Mitja Leskovar, to convey to us the mind of the Apostolic See regarding the steps we had to take in tiding over the crisis situation in our Church. Although it may look now a measure of crisis management, the long cherished wish of the Synod to appoint a bishop with special administrative power for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly is realized with the appointment of the Vicar of Major Archbishop in the person of Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI with the title of Archbishop, which is a historic step, in the life of our Church.

We could make the appointment of Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil as the new Bishop of Bijnor and the transfer of Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to Mandya and Bishop Jose Puthenveetil to Faridabad as the Auxiliary Bishop there.

As we spent a major part of this Synodal session for discussion on the problems and issues facing the Church, we could not devote much attention to other items in the agenda. All the same we could make almost all the impending elections and appointments of commissions, committees and organs of the Church. We could allot some time for the evaluation of a few Commissions especially those of the Commission for Evangelization and pastoral Care of the Migrants and the Commission for Clergy. As usual Seminary formation gained the special attention of the Synod. But due to lack of time many things could not be discussed in detail. I request the Seminary Commissions to compensate it through their more intensive involvement in Seminary formation.

Let us express once again our immense gratitude to the Holy Father for having granted us jurisdiction for evangelization and pastoral care all over India. We have to intensify our evangelization drive through zealous and prudent measures with coherent cooperation of the eparchial bishops, priests, consecrated men and women and lay missionaries. I would like to mention that the Mother Church in Kerala has to take greater concern towards the mission eparchies in India by rendering them both personnel and material assistance.

We are a global Church that has to be united in our minds and hearts for the one aim of revealing the face of Christ in the present world. Let us not forget the poor. Through the social activities of Spandan and the activities of charity, as persons and institutions we should become another Christ and a Church with a difference.

Let me place on record my thanks towards the venerable service that Bishop Jacob Manethodath rendered as Apostolic Administrator *sede plena* of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.

I extend my best wishes and prayers for the successful apostolate of Bishops Antony Kariyil CMI, Vicar of the Major Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bishop of Mandya, Bishop Jose Puthenveetil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad, Bishop-elect Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil, for the Eparchy of Bijnor and Fr Mathew Koikara CMI, the administrator of the Eparchy of Mandya.

A special word of thanks is due to Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI, the Secretary of the Synod who together with the members of the Chancery: Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor, the Chancellor, Fr. Abraham Kavilpurayidathil, the Vice Chancellor and Bishop Sebastian Vaniyapurackal, the Curia Bishop worked hard even during late hours of the night to prepare the minutes of the sittings of each day meticulously and in reconciliatory style. Similarly our congratulations and special thanks go to Bishop Raphael Thattil who moderated the session throughout the eleven days of the Synod with exceptional dexterity. The Media Commission of the Synod headed by Bishop Joseph Pamplany has done a strenuous service which also deserves our thanks.

Let us also thank Fr. Joseph Tholanickal, the Finance Officer, the Secretaries of Commissions and LRC residing in the Curia, the Sisters of the MSJ and the lay co-operators in the Curia who did a commendable job for our comfortable stay worship, food and other conveniences.

Let us not be disheartened by the problems that happened in our Church. The president of the KCBC recently encouraged me telling that in spite of the serious problems we face, our Synod is blessed with Bishops of good leadership qualities and spiritual richness. We can grow to a much more efficient Synod in the future with peace and tranquillity we should establish by the grace of God.

Let me remind you that the next Synod will begin with a retreat for all the Bishops from Tuesday 7th January to Thursday 9th January 2020, followed by the proper Synodal Session from January 10-15.

I sincerely thank each and every one of you for the love and concern which you express towards me and for the wholehearted support you give for my ministry. Let us entrust our Synod, the priests, the religious and the lay faithful of our Church to the protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Thomas, our Father in faith, St. Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia and all the Blesseds of our Church.

With these words I formally declare the Second Session of the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Pastoral Letters Circulars

സർക്കുലർ

സീറോമലബാർസഭയുടെമേജർആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ്
 കർദിനാൾജോർജ്ജ്ആലഞ്ചേരി
 തന്റെ സഹശുശ്രൂഷകരായ മെത്രാന്മാർക്കും മെത്രാന്മാർക്കും
 മെത്രാന്മാർക്കും വൈദികർക്കും സമർപ്പിതർക്കും
 തന്റെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന
 എല്ലാ ദൈവജനത്തിനും എഴുതുന്നത്.

ഈശോയിൽ ഏറ്റവും സ്നേഹമുള്ള സഹോദരീസഹോദരന്മാരേ,
 സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ 27-ാമത് സിനഡ് ജനുവരി 7 മുതൽ 18
 വരെയുള്ള തീയതികളിൽ സഭയുടെ ആസ്ഥാനമായ മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ്
 തോമസിൽ നടന്ന വിവരം നിങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. സിന
 ഡിന്റെ വിജയത്തിനായി ഏറെ പരിത്യാഗങ്ങൾ അനുഷ്ഠിച്ച് പ്രാർ
 ത്ഥിച്ച എല്ലാവിശ്വാസികളെയും ഞാൻ നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർത്ത് ദൈവ
 തിരുമുന്ദിയിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കുന്നു. സിനഡിൽ പങ്കെടുത്ത അവത്തിമ
 യഞ്ച് പിതാക്കന്മാരും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെ അഭിഷേകത്തിനും
 ജ്ഞാനത്തിനുമായി സിനഡിനിടയിൽ ഉപവസിച്ചു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചു. സഭാ
 കാര്യാലയമായ മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിലെ നിത്യാരാധനയിൽ ഈ
 ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാക്കന്മാരോടൊപ്പം സിനഡിന്റെ വിജ
 യത്തിനായി മദ്ധ്യസ്ഥപ്രാർത്ഥന നടത്തിയ എല്ലാവരെയും നന്ദി
 യോടെ ഓർക്കുന്നു.

നമ്മുടെ സഭയെ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്ന ഒട്ടേറെ മേഖലകളിൽ ക്രിയാ
 ത്വകരമായ തീരുമാനങ്ങളും നടപടികളും ഈ സിനഡിലെ കൂട്ടായ
 ചർച്ചകളിലൂടെ രൂപപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്. മാറുന്ന കാലഘട്ടത്തിലെ സെമിനാരി
 പരിശീലനം, നമ്മുടെ കുർബാനക്രമം, അൽമായപങ്കാളിത്തം, പ്രേഷി

താദിമുഖ്യം, കാർഷികമേഖല, യുവജനങ്ങൾ, തുടങ്ങിയ മേഖലകളിൽ ആഴമേറിയ ചർച്ചകളും വിചിന്തനങ്ങളും സിനഡിൽ നടക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചടുത്ത കൂട്ടായ തീരുമാനങ്ങളുടെ വിശദാംശങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളെ ക്രമേണ അറിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്. സിനഡിന്റെ ചില സുപ്രധാന തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കണമെന്ന് സിനഡുപിതാക്കന്മാർ ഏകമനസ്സോടെ അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചതിനാലാണ് ഈ സർക്കുലർ ഞാൻ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് എഴുതുന്നത്.

എറണാകുളം - അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിഷയങ്ങൾ പഠിക്കുവാനും പരിഹരിക്കുവാനും പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പാ നിയോഗിച്ച അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റർ ആയ അഭിവന്ദ്യ മാർ ജേക്കബ് മനത്തോടത്ത് പിതാവ് പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയത്തിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ച നിലപാടുകൾക്കും നടപടികൾക്കും സിനഡ് പൂർണ്ണ പിന്തുണ അറിയിച്ചു. എറണാകുളം - അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട പ്രശ്നങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് അതിരൂപതയിലെ മെത്രാന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങൾ നാലുപേരും ഈ ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ ഒരുമിച്ചിരുന്ന് വിശദമായ ചർച്ചനടത്തുകയും പ്രശ്നപരിഹാരത്തിനുള്ള മാർഗങ്ങൾ പ്രാർത്ഥനാപൂർവ്വം തേടുകയും ചെയ്തു. അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റർ നിയമിച്ച വിദഗ്ധസമിതിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് ലഭിക്കുന്നതോടെ വസ്തുതകളുടെ നിജസ്ഥിതി വ്യക്തമാകും. പ്രസ്തുത റിപ്പോർട്ട് റോമിലെ പൗരസ്ത്യ സഭകൾക്കുള്ള കാര്യലയത്തിലാണ് അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റർ സമർപ്പിക്കേണ്ടത്. അവിടെ നിന്ന് ലഭിക്കുന്ന നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ എല്ലാ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളും പൂർണ്ണമായും പരിഹരിക്കാനാവുമെന്നാണ് പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ വിഷയവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട പരസ്യപ്രസ്താവനകളിൽനിന്ന് എല്ലാവരും വിട്ടുനില്ക്കണമെന്നും സാമൂഹ്യസമ്പർക്ക മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ ദുഷ്പ്രചരണങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നവർക്കെതിരേ ജാഗ്രത പാലിക്കണമെന്നും സിനഡ് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു.

എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയ്ക്ക് സീറോമലബാർസഭയിലുള്ള ശ്രേഷ്ഠമായ പദവി സിനഡ് പ്രത്യേകം അനുസ്മരിച്ചു. അതിരൂപതയുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മയ്ക്കും പദവിക്കും ഹാനികരമായ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ സിനഡിന്റെ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്ന് ഉണ്ടാകുമെന്ന രീതിയിലുള്ള വാർത്തകൾ ദുരുദ്ദേശപരവും അടിസ്ഥാനരഹിതവുമാണെന്ന് സിനഡ് അറിയിക്കുന്നു.

സഭയിലെ ബഹുഭൂരിപക്ഷം വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും തികഞ്ഞ അച്ചടക്കത്തോടെ വ്രതങ്ങൾ പാലിച്ച് ജീവിക്കുന്നുവെന്നതാണ് സഭയുടെ കരുത്ത്. എന്നാൽ, സമകാലിക സംഭവങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് സഭയിലുണ്ടായ ചില അച്ചടക്കരാഹിത്യങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കണമെന്ന് സിനഡ് വിലയിരുത്തി. ഇതിനായി സിനഡ് വ്യക്തമായ മാർഗരേഖ രൂപപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. വി.പൗലോസ് അപ്പസ്തോലൻ സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അരാജകത്വത്തിന്റെ അരുപി (2 തെസ. 2:7) നമ്മുടെ സഭയിൽ വളരാതിരിക്കുവാൻ സഭയൊന്നാകെ പരിശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സമീപകാലത്ത് ഏതാനും ചില വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും ഉൾപ്പെട്ട പരസ്യപ്രതിഷേധങ്ങളും സമരങ്ങളും അച്ചടക്കത്തിന്റെ സകലസീമകളും ലംഘിച്ചതായി സിഡ് വിലയിരുത്തി. ചില വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരുമെങ്കിലും സഭാവിരുദ്ധ ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളുടെ കൈകളിലെ പാവകളായോ സജീവ സഹകാരികളായോ മാറുന്നതായും സിനഡ് സംശയം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. സഭയിലെ അച്ചടക്കം പുനഃസ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ സിനഡ് താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

1. സഭയിൽ ഗുരുതരമായ അച്ചടക്കലംഘനം നടത്തുന്ന വ്യക്തികൾക്ക് കാരണം കാണിക്കൽ നോട്ടീസ് നൽകണമെന്നും വിശദീകരണം തൃപ്തികരമല്ലെങ്കിൽ മാതൃകാപരമായ ശിക്ഷണനടപടി നിയമാനുസൃതം സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്നും സിനഡ് ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട രൂപതാധ്യക്ഷൻമാർക്കും സന്യാസസമൂഹാധികാരികൾക്കും നിർദ്ദേശം നൽകി. അച്ചടക്കനടപടികളെ സഭാവിരുദ്ധഗ്രൂപ്പുകളുടെയും മാധ്യമങ്ങളുടെയും പിന്തുണയോടെ പ്രതിരോധിക്കാനുള്ള സമീപകാല പ്രവണത അംഗീകരിക്കാനാവില്ല.
2. സഭയെയും സഭാധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെയും വൈദിക-സമർപ്പിത ജീവിതത്തെയും കുദാശകളെയും അധിക്ഷേപിക്കുകയെന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെ അനുദിനമെന്നോണം വ്യാജ വാർത്തകൾ ചമയ്ക്കുന്ന ഓൺലൈൻ പത്രങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള മാധ്യമങ്ങൾക്കെതിരെയും സഭാവിരുദ്ധമായ ചില നാമമാത്ര സംഘടനകൾക്കെതിരെയും ശക്തമായ നിയമനടപടി സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ സിനഡ് തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. സഭ നിയോഗിക്കുന്ന ഔദ്യോഗിക വക്താക്കളോ മീഡിയ കമ്മീഷനോ വഴിയല്ലാതെവരുന്ന സഭാസംബന്ധമായ വാർത്തകൾ സഭയുടെ ഔദ്യോഗിക നിലപാടുകളാണെന്ന് ആരും തെറ്റിദ്ധരിക്കരുത്.

3. ചാനൽചർച്ചകളിലും അഭിമുഖങ്ങളിലും വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും രൂപതാധ്യക്ഷന്റെയോ മേജർസൂപ്പീരിയറുടെയോ അനുമതിയോടെ മാത്രമേ ഇനിമേൽ പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ പാടുള്ളൂ. സഭയുടെയും സഭാതലവന്റെയും പേരിൽ സംസാരിക്കാനും മാധ്യമങ്ങളിൽ അവരുടെ ഔദ്യോഗികവക്താക്കളാകാനും സഭാകേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ നിന്ന് നിയോഗിക്കുന്നവരല്ലാതെ മറ്റാരെയും ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടില്ല എന്ന വിവരം ഇത്തരൂണത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കട്ടെ. ചാനൽ ചർച്ചകളിൽ സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്ന വ്യക്തികളെ സഭയുടെ പ്രതിനിധികളായി തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കാനും വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പ്രവണത പ്രതിഷേധാർഹമാണ്. മാധ്യമസംബന്ധമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഏകീകരിച്ച് നടപ്പിലാക്കാൻ സിനഡ് ഒരു മീഡിയ കമ്മീഷനെയും നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.
4. പൊതുസമരങ്ങൾക്കും വ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾക്കും ഇറങ്ങിപ്പുറപ്പെടുന്ന വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും ഇവയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള കാനോനിക നിയമങ്ങൾ പാലിക്കുവാൻ കടപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വരുത്തുന്ന വീഴ്ച അച്ചടക്കലംഘനമായി പരിഗണിക്കപ്പെടും. വൈദികരായോ സന്യസ്തരായോ തുടരുന്ന കാലത്തോളം അവർ സഭയുടെ കാനോനിക നിയമങ്ങളും അച്ചടക്കവും നിർബന്ധമായും പാലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
5. സഭയിലെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ആശയത്തിന്റെ പേരിലോ വ്യക്തിയുടെ പേരിലോ വിഭാഗീയത സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയും ചേരിതിരിഞ്ഞ് ആരോപണങ്ങൾ ഉന്നയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന പ്രവണത മിശിഹായുടെ ശരീരമായ സഭയെ മുറിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതാണ്. ഇത്തരം പ്രവണതകളെ ഗുരുതരമായ അച്ചടക്കലംഘനമായി കരുതി കർശന നടപടികൾ സ്വീകരിക്കാനും സിനഡ് തീരുമാനിച്ചു.
6. സഭാതനയർ കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ധ്വാനിച്ചുണ്ടാക്കിയ സഭയുടെ വസ്തുവകകളും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും സർക്കാരിനെ ഏല്പിക്കണമെന്നു വാദിക്കുന്ന സംഘടനകളെയും സഭയിലെ സുതാര്യതയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി എന്ന വ്യാജേന സഭാവിരുദ്ധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്ന സംഘടനകളെയും സിനഡ് പൂർണ്ണമായും തള്ളിക്കളയുന്നു. ഇവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സഭയിൽ വിഭാഗീയത വളർത്തുന്നതും സഭാഗാത്രത്തിൽ ആഴമായ മുറിവേല്പിക്കുന്നതുമായതിനാൽ ഇത്തരം സംഘടനകളുമായി സഭാവിശ്വാസികൾ

യാതൊരുവിധത്തിലും സഹകരിക്കരുതെന്നും സിനഡ് ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. വ്യക്തിപരമായ കാരണങ്ങളാലോ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടോ ചുരുക്കം ചിലവ്യക്തികൾ സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ രൂപീകരിക്കുന്ന സംഘടനകൾക്കും പ്രസ്ഥാനങ്ങൾക്കും സഭയുടെ ഒരു ദ്വേഷാധിപതിയോടൊപ്പം പ്രസ്ഥാനവുമാണെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പേരുകൾ നൽകി പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ തെറ്റിദ്ധരിപ്പിച്ച് സഭാവിരുദ്ധ പ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തുന്ന വ്യക്തികളെ സഭാമക്കൾ തിരിച്ചറിയുകയും അവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കെതിരേ ജാഗ്രത പുലർത്തുകയും വേണം.

തിരുസ്സഭ ഈശോമിശിഹായുടെ ശരീരമാകയാൽ സഭയുടെ കൂട്ടായ്മക്കുവേണ്ടി പരിശ്രമിക്കാൻ നമുക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും കടമയുണ്ടെന്ന് ഓർമ്മിക്കണം. സഭയിലെ ഐക്യത്തിനായി നിങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരും തുടർന്നും പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞാൻ അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. സഭയുടെ കെട്ടുറപ്പിന് അത്യന്താപേക്ഷിതമായ അച്ചടക്കം നിലനിറുത്താൻ സിനഡ് കൈക്കൊണ്ട ഈ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ എല്ലാ സഭാവിശ്വാസികളും തുറന്ന മനസ്സോടെ സ്വീകരിച്ച് നടപ്പിലാക്കണമെന്ന് സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. കൂട്ടായ്മയുടെ അരുപിയായ പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവ് നമ്മെ നേർവഴിക്ക് നയിക്കട്ടെ. തിരുസഭയുടെ അമ്മയായ പരിശുദ്ധ കന്യാമറിയത്തിന്റെയും നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർത്തോമ്മാ ശ്ലീഹായുടെയും നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ വിശുദ്ധരുടെയും വാഴ്ത്തപ്പെട്ടവരുടെയും മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ്യം നമ്മെ സഹായിക്കട്ടെ.

മിശിഹായിൽസ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം

കർദ്ദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2019-ാ മാണ്ട് ജനുവരി മാസം 18-ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

CIRCULAR

George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men and Women and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

As you are aware, the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church was held at Mt. St. Thomas from Jan.7-18, 2019. I cherish with great gratitude the prayers and the penitential sacrifices you did offer to the Lord our God for the success of the Synod. The fifty five bishops who participated in the Synod did also pray and fast in order to get the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the gift of wisdom. I also remember with gratitude the prayers of the faithful who gathered in the chapel at Mount St. Thomas to spend their time in adoration before the Bl. Sacrament along with the Bishops.

Many creative programmes and decisions touching the different activities of the Church were taken through discussions and collaborative deliberations at the Synod.

The formation in Seminaries more adapted to the contemporary times, liturgical celebrations, lay participation, promotion of interests in missionary activities, farming and agricultural labour, youth formation etc were some of the important subjects discussed at the Synod. The details of these discussions and deliberations will be communicated to you as early as possible.

This circular is being written with a special purpose. This is being written at the request of the Synod to convey to the faithful certain guidelines with regard to the conduct of the clergy, the religious and the laity in matters connected with the Church.

It is to be noted that the Synod offered its total support to all the steps taken by Mar Jacob Manantheodath, the Apostolic Administrator appointed by the Holy See, to settle all the issues and problems connected with the sale of a few portions of the land in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. All of us, the four bishops of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, got together to discuss the problems related to the Archeparchy and arrived at certain decisions for the good of the Archeparchy in a spirit of prayer and understanding. The committee appointed by the Administrator will clarify matters further once its report is finalized and submitted to the Oriental Congregation. It is hoped that all the problems could be solved in the light of the directions given by the Congregation. The Synod advises everyone not to make private statements with regard to these problems and to be vigilant against those who make public statements through the social media.

The Synod acknowledged the premier position enjoyed by the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in the Syro-Malabar Church. The Synod informs that the wild rumours circulating among some people that decisions affecting the unity and status of the Archeparchy were taken at the Synod are baseless and misleading. The strength of the Church consists in the righteous living of the clergy and the religious through the observance of the vows they have taken while joining the ministry. The Synod decided that certain unruly behavior of the clergy and the religious in connection with certain contemporary events should be stopped forthwith. The Synod, hence, has formulated a few clear guidelines with respect to the behavior of the clergy and the religious.

The whole Church has to involve itself in this matter in preventing this spirit of anarchy that the Apostle has warned against (2 Thess 2:7) from spreading in the Church. The Synod has realized that the

unruly behavior of a few priests and the religious issuing public statements and holding agitations against the Church have broken all reasonable boundaries of discipline and obedience. The Synod also expressed the fear that some of them may have become victims or cooperators of groups that are inimical to the Church. In order to maintain discipline in the Church, the following guidelines are issued by the Synod:

1. The Synod has asked the bishops and the superiors of the religious to issue show cause notices to rebellious people and to take disciplinary actions that are legal and justifiable, if the responses of such people are not satisfactory. The attitude to attack and denigrate the authorities of the Church with the help of the social media and anti-Church groups can never be condoned.
2. The Synod has also decided to take legal steps against the media and on-line publications that willfully and maliciously denigrate the authorities of the Church, religious life and sacraments. No one should accept statements that do not come from the official PROs or the Media Commission.
3. Priests and the religious have to get prior permission from their bishops or superiors before their participation in TV channel discussions. No one is entrusted with the responsibility to speak on behalf of the Church or the Major Archbishop except the official spokespersons designated for this purpose by the Major Archbishop or the Archiepiscopal Curia. Those who are participating in channel discussions in their individual capacity should not be taken as official spokespersons of the Church. The Synod has appointed a Media Commission to coordinate the activities concerned with the Media.
4. The priests and the religious who file suits in the civil courts have to follow the regulations laid down in the Canon Law with regard to those matters. Those who fail to follow the canonical prescriptions will be considered to be violating the directions of the Church. They have to follow the prescriptions of the

Canon Law as long as they continue to function as priests or the religious.

5. The tendency to create divisions in the Church on account of an ideology or individual interests will be really hurting the Church which is the Body of Christ. The Synod decided to take disciplinary actions against such people because they indulge in acts of indiscipline.
6. The Synod rejects those rebellious organizations that engage in anti-Church activities under the mask of financial transparency, so, too, the Synod rejects the group that asks for the transference of the hard-earned property of the Church to the Government. The activities of these organization cause great damage to the Church and hence are to be condemned. The faithful are hereby urged not to associate with them. The faithful should recognize the duplicitous behavior of these organizations started by individuals and groups under the mask of genuine institutions of the Church and mislead gullible people.

Let me urge you to remember that all have the duty to maintain and develop this sense of unity in the Church as the Church is the body of Christ. I also request you to continue your prayers for the unity of the Church.

I request all the faithful to accept these guidelines which were taken by the Synod to maintain unity in the Church. May the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Unity, lead us through the right path. May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, of St. Thomas, our Father in faith and of all the Saints and the Blesseds of the Church come to our help!

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Office of the Major Archbishop at Mount St. Thomas on 18th January 2019.

സർക്കുലർ

2019 ജനുവരി 07 മുതൽ 18 വരെ കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിൽ സമ്മേളിച്ച സീറോമലബാർസഭയിലെ മെത്രാന്മാരുടെ 27-ാമത് സിനഡിന്റെ പ്രഥമ സമ്മേളനത്തിനുശേഷം എല്ലാ സീറോമലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും വേണ്ടി മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്ന സർക്കുലർ

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരേ,

2018 ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസത്തിൽ നടക്കേണ്ടിയിരുന്ന 26-ാമതു സിനഡിന്റെ രണ്ടാം സമ്മേളനം പ്രളയംമൂലം നടത്താൻ സാധിച്ചില്ലല്ലോ. തൻ മൂലം 27-ാമത് സിനഡിന്റെ ഒന്നാം സമ്മേളനം 2019 ജനുവരിയിൽ ഒരാഴ്ചയ്ക്കു പകരം രണ്ടാഴ്ചയായി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ച് സഭാകേന്ദ്രമായ മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിൽ വച്ച് കൂടി. പ്രളയക്കെടുതിയിൽ വലിയ നാശനഷ്ടങ്ങൾ നേരിടുകയും ഏറെ ക്ലേശങ്ങൾ അനുഭവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത എല്ലാവരുടെയും വേദനയിൽ സിനഡുപിതാക്കൻമാർ പങ്കുചേർന്നു. പ്രളയത്തിൽ ജീവൻ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടവർക്കു വേണ്ടിയും കഷ്ടതകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർക്കു വേണ്ടിയും പ്രത്യേകം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. കേരളത്തിലും ലോകമെമ്പാടുമുള്ള നമ്മുടെ സഹോദരങ്ങളുടെയും സന്നദ്ധസംഘടനകളുടെയും സഹായസന്നദ്ധതയും മഹാമനസ്കതയും വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതായിരുന്നു പ്രളയാനന്തരപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ. വേദനയനുഭവിക്കുന്ന സഹോദരങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒരു കൈത്താങ്ങാകാൻ കരുണയുടെ കരങ്ങളായി പ്രവർത്തിച്ച ഏവർക്കും സിനഡ് കൃതജ്ഞതയും അഭിനന്ദനവും അറിയിച്ചു.

പ്രളയ ദുരിതാശ്വാസ പുനരധിവാസ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ എല്ലാവരും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി പങ്കുചേർന്നു എന്നത് ചാരിതാർത്ഥ്യജനകമായ

വസ്തുതയാണ്. ഇപ്പോൾ ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന കണക്കനുസരിച്ച് സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ വിവിധ രൂപതകളും ഇടവകകളും സമർപ്പിത സമൂഹങ്ങളും അൽമായ സഹോദരങ്ങളും ചേർന്ന് 187,59,94806 (നൂറ്റി എൺപത്തിയേഴ് കോടി അൻപത്തിയൊൻപത് ലക്ഷത്തി തൊണ്ണൂറ്റി നാലായിരത്തി എണ്ണൂറ്റിയാറ്) രൂപയുടെ ദുരിതാശ്വാസ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇതിൽ, സീറോമലബാർസഭയുടെ സാമൂഹിക പ്രവർത്തന ശൃംഖലയായ സ്പന്ദനിലൂടെ സമാഹരിച്ച 1,13,05204 (ഒരു കോടി പതിമൂന്നു ലക്ഷത്തി അയ്യായിരത്തി ഇരുനൂറ്റി നാല്) രൂപ കേരള മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ ദുരിതാശ്വാസനിധിയിലേയ്ക്ക് സംഭാവന ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി. കെ.സി.ബി.സി.യുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിക്ക് നേരത്തേ നൽകിയ ഒരു കോടി രൂപയിൽ 50 ലക്ഷം രൂപ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ വിഹിതമായി രുന്നു എന്നതും ഈ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. കൂടാതെ കേരളത്തിലെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിൽനിന്നും ചെറുതും വലുതുമായ സംഭാവനകൾ മുഖ്യമന്ത്രിയുടെ ദുരിതാശ്വാസനിധിയിലേയ്ക്ക് സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ കൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു.

മെത്രാഭിഷേകത്തിനുശേഷം ഈ സിനഡിൽ ആദ്യമായി പങ്കെടുത്ത ഇടുക്കി രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ മാർ ജോൺ നെല്ലിക്കുന്നേൽ പിതാവിനും സാഗർ രൂപതാദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ മാർ ജെയിംസ് അത്തിക്കളം പിതാവിനും സിനഡ് സ്വാഗതം ആശംസിച്ചു. എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുടെ അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്ററായി ചുമതലയേറ്റ മാർ ജേക്കബ് മനത്തോടത്ത് പിതാവിനും സിനഡ് ആശംസകൾ നേർന്നു. മുൻ സിനഡിന്റെ തീരുമാനങ്ങൾപുനരവലോകനം ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടാണ് സിനഡുസമ്മേളനം ആരംഭിച്ചത്. പല തീരുമാനങ്ങളും അതതു രൂപതാതലത്തിലും ആഗോളതലത്തിലും പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞതിൽ സിനഡ് സംതൃപ്തി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചു.

അജപാലനസമീപനങ്ങളും സഭാനവീകരണവും

അടുത്തകാലത്ത് നമുക്ക് അഭിമുഖീഭവിക്കേണ്ടിവന്ന സംഭവവികാസങ്ങളെ തികഞ്ഞ ആത്മീയതയുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ വിലയിരുത്തുവാൻ പിതാക്കൻമാർ സിനഡു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ശ്രമിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. സഭയിലെ വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും തങ്ങളുടെ യഥാർത്ഥമായ വിളിയും ദൗത്യവും കൂടുതൽ ഗൗരവമായി എടുക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. വൈദികമേൽക്കോയ്മ, സ്ഥാപനവത്കരണം എന്നിവ ഒഴിവാക്കി ഈശോയുടെ മാതൃകയിൽ പൗരോഹിത്യശുശ്രൂഷയിൽ

ലേക്ക് ഏവരും കടന്നുവരേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഈ വിധത്തിലുള്ള പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്ക് സഭാത്മകമായ ഒരു ശാശ്വതപരിഹാരം ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് ഏവരും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. സഭയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനപരമായ സാക്ഷ്യത്തെപ്പറ്റിയും ആനുകാലികപ്രശ്നങ്ങൾക്ക് ശാശ്വതമായ പരിഹാരമാർഗങ്ങൾ ആരാഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടും അവധാനപൂർണ്ണമായ ആത്മശോധന നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. യഥാർത്ഥത്തിലുള്ള ആത്മനവീകരണവും വിശുദ്ധീകരണവും സഭാനേതൃത്വം മുതൽ എല്ലാതലങ്ങളിലും അനിവാര്യമാണെന്ന് സിനഡ് വിലയിരുത്തി. അതിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ സർക്കുലർ നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ഇടവകകളിലും വായിച്ചിരുന്നല്ലോ.

മാറിയ സാമൂഹിക സാംസ്കാരിക രാഷ്ട്രീയ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ സഭ നേരിട്ടുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങളും അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുന്ന വെല്ലുവിളികളും എങ്ങനെ തരണം ചെയ്യണമെന്ന് സിനഡു പിതാക്കന്മാർ ശ്രദ്ധാപൂർവ്വം വിചിന്തനം ചെയ്തു. നമ്മുടെ ക്രൈസ്തവ തനിമയും വിശ്വാസ്യതയും ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള സമീപനങ്ങൾ ആരാഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടുള്ള ആലോചനകളും നടത്തി. ഒരു സ്വയാധികാരസഭയായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കപ്പെട്ടതിന്റെ രജതജൂബിലി ആഘോഷിച്ച നമ്മുടെ സഭ കൂടുതൽ ആത്മീയ വളർച്ചയുടെയും സാക്ഷ്യത്തിന്റെയും വഴിയിലേക്ക് വരണമെന്ന അഭിപ്രായമുയർന്നു വന്നു. സഭയിലെ എല്ലാ വിഭാഗങ്ങളും ഘടകങ്ങളും തങ്ങളുടെ വിളിയെയും വിശുദ്ധിയെയും പറ്റി കൂടുതൽ ബോധമുള്ളവരായിത്തീരണം. വൈദിക സാക്ഷ്യവും സന്ന്യസ്തസമർപ്പണവും കൂടുതൽ ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഇടവകകളിലെ കുടുംബയൂണിറ്റുകൾ, പ്രാർത്ഥനായോഗങ്ങൾ, ഭക്തസംഘടനകൾ എന്നിവയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനശൈലി പുനർവിചിന്തനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സാമൂഹികതലങ്ങളിൽ സഭാമക്കളുടെയും സന്ന്യസ്തരുടെയും പങ്കാളിത്തം പുതിയ രൂപഭാവങ്ങൾ ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് സഭാത്മകവും ക്രിസ്തീയവുമായ സാക്ഷ്യത്തിനുള്ള അവസരമാക്കി മാറ്റണം. സഭയ്ക്ക് അകത്തുനിന്നും പുറത്തുനിന്നും ലഭിക്കുന്ന പരാതികളിൽ തീർപ്പുകൽപ്പിക്കാൻ രൂപതാതലത്തിൽ ഒരു പ്രശ്നപരിഹാരസമിതി (Grievance Redressal Cell) രൂപീകരിക്കേണ്ടതിന്റെ ആവശ്യകത സിനഡ് ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയും അതതു രൂപതാധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ അതിന് മുൻകൈ എടുക്കണമെന്ന് നിർദ്ദേശിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഇത്തരം സമിതികളിൽ അല്പമായരുടെ പങ്കാളിത്തം ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുകയും സമയബന്ധിതമായി തീർപ്പുകൽപ്പിച്ച് നീതി നടപ്പാക്കുകയും വേണം.

കാലാകാലങ്ങളിൽ സഭയിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങളുടെ പരിഹാരത്തിന് വൈദികരുടെയും സന്ന്യസ്തരുടെയും അല്മായരുടെയും പങ്കാളിത്തം ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുവാനും അവരെ ശ്രവിക്കുവാനുമുള്ള കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ വേദി നൽകണമെന്നും സിനഡ് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു. ഇതിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ, വരുംകാല സിനഡു സമ്മേളനങ്ങളോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് ഒരു ദിവസം അല്മായ പ്രതിനിധികളെ, പാസ്റ്ററൽ കൗൺസിൽ സെക്രട്ടറിമാർ, സംഘടനാഭാരവാഹികളുടെ പ്രതിനിധികൾ തുടങ്ങിയവരെ, പങ്കെടുപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിച്ചു.

സെയ്ഫ് എൻവയൺമെന്റ് പ്രോഗ്രാം

വത്തിക്കാനിലെ വിശ്വാസ തിരുസംഘത്തിന്റെയും ഭാരത മെത്രാൻ സമിതിയുടെയും മാർഗരേഖകളുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ പള്ളികൾ, വൈദികഭവനങ്ങൾ, മതബോധന ക്ലാസ്സുകൾ, ഭക്തസംഘടനകൾ, ആതുരലയങ്ങൾ, സന്ന്യാസഭവനങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയുടെ പ്രവർത്തന രംഗങ്ങളിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കും കുട്ടികൾക്കും സന്തോഷകരമായും സുരക്ഷിതമായും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുവാനുള്ള സാഹചര്യം ഒരുക്കുവാൻ സിനഡു തീരുമാനിച്ചു. കെ.സി.ബി.സി. പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച സെയ്ഫ് എൻവയൺമെന്റ് പ്രോഗ്രാം, നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും സമർപ്പിതസമൂഹങ്ങളിലും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലും നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ ഡിക്രിയുടെ കൂടെ പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും സന്ന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളിലും ഇതുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ആവശ്യമായ സമിതികൾ രൂപീകരിക്കുകയും ഡയറക്ടർമാരെ നിയമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇത് നടപ്പിലാക്കുവാൻ ബഹു. വികാരിയച്ചൻമാരും സമർപ്പിതരും മറ്റു ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവരും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വീഴ്ചകളും പിഴവുകളും നിയമലംഘനങ്ങളും സംഭവിച്ചാൽ ഇന്ത്യയിലെ നിയമവ്യവസ്ഥ അനുശാസിക്കുന്ന നടപടികളായിരിക്കും സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടതെന്ന് ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

മാധ്യമ വിചിന്തനം

അതിവേഗം വളരുകയും അനുസ്യൂതം വ്യാപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന സാമൂഹിക മാധ്യമങ്ങളുടെയും ദൃശ്യശ്രാവ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങളുടെയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വബോധത്തോടുള്ള ഉപയോഗത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും ഈ മേഖലയിൽ ഇന്നു സംഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന അപചയത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും സിനഡ് ചർച്ചചെയ്തു. മാധ്യമസാക്ഷ

രതയും ധാർമ്മികതയും നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസിസമൂഹത്തിൽ വളർത്തിയെടുക്കുകയും അവരെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കുകയും വേണം. അസത്യവും അവാസ്തവവുമായ വാർത്തകളും സന്ദേശങ്ങളും പ്രചരിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് ന്യായീകരിക്കാനാവില്ല. വ്യക്തിഹത്യയും സഭാസംവിധാനങ്ങൾക്കെതിരെയുള്ള ബോധപൂർവകമായ ദുഷ്പ്രചാരണങ്ങളും നടത്തുന്നത് മാന്യമായ മാധ്യമപ്രവർത്തനമല്ല. സാമൂഹികമാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ സഭയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ തമസ്കരിക്കാനും അവഹേളിക്കാനും ബോധപൂർവ്വം നടത്തുന്ന ശ്രമങ്ങളെ കണ്ടില്ലെന്ന് നടിക്കാനാവില്ല. സഭയോടുള്ള ചില മാധ്യമങ്ങളുടെ വിപ്രതിപത്തി തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ് സഭയ്ക്കും സുവിശേഷമൂല്യങ്ങൾക്കും വേണ്ടി നിലകൊള്ളുവാൻ നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസികളെ പ്രത്യേകിച്ച്, യുവജനങ്ങളെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സഭയുടെ മാധ്യമപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ ഏകോപിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സിനഡിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ ഒരു മാധ്യമ കമ്മീഷനെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കട്ടെ.

വൈദിക പരിശീലനത്തിലെ നൂതനാഭിമുഖ്യങ്ങൾ

സഭയിലെ വൈദികപരിശീലന പദ്ധതികളെക്കുറിച്ച് സിനഡ് വിശദമായി ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയും സെമിനാരികളുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. ഭാവിവൈദികരുടെ പരിശീലനം ആനുകാലിക പ്രസക്തവും സഭാത്മകവുമായിരിക്കണം. വൈദികവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ പരിശീലന കാലത്തുള്ള അജപാലനശുശ്രൂഷ പ്രോൽസാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. വിശ്വാസ പരിശീലനംപോലെ മാധ്യമപരിശീലനവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതാണ്. ആത്മീയവളർച്ച ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുന്ന തോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ മാനസികമായ പക്ഷാത കൈവരിക്കുവാൻ പരിശീലനകാലഘട്ടത്തിൽ വൈദികവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. സെമിനാരികളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിൽ അല്പമായരുടെയും സന്ന്യസ്തരുടെയും സഹകരണവും പങ്കാളിത്തവും പ്രോൽസാഹനവും അനിവാര്യമാണെന്ന് സിനഡുപിതാക്കൻമാർ ആവർത്തിച്ച് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

പ്രവാസികളുടെ അജപാലനം

കേരളത്തിനു വെളിയിലും ഇന്ത്യയ്ക്കു പുറത്തുമുള്ള പ്രവാസി സമൂഹങ്ങളുടെ അജപാലനശുശ്രൂഷ എന്നും സിനഡിന്റെ സത്വര ശ്രദ്ധാവിഷയമാണ്. ഷംഷാബാദ് രൂപതാസ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ, കേരളത്തിനു പുറത്തുള്ള സീറോ മലബാർ സഭാ

മക്കൾ കൗദാശികവും അജപാലനാപരവുമായ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് നാട്ടിൽ വരുമ്പോൾ തങ്ങൾ ആയിരിക്കുന്ന സീറോ മലബാർ ഇടവകകളിൽനിന്ന് ആവശ്യമായ രേഖകൾ കൊണ്ടുവരേണ്ടതാണെന്ന കാര്യം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ആവശ്യമായ നിർദ്ദേശം അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാക്കന്മാർ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും നൽകുമല്ലോ. ഗൾഫിലുള്ള നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസിസമൂഹത്തിന്റെ അജപാലനകാര്യങ്ങളും സിനഡിൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്തു. മാർപ്പാപ്പയുടെ ഗൾഫ് സന്ദർശനം അവിടെയുള്ള നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസികൾക്ക് കൂടുതൽ ഉണർവ് പകർന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൽ സംബന്ധിച്ച എനിക്ക് ഇക്കാര്യം നേരിട്ട് മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചു. എല്ലാ സമൂഹങ്ങളിലും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് പ്രവാസി സമൂഹങ്ങളിലും, സഭാത്മകചൈതന്യം വളർത്തിയെടുക്കേണ്ടത് കാലഘട്ടത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യമാണ്. കേരളത്തിനു പുറത്തുള്ള സാഗർ, സത്ന, ഉജ്ജയിൻ രൂപതകൾ സുവർണജൂബിലി ആഘോഷിച്ച വിവരം ഈയവസരത്തിൽ സന്തോഷത്തോടെ സ്മരിക്കുന്നു. രൂപതയായി ഉയർത്തപ്പെട്ട കാനഡയിലെ മിസ്സിസ്സാഗായുടെ മേലധ്യക്ഷനും വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും ഈയവസരത്തിൽ അനുമോദനങ്ങൾ അറിയിക്കുന്നു.

സുവിശേഷവൽക്കരണത്തിന് നവസാധ്യതകൾ

നമ്മുടെ സഭ ഭാരതം മുഴുവനിലും ആഗോളതലത്തിലും വളരുന്നതിന് സഭയുടെ സുവിശേഷവൽക്കരണത്തിനുള്ള സാധ്യതകൾ വിപുലമാക്കാനുള്ള അവസരമായിട്ടുവേണം നാം സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ. ഇന്ത്യയിലെവിടെയും പ്രവർത്തനസാമ്രാജ്യം ലഭിച്ചത് മുഖ്യമായും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനത്തിനുള്ള വലിയ സാധ്യതകൾ നൽകുന്നുവെന്ന് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പാ 2017 ഒക്ടോബർ 9-ന് പ്രസിദ്ധീകരിച്ച എഴുത്തിൽ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. സുവിശേഷചൈതന്യത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിലും കാലഘട്ടത്തിന്റെ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ വിവേചിച്ചറിഞ്ഞും സഭയുടെ സുവിശേഷവൽക്കരണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ രൂപപ്പെടുത്തുകയും നവീകരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യണം. സഭാത്മക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലൂടെയും നമ്മുടെ സാന്നിധ്യത്തിലൂടെയും സാക്ഷ്യത്തിലൂടെയും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുവാനുള്ള സാധ്യതകളേറെയാണ്. ഇതിനായി സഹകരിക്കുവാൻ മാതൃസഭയിലെ വൈദികരും സന്ന്യസ്തരും അല്പമായപ്രേഷിതരും മുമ്പോട്ട് വരേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. നാട്ടിലെ ഓരോ രൂപതാവൈദികനും, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് യുവവൈദികർ, രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ വർഷത്തേക്കെങ്കിലും കേരളത്തിനു പുറത്തുള്ള നമ്മുടെ മിഷൻ കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിൽ സേവനം ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യം ആലോചിക്കണ

മെന്ന അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടായി. ഈ മിഷൻ സംരംഭത്തിൽ നാട്ടിലെ രൂപതകളിലെ സമ്പന്നരായ വ്യക്തികളും കുടുംബങ്ങളും പുറത്തുള്ള മിഷനുകളെ ദത്തെടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു സംവിധാനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ചിന്തിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഇതിനോടകം നമ്മുടെ മിഷൻ രൂപതകളെ നാട്ടിലെ പല രൂപതകളും ദത്തെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നതും നമ്മുടെ പല വൈദികരും സന്യാസസമൂഹങ്ങളും അവിടെ സേവനം ചെയ്യുന്നവെന്നതും ഈയവസരത്തിൽ നന്ദിപൂർവ്വം സ്മരിക്കുന്നു.

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലയിലെ വെല്ലുവിളികൾ

വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മേഖലയിൽ ന്യൂനപക്ഷ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങൾ നേരിടുന്ന പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ സഭ ഉൽക്കണ്ഠയോടെയാണ് നോക്കിക്കാണുന്നത്. വർഷങ്ങളായി നിയമനാംഗീകാരം ലഭിക്കാതെ വലയുന്ന അധ്യാപകരുടെ സാഹചര്യം സഹാനുഭൂതിയോടെ സഭ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നു. ന്യൂനപക്ഷാവകാശങ്ങൾ പരിഗണിക്കുമ്പോൾ മതങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉപവിഭാഗങ്ങളില്ല എന്നുള്ള കോടതിവിധിയും അനുബന്ധമായ സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവും ന്യൂനപക്ഷസ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ അവകാശങ്ങളെ ദോഷകരമായി ബാധിക്കുകയും ക്രമേണ അവയെ ഇല്ലാതാക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമെന്നത് നമുക്ക് ആശങ്കയുണർത്തുന്നതാണ്.

ഇനിയും പരിഹരിക്കാത്ത കർഷകരുടെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ

നമ്മുടെ കർഷകരുടെ ഭൂമിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ, കാർഷികവിളകളുടെ വിലത്തകർച്ച, കൃഷിയിടങ്ങളിലെ വന്യമൃഗശല്യം എന്നിവയ്ക്ക് സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഭാഗത്തുനിന്ന് ശാശ്വതമായ പരിരക്ഷയും പരിഹാരവുമാണ് സഭ പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നത്. അതിനായി രൂപതാതലത്തിലും ഇടവകതലത്തിലും ബോധവൽകരണ പരിപാടികൾ ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്. കത്തോലിക്കാ കോൺഗ്രസിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഇന്നത്തെ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ ഫലപ്രദമാക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കർഷകരുടെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ, ദളിത്സംവരണം തുടങ്ങിയ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ കത്തോലിക്കാ കോൺഗ്രസ് കൂടുതൽ ഇടപെടണമെന്ന അഭിപ്രായവുമുണ്ടായി.

സംഘടനാപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ

നമ്മുടെ യുവജനസംഘടനയായ SMYM (സീറോ മലബാർ യൂത്ത് മൂവ്മെന്റ്) ന്റെ നിയമാവലിക്ക് സിനഡ് നൽകിയിരുന്ന താൽകാലിക അംഗീകാരം മൂന്നു വർഷത്തേക്കുകൂടി നീട്ടുകയുണ്ടായി. നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും യുവജന സംഘടനാപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ കാര്യക്ഷമമായി നടത്തുവാനും അതുവഴി നമ്മുടെ യുവതീയു

വാക്കളുടെ വിശ്വാസജീവിതത്തെ ശക്തിപ്പെടുത്തുവാനും സിനഡ് പിതാക്കന്മാർ ആഹ്വാനം ചെയ്തു. ചെറുപുഷ്പ മിഷൻ ലീഗിന്റെ നിയമാവലിയും ഈ സിനഡു സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ അംഗീകരിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനത്തിനുള്ള മാർഗരേഖയും ഈ സിനഡ് അംഗീകരിച്ചു.

അസംബ്ലി തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ പ്രായോഗിക തലത്തിലേയ്ക്ക്

2016 ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസത്തിൽ നടന്ന നാലാമത് മേജർ ആർക്കിഎപ്പിസ്കോപ്പൽ അസംബ്ലിയുടെ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ സിനഡിൽ രൂപപ്പെട്ട 10 തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷം നടപ്പാക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഇതിന്റെ തുടർച്ചയായി നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതിനായി ഈ സിനഡ് സമ്മേളനം ചർച്ച ചെയ്തു തീരുമാനിച്ച 10 നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ താഴെ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നവയാണ്.

1. സഭയിൽ നേതൃത്വശുശ്രൂഷയിലേക്ക് കടന്നുവരുന്ന അല്മായ സഹോദരങ്ങൾക്ക്, പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് കൈക്കാരന്മാർ, ദേവാലയശുശ്രൂഷികൾ, മതാധ്യാപകർ, കുടുംബക്കൂട്ടായ്മ ഭാരവാഹികൾ, സംഘടനാഭാരവാഹികൾ എന്നിവർക്ക്, സഭയുടെ ജീവിതശൈലിക്ക് യോജിച്ച ലാളിത്യത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് വേണ്ടത്ര പരിശീലനം നൽകണം. പ്രായപരിധികൾക്കനുസരിച്ചും കുടുംബതലത്തിലും ധ്യാനങ്ങളും ബോധവൽക്കരണ സെമിനാറുകളും കൂടുതലായി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം.
2. ഇടവക ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള സഭയുടെ ഭരണസംവിധാനങ്ങളിൽ പ്രകടമാകുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ മേധാവിത്വ ശൈലി ഉപേക്ഷിക്കണം. സഭാസംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെ ഓഫീസുകൾ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയുടെ സ്വഭാവം നിലനിർത്തുകയും ആവശ്യമെങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് കൂടുതൽ സംലഭ്യമാകുംവിധം പുനഃക്രമീകരണം നടത്തുകയും വേണം.
3. വൈദികരിൽനിന്നും സമർപ്പിതരിൽനിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ഹൃദ്യമായ വാക്കുകളും സമീപനങ്ങളും എല്ലാ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും, വിശിഷ്യ യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കും ലഭിക്കണം.
4. പരിസ്ഥിതി സംരക്ഷണത്തിനായി ഇടവകകളും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും ക്ലീൻ പാരിഷ് പരിപാടികളും ക്ലീൻ ക്യാമ്പസ് പ്രോജക്റ്റുകളും നടപ്പിലാക്കണം.
5. യുവജനങ്ങളുടെ ജോലി സാധ്യതകൾ സംബന്ധിച്ചും വിവിധ രീതികളിൽ ക്ലേശമനുഭവിക്കുന്നവർക്കുള്ള സർക്കാർ പദ്ധതി

കൾ, സബ്സിഡികൾ, സഹായങ്ങൾ മുതലായവയെക്കുറിച്ചും അറിവ് നൽകുന്നതിനായി ഹെൽപ്ഡെസ്ക്, രൂപത/ഫൊറോന തലങ്ങളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തണം.

- 6. പാർശ്വവത്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടവർ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ക്രൂരമായ പീഡനത്തിനു വിധേയരായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത് തികച്ചും അപലപനീയമാണ്. ദളിതരുടെയും സ്ത്രീകളുടെയും കുട്ടികളുടെയും മതന്യൂനപക്ഷങ്ങളുടെയും വിമോചനത്തിനും ശാക്തീകരണത്തിനും വേണ്ടി നാം മുന്നിട്ടിറങ്ങണം. പാർശ്വവത്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടവർക്കുള്ള അവകാശങ്ങൾ സർക്കാരിൽനിന്ന് നേടിയെടുക്കുവാൻ ഫലപ്രദമായ മാർഗങ്ങൾ തേടേണ്ടതാണ്.
- 7. മിഷണറിമാരെ, അവരുടെ മിഷൻ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ പങ്കുവയ്ക്കാനും അവരുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കാനുമായി ഇടവകകളിലേക്കും രൂപതകളിലേക്കും ക്ഷണിക്കണം.
- 8. തിരുനാളുകൾ ഇടവകയുടെ പൊതുവായ ആഘോഷമാക്കുവാൻ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയും ഒരു വ്യക്തിയെയോ, കുടുംബത്തെയോ മാത്രമായി പ്രസുദേന്തി ആക്കുന്നത് നിരുത്സാഹപ്പെടുത്തുകയും വേണം.
- 9. വൈവാഹിക കുടുംബബന്ധങ്ങളിലുള്ള തകർച്ചമൂലം ദുരിതമനുഭവിക്കുന്ന വിശ്വാസികളെ സഹായിക്കുവാനും സന്തോഷപ്രദമായ കുടുംബജീവിതം പുനരാരംഭിക്കുവാൻ അവരെ പ്രാപ്തരാക്കാനുംവേണ്ടി എല്ലാ വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും പരിശ്രമിക്കണം. യോഗ്യരായ ദമ്പതികളെ ഇത്തരം അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകൾക്കായി പരിശീലനം നൽകി നിയോഗിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്.
- 10. പ്രവാസി പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ പ്രോവിൻസുകളും ഭവനങ്ങളും തുടങ്ങുവാൻ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിൽപ്പെട്ട സമർപ്പിത സമൂഹങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാകണം.

2018 സെപ്റ്റംബർ 1 മുതൽ പ്രളയത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ ആസ്ഥാനകാര്യലയത്തിലെ ചാപ്പലിൽ നിത്യാരാധന നടത്തുന്നതിൽ സിനഡ് സംതൃപ്തി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. നിത്യാരാധനയുടെ ഓരോ ദിവസവും സഭയുടെ വിവിധങ്ങളായ നിയോഗങ്ങൾ സമർപ്പിച്ച് പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. സിനഡുദിവസങ്ങളിൽ അഭിവന്ദ്യപിതാക്കൻമാരെ അഭിസംബോധന ചെയ്യാനും വ്യക്തിപരമായി കണ്ടു സംസാരിക്കാനും പേപ്പൽ നൂൺഷ്യോ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ് ജാൻബത്തിസ്ത ദികാത്രോ സന്നിഹിതനാ

യിരുന്നു എന്നത് ഈയവസരത്തിൽ നന്ദിയോടെ സ്മരിക്കുന്നു. അതുപോലെ ദീർഘനാൾ സഭാകേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ ശുശ്രൂഷ ചെയ്ത ശേഷം വിരമിക്കുന്ന കുരിയ ചാൻസലർ ബഹു. ആന്റണി കൊള്ള നൂരച്ചനും ഫിനാൻസ് ഓഫീസർ ബഹു. മാത്യു പുളിമുട്ടിലച്ചനും ഈ സാഹചര്യത്തിൽ കൃതജ്ഞത അർപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

വളരെ ഫലപ്രദവും സജീവവുമായ ചിന്തകൾക്കും ചർച്ചകൾക്കും ശേഷം 18-ാം തീയതി സിനഡ് സമാപിച്ചു. സിനഡിന്റെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയ്ക്കും നന്മയ്ക്കും ഉപകരിക്കുന്നതിന് നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരുടെയും പ്രാർത്ഥനയും സഹകരണവും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

കർദ്ദിനാൾ

ജോർജ്ജ്

ആലഞ്ചേരി

സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽനിന്ന് 2019-ാം ആണ്ട് ഫെബ്രുവരി മാസം 20-ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

CIRCULAR

Circular of the Major Archbishop after the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, Session I, held from 07 to 18 January 2019 in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St Thomas, Kakknad.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As you are aware, it was not possible to hold the second session of the 26th Synod on account of the flood situation prevailing in our state at that time. Hence the first session of the 27th Synod, January 2019, was extended for two weeks and was held at Mount St. Thomas, Kakknad. The bishops at the Synod expressed their deep sorrow at the loss of lives and the destruction of the property that took place as a consequence of the flood. They also offered their prayers and all kinds of assistance to those who experienced pain, the loss of their loved ones and the destruction of their property. The relief works done by the members of the Church revealed the unbounded generosity, volunteering and sacrifices of our brothers and sisters in and outside the country. The Synod expressed its gratitude and appreciation to those who extended their help to all those who experienced deep pain and sacrifices.

It is a fact that all have participated very sincerely in the relief works after the flood. According to the latest facts and figures, the Syro-Malabar Church through its eparchies, parishes, the religious

congregations and the laity have contributed around 187 crores (Rs.187,59,94805) worth of relief assistance to the flood victims in different parts of the State. Of this, a cheque of one crore thirteen lakhs and five thousand (Rs. 1,13,05000) was given directly to the Chief Minister. This was collected through the SPANDAN, the social development network department of the Syro-Malabar Church. Also the Church gave a contribution of 50 lakhs through the KCBC when it gave one crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Synod offered a special welcome to the new bishops of Idukki and Sagar, Mar John Nellikunnel and Mar James Athikalam MST for their presence at the Synod for the first time. The Synod also offered its greetings to Mar Jacob Manathodath who has taken over as the Administrator of Ernakulam-Angamaly Archeparchy. The Synodal session began with a review of its previous Synodal decisions and expressed its satisfaction at the implementation of those decisions at the diocesan and parish levels.

Pastoral Approaches and Renewal of the Church

The bishops have put in special efforts to understand the events which the Church had to face recently in a spirit of humility and reverence. The priests and the religious have to pay more serious attention to their call and responsibility. It is necessary that all should absorb the spirit of the priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, avoiding all kinds of superiority and institutionalization. Everyone was of the opinion that there should be a permanent ecclesiastical solution to these problems. There was an examination of conscience with regard to the fundamental responsibility of bearing witness to Jesus as well as to finding a permanent solution to the problems that arise from time to time. The Synod decided that there should be a spiritual renewal and that efforts for holiness should be exhibited at all levels of the Church, from the top to bottom. A circular highlighting those decisions was read at all parishes of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The Synod Fathers paid special attention to solving the problems faced by the Church in the changing social and political contexts of today's world. Discussions were held in solving these problems without losing our Christian self-identity and credibility.

Our Church which has celebrated the silver jubilee of its establishment as a *sui iuris* Church has to return to a more vigorous witnessing and spiritual growth. All the sections of the Church have to become more conscious of their vocation as well as of their call to holiness. We have to strengthen more deeply the witness of our priests and the dedication of the religious.

We have to reevaluate the working style of our family units, prayer meetings and other spiritual organizations. The participation of the religious and the laity in the social spheres has to be made in conformity with the Church and the faith and by adopting new ways for the practice of faith. It was decided by the Synod to ask all the eparchies to institute Grievance Redressal Cells so that they could decide on the complaints that come from within and outside the Church. The lay participation in these Cells is to be strongly enforced and that decisions should be made within a reasonable time frame so that justice would not be denied to the complainants.

In solving problems that arise from time to time, there should be an equitable participation of the religious, the laity and the clergy and their opinions should be seriously listened to in proper forums by the authorities. It was discussed whether it would be possible to set apart a day before the official beginning of the Synod to have a consultative meeting with the representatives of the lay faithful including the secretaries of pastoral councils and other religious organizations.

Safe Environment Programme

It was decided by the Synod to establish a safe environment for children and women to work in churches, schools, rectories, religion classes, monasteries, orphanages etc. in accordance with the safe- environment regulations instituted by the Vatican and by the

CBCI. The Safe Environment Programme published by the KCBC is endorsed by the Major Archbishop with a Decree for the Syro-Malabar Church. All the eparchies and religious congregations/institutes have to form new committees and directors for this purpose. Vicars, superiors of the consecrated and others entrusted with this responsibility have to implement this. If there is a failure in this matter, they would necessarily be subject to the punishments according to the Indian penal code.

Reflections on the Influence of the Media

The Synod discussed the fast-developing changes in the social and the electronic media and their highly negative influences over the minds of the people. The need for media literacy and the moral positions to be adopted have to be fostered in our communities.

Spreading falsehoods and erroneous pieces of news can never be justified. To spread calumnious stories and to denigrate the activities of the Church are not good journalism or media ministry. We cannot close our eyes to the manner in which the social media are being used to denigrate the Church. We have to train our youths to become aware of these hostile attitudes of the media towards the Church. I would like to inform you that a media commission is being constituted to coordinate the media services of the Syro-Malabar Church.

New Trends in the formation of seminarians

The Synod discussed the existing formation programmes in the seminaries and examined the report of the working of the seminaries. The training of future priests should become relevant to our times and have to be ecclesial. The pastoral ministry of the seminarians during the formation period should be encouraged. It was noted that training in the use of the media is as important as the pastoral ministry for the seminarians. They should be helped to attain emotional and mental maturity. The bishops emphasized the need to involve the laity and the religious in the formation of seminarians.

Pastoral Ministry for the Migrants

The pastoral ministry for migrants living outside Kerala and India were always foremost in the thoughts of the Fathers of the Synod. In the context of the establishment of the eparchy of Shamshabad, the migrants living outside Kerala are asked to get the necessary documents from the parishes where they live, when they come to Kerala to receive sacraments and other religious services. The Bishops will be giving necessary instructions in this matter. The needs of the migrants in the Gulf countries were also discussed at the Synod. The visit of the Holy Father to the Gulf countries has given a great fillip to the faithful there. I could sense that during my visit there at that time. It is necessary to foster the feelings of closeness to the Church not only in the Gulf areas but also in other places. I remember with great delight on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the eparchies of Sagar, Satna and Ujjain, experiencing the faith and attachment of the people there to the Church. I also offer my prayers and best wishes to the Bishop and the faithful of the Mississauga, Canada on its erection as a new Eparchy.

New Possibilities of Evangelization

That the Church has got the right of evangelization and pastoral care all over India is a sign that we have to develop and expand the opportunities for evangelization. Holy Father Pope Francis has emphasized this aspect of renewed emphasis on evangelization all over India in his letter published on 9 October, 2017. We have to organize and formulate the evangelizing efforts of the Church, taking into account the needs of the times in the light of the spirit of evangelization. There are plenty of possibilities of new ways of evangelization through the various activities of the Church as well as through our personal witnessing. For this, the priests, the religious and lay volunteers from home eparchies have to extend their cooperation to the missionaries. There was a thinking that the newly ordained priests and those priests who are interested should be given an opportunity to work for a few years in mission areas. It

should also be discussed whether it would be possible for financially capable parishes in home eparchies could adopt parishes in the mission eparchies. I remember with gratitude the services of many eparchies and parishes who have adopted parishes and eparchies in the mission areas.

Challenges in the Educational Front

The Church views with a lot of anxiety the problems experienced by the minority institutions in the educational front. The Church views with great sympathy and understanding the pain of teachers whose appointments are not yet regularized by the Government. Reservations granted to each community should be preserved in their totality. It is not proper to club all the reserved communities together which would deprive some of the communities their right to reservation.

Problems of Farmers

The Church expects swift and permanent solutions from the part of the Government with regard to the problems experienced by the farmers in the case of getting their tenancy rights, protection of their farm lands from the attacks of wild animals and from the low pricing of their produce. More programmes to create the awareness of the problems of the farmers should be organized. The activities of the Catholic Congress (AKCC) should be revitalized. It should be more actively involved in solving the problems of the farmers and getting the due rights to the Dalits.

Organizational Activities

The Synod extended its temporary approval of the Constitution of the SMYM for three more years. The Fathers of the Synod appealed to make the activities of the SMYM active in all the eparchies and to energize the youth in their practice of faith. The Synod also approved the statutes of the *Cherupushpa Mission League* (CML) and the Guidelines for Vocation Promotion in our Church.

Putting into Practice the Resolutions of the Assembly

It was possible to put into practice last year ten of the resolutions of the Fourth Major Archiepiscopal Assembly held in August 2016. As a follow-up to that, the present Synod has approved the following ten more resolutions for putting into practice. They are the following:

1. Special training is to be given in the practice of the simplicity of life style to all those who hold leadership positions in the Church, especially to the office-bearers of religious organizations, trustees, altar servers, catechists, family unit leaders etc. More encouragement is to be given for holding retreats, training sessions etc according to their age in family groups and in common.
2. Bureaucratic administrative style should be abandoned at all the administrative set-ups of the Church. All the administrative offices of the Church should maintain a pastoral attitude by being readily available to the faithful.
3. The statements and comments coming from the priests and the religious should be more gentle and courteous.
4. Parishes and institutions should implement green projects to protect the environment.
5. Helpdesks should be established at forane/eparchial levels in order to make available to the job seekers and those affected by sicknesses to get assistance from the Govt.
6. The marginalized are enduring a lot of hardships. We have to come forward to assist the Dalit, children, women and religious minorities and implement programmes that empower them.
7. Missionaries should be invited to parishes and eparchies to share their experiences.
8. Feast celebrations in the parishes should be organized ensuring the participation of all. The tendency to find an individual or a family as sponsor of the parish feast is to be discouraged.

9. Priests and the religious should offer help to broken families and they should be given assistance to lead a secure family life.
10. The Congregations of the consecrated men and women should establish houses and provinces in areas where the migrant communities live.

The Synod felt happy about the starting of Perpetual Adoration at the Mount St. Thomas chapel. The intentions of the Church are specially remembered on each day. It is also gratifying to note that the Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Giambattista di Quattro was present at the Synod and met individually with the Bishops.

The Synod also expressed its appreciation of the services rendered by Fr. Antony Kollanur and Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil who served as Chancellor and Finance Officer respectively in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for a good number of years.

The Synod concluded on Jan 18th after two weeks of very fruitful reflections and discussions. I request your prayers so that all the deliberations and decisions of the Synod may help the growth and the good of the Church.

Yours cordially in Christ,

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on 20 February 2019.

Prot. No. 1345/2019

സർക്കുലർ

2019 ഓഗസ്റ്റ് 19 മുതൽ 30 വരെ മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിൽ സമ്മേളിച്ച സിനഡിനു ശേഷം സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ പിതാക്കന്മാർ സംയുക്തമായി പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്ന സർക്കുലർ.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയമുള്ളവരേ,

നമ്മുടെ അമ്മയായ പരിശുദ്ധ കന്യകാമാതാവിന്റെ ജനനത്തിനാളിന് നാം ഒരുങ്ങുകയാണല്ലോ. ദൈവകൃപയാലും പരിശുദ്ധ അമ്മയുടെ മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ്യതയാലും സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയ്ക്ക് നാളിതുവരെ ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള എല്ലാ നന്മകൾക്കും നമുക്ക് ദൈവത്തിന് നന്ദി പറയാം. ഭാരതം മുഴുവനും പ്രേഷിത പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന് വഴി തുറന്നു കിട്ടിയതും ഭാരതത്തിനു വെളിയിൽ വിവിധ ഭൂഖണ്ഡങ്ങളിൽ രൂപതകൾ ഉൾപ്പെടെ അജപാലന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ലഭിച്ചതും നമ്മുടെ സഭയോടുള്ള ദൈവത്തിന്റെ കരുതലായി നമുക്ക് മനസ്സിലാക്കാം.

എന്നാൽ, സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ ചരിത്രത്തിലെ വളരെ വേദനാജനകമായ നാളുകളിലൂടെയാണ് നാം കടന്നു പോയ്ക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നത്. സഭ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുന്ന പ്രതിസന്ധികൾക്ക് ദൈവഹിതപ്രകാരമുള്ള പരിഹാരം കണ്ടെത്തുവാനായി ദൈവജനം മുഴുവൻ ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നത് ഞങ്ങൾ നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു. നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ ഫലം സിനഡു പിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ ചർച്ചകളിൽ പ്രകടമായിരുന്നു. ദൈവതിരുമുമ്പിൽ ഏറെ വിനയത്തോടും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മ പ്രേരണയാലുള്ള കൂട്ടായ്മയിലൂടെയാണ് സിനഡിലെ ചർച്ചകൾ നടന്നത്. ഇത്തവണത്തെ സിനഡിന്റെ കൂടുതൽ ദിവസങ്ങളും എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയു

മായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കുവാനാണ് സിനഡ് പ്രാർത്ഥനാപൂർവ്വം ചിലവഴിച്ചത്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ പരിശുദ്ധ സിംഹാസനത്തിന്റെ മാർഗ്ഗനിർദ്ദേശങ്ങളും സിനഡിനു മുന്നിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ ഭൂമിവിവാദം, വ്യാജരേഖ കേസ്, അതിരൂപതയിലെ ഭരണനിർവ്വഹണം കൂടുതൽ കാര്യക്ഷമമാക്കാനുള്ള ക്രമീകരണങ്ങൾ, അതിരൂപതയിൽ സംഭവിച്ച അച്ചടക്കലംഘനങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങിയ വിഷയങ്ങളാണ് പ്രധാനമായും ഈ സിനഡിൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്തത്. ഓരോ വിഷയത്തിലും സിനഡു പിതാക്കന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും തങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായങ്ങൾ ഹൃദയം തുറന്ന് പങ്കുവെച്ചത് വലിയ കൃപയുടെ നിമിഷങ്ങളായിരുന്നു. സഭാഗാത്രത്തിലെ പ്രതിസന്ധികളിൽ വേണ്ട രീതിയിൽ ഇടപെട്ട് യഥാസമയം പരിഹരിക്കാൻ കഴിയാതിരുന്നതിലും ദൈവജനത്തിന് സുവിശേഷാധിഷ്ഠിത സാക്ഷ്യം നൽകുന്നതിൽ വീഴ്ച വന്നതിലും സിനഡു പിതാക്കന്മാരായ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് പറ്റിയ തെറ്റ് ദൈവത്തിനും ദൈവജനത്തിനും മുമ്പിൽ എളിമയോടെ ഏറ്റുപറഞ്ഞ് മാപ്പ് ചോദിക്കുന്നു.

ഭൂമി വിവാദം

എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ ഭൂമിയിടപാടുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഉയർന്നുവന്ന വിവാദങ്ങൾ കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു വർഷത്തിലധികമായി സഭയെ ആഴത്തിൽ മുറിവേൽപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ആരോപണങ്ങൾ ഉന്നയിക്കപ്പെട്ടത് സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ പിതാവും തലവനുമായ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിനെതിരേയാണ് എന്നത് പ്രതിസന്ധികളെ കൂടുതൽ ഗുരുതരമാക്കി. ഭൂമി വിവാദവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വിവിധ പഠനങ്ങളും വിലയിരുത്തലുകളും സിനഡിൽ വിശദമായി ചർച്ച ചെയ്യുകയുണ്ടായി.

വിവാദമായ ഭൂമി ഇടപാടിൽ അതിരൂപതയിലെ കാനോനിക സമിതികളുടെയും സഹായ മെത്രാന്മാരുടെയും മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തയുടെയും കൂട്ടായ ഉത്തരവാദിത്തത്തിൽ വീഴ്ചകളുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്ന് സിനഡ് മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നു. വിവിധ പഠനങ്ങളുടെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ വ്യക്തമാകുന്നത് കർദിനാളോ സഹായ മെത്രാന്മാരോ, അതിരൂപതയിലെ വൈദികരോ ഭൂമിയിടപാടുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് യാതൊരുവിധ സാമ്പത്തിക നേട്ടവും ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിട്ടില്ല എന്നാണ്. ഇടനിലക്കാർ റിയൽ എസ്റ്റേറ്റ് രീതിയിൽ സാമ്പത്തിക നേട്ടം മുന്നിൽ കണ്ടു പ്രവർത്തിച്ചത് യഥാസമയം കണ്ടെത്താനോ നടപടികൾ

എടുക്കാനോ അതിരൂപത നേതൃത്വത്തിനോ കാനോനിക സമിതി കൾക്കോ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ല എന്നതാണ് യാഥാർത്ഥ്യം. ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്ന വൈദികർ തങ്ങളുടെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വത്തിൽ സാരമായ വീഴ്ച വരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഉത്തരവാദിപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധക്കുറവും ഇടനിലക്കാരുടെ അന്യായമായ ലാഭേച്ഛയുംമൂലം അതിരൂപതയുടെ വസ്തുക്കൾ നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ട് പോകുമോ എന്നോർത്ത് അതിരൂപതയിലെ വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും അല്പമായരും പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ച വികാരങ്ങൾ ഞങ്ങൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കുന്നു.

ഭൂമി ഇടപാടിലൂടെ അതിരൂപതയ്ക്ക് നഷ്ടം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അത് ശാസ്ത്രീയമായ പഠനങ്ങളിലൂടെ കണ്ടെത്തേണ്ടതും വീണ്ടെടുക്കേണ്ടതുമാണ്. എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിൽ നിയമിതനായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരി നേതൃത്വമെടുത്ത് സ്ഥിരം സിനഡ് അംഗങ്ങളുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ ഇതിനായി സമയബന്ധിതമായി പരിശ്രമിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഭൂമി വിവാദത്തിന് ശാശ്വതമായ ഒരു പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കുവാനായി സിനഡ് നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്ന കർമ്മപദ്ധതികളോട് എല്ലാവരും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി സഹകരിക്കണമെന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾ അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. മുൻവിധികൾ മാറ്റിവെച്ച് തുറന്ന മനസ്സോടെ, അതിരൂപത ഒരു കുടുംബമാണ് എന്ന ചിന്തയോടെ, പരിശ്രമിച്ചാൽ ഈ പ്രതിസന്ധിയെ തരണം ചെയ്യാൻ നമുക്ക് കഴിയും. അതിന് ആവശ്യമായ എല്ലാ നടപടിക്രമങ്ങൾക്കും ഈ സിനഡ് പ്രതിജ്ഞാബദ്ധമാണ്.

വ്യാജരേഖാ വിവാദം

ഭൂമി ഇടപാടുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട ആരോപണങ്ങളെ സാധൂകരിക്കുന്ന തരത്തിലുള്ള ചില വ്യാജരേഖകളും പ്രത്യക്ഷപ്പെട്ടു എന്നത് ഏറെ ദൗർഭാഗ്യകരമാണ്. ഈ വ്യാജരേഖകളുടെ യഥാർത്ഥ ഉറവിടം കണ്ടെത്തുവാനായി സിനഡിന്റെ അംഗീകാരത്തോടെ നൽകിയ കേസിൽ അഭിവാന്ദ്യ മാർ ജേക്കബ് മനത്തോടത്ത് പിതാവും ബഹു. പോൾ തേലക്കാട്ടച്ചനും പ്രതിചേർക്കപ്പെട്ടത് വ്യാജരേഖാ കേസിന് പുതിയ മാനങ്ങൾ നൽകി. സിനഡിനു വേണ്ടി പരാതി നൽകിയ വൈദികന്റെ മൊഴിക്ക് വിരുദ്ധമായി പ്രതിചേർക്കപ്പെട്ട ഇവരെ പ്രതിപട്ടികയിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കാൻ പരാതിക്കാരൻ CrPC 164 വകുപ്പ് പ്രകാരം മജിസ്ട്രേറ്റിനു മുമ്പിൽ മൊഴി നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ കേസിനോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് പരാതിക്കാരന്റേതായി നിയമപരമായി നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന

ഏക മൊഴി ഇതു മാത്രമാണ്. ഈ കേസിൽ സിനഡിനുവേണ്ടി നൽകിയ പരാതിയിൽ ഇവരെ പ്രതിപ്പട്ടികയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്താൻ സിനഡ് ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല എന്ന നിലപാട് ഔദ്യോഗികമായി ആവർത്തിക്കുന്നു. പരാതിയിൽ ഉന്നയിച്ച വസ്തുതകൾക്ക് വിരുദ്ധമായി വ്യത്യസ്ത പ്രഥമവിവര മൊഴികൾ (FIS) പോലീസ് ഹാജരാക്കിയതിനു പിന്നിൽ ചില സഭാവിരുദ്ധ ബാഹ്യശക്തികളുടെ ഇടപെടൽ ഉണ്ട് എന്ന് സിനഡ് സംശയിക്കുന്നു. ഈ കേസുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ വൈദികരോ അല്മായരോ അകാരണമായി അപമാനിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവരുടെ ദുഃഖത്തിൽ സിനഡു പിതാക്കന്മാർ പങ്കുചേരുന്നു. വ്യാജരേഖയുടെ യഥാർത്ഥ ഉറവിടം കണ്ടെത്തണം എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തിലുറച്ചു നിൽക്കുമ്പോഴും ഈ കേസുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് അന്യായമായി ആരും പീഡിപ്പിക്കപ്പെടുമെന്ന് സിനഡിന് നിർബന്ധമുണ്ട്. ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ നിയമപരമായി സാധ്യമായ ഇടപെടലുകൾ നടത്തുന്നതാണ്.

അച്ചടക്ക ലംഘനം.

വിവാദങ്ങൾക്കിടയിലും സഭയുടെ പൊതു നന്മയെ മുൻനിർത്തി ആത്മസംയമനത്തോടെ സഭാശുശ്രൂഷ നിർവ്വഹിച്ച എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ വൈദികരെയും സന്യസ്തരെയും അല്മായരെയും സിനഡ് നന്ദിപൂർവ്വം ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ, ഭൂമി വിവാദത്തോടനുബന്ധിച്ചുണ്ടായ പ്രതിഷേധങ്ങളിൽ പലതും സഭയിൽ പാലിക്കേണ്ട അച്ചടക്കത്തിന്റെ സകല സീമകളും ലംഘിക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നു. സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ പിതാവും തലവനുമായ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കോലം കത്തിച്ച ചില വ്യക്തികളുടെ നടപടി സഭയ്ക്ക് തീരാകളങ്കമാണ് വരുത്തിവെച്ചത്. വൈദികർ അതിരൂപതാ കാര്യാലയത്തിലേക്കു പ്രതിഷേധ പ്രകടനമായി ചെന്ന് നിവേദനം നൽകിയതും അതിരൂപതാധ്യക്ഷനെതിരേ ആക്ഷേപകരമായ വിശേഷണങ്ങളോടെ പത്രസമ്മേളനങ്ങൾ ആവർത്തിച്ചു നടത്തിയതും കത്തോലിക്കാ പൗരോഹിത്യ സംസ്കാരത്തിന് അന്യവും സഭയുടെ ശത്രുക്കൾക്ക് വിരുന്നൊരുക്കുന്നതുമായ നടപടികളായിരുന്നു.

അതിമെത്രാസന മന്ദിരത്തിൽ ഒരു വൈദികൻ ഉപവാസ സമരം നടത്തിയതും അതിന് ഏതാനും വൈദികർ പിന്തുണ പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചതും സഭാശാത്രത്തിൽ വലിയ ക്ഷതമാണ് ഏൽപ്പിച്ചത്. ഇത്തരം

തെറ്റായ നടപടികളെ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ സിനഡ് ശക്തമായി അപലപിക്കുകയും സഭയുടെ മുഴുവൻ ദുഃഖം ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവരെ അറിയിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലൂടെ ദൈവജനത്തിനുണ്ടായ മനോവേദനയും ദുർമാതൃകയും എത്ര വലുതായിരുന്നുവെന്ന് ഇതിൽ ഉൾപ്പെട്ടവർ മനസ്സിലാക്കുമെന്ന് സിനഡ് പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നു. ഇത്തരം അച്ചടക്ക ലംഘനങ്ങൾ ആവർത്തിക്കരുതെന്ന് സിനഡ് എല്ലാവരെയും ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ ശരീരമായ സഭയെ ആഴത്തിൽ മുറിവേൽപ്പിച്ച ഈ പ്രതികരണങ്ങളിലൂടെ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭ മാത്രമല്ല ഭാരതസഭ മുഴുവൻ അപമാനിതമാകുന്ന സാഹചര്യമുണ്ടായി. അതിരുപതയുടെ നഷ്ടങ്ങളെക്കുറിച്ച് പ്രതികരിച്ചപ്പോൾ 'തന്റെ തിരുരക്തം വിലയായി കൊടുത്ത് സഭയെ നേടിയ' മിശിഹായാണ് (അപ്പ. 20:28) വിസ്മരിക്കപ്പെട്ടത്.

'എന്റെ സുഹൃത്തുക്കളുടെ ഭവനത്തിൽ വെച്ച് എനിക്കു മുറിവേറ്റു' (സഖ. 13:6) എന്ന കർത്താവിന്റെ വിലാപത്തിന് നാം ചെവി കൊടുക്കണം. സഭയിൽ സംജാതമായ ഈ അച്ചടക്കരാഹിത്യത്തെ തിരുത്താനുള്ള ഉത്തരവാദിത്തം എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരുപതയിൽ പുതുതായി നിയമിതനായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയെ സിനഡ് ഭരമേൽപ്പിക്കുകയാണ്. ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവർക്ക് അനുതാപത്തിനും അനൂരഞ്ജനത്തിനുമുള്ള വഴി സുഗമമാക്കുന്നതിന് മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയെ സഹായിക്കാൻ സിനഡ് ഒരു മെത്രാൻ സമിതിയെ നിയോഗിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. തുറന്ന മനസ്സോടെ ഈ നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടവർ സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്ന് സിനഡ് ആവശ്യപ്പെടുകയാണ്. സമീപകാലത്ത് സഭയിൽ വിവാദം സൃഷ്ടിച്ച പല സംഭവങ്ങളിലും വൈദികരുടെയും സന്യസ്തരുടെയും അച്ചടക്കരാഹിത്യം എത്രമേൽ അപകടകരമാകാമെന്നതിന് സഭയൊന്നാകെ സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിച്ചതാണ്. എല്ലാ മക്കളെയും ചേർത്തു നിർത്താൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്ന അമ്മയുടെ മനസ്സോടെയാണ് സഭാ നേതൃത്വം ഈ നിലപാടുകൾ സ്വീകരിക്കുന്നത്.

വിവാദങ്ങളുടെ മറവിൽ, സഭയിൽ വിഭാഗീയത വളർത്താനുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ വിവിധ സോഷ്യൽ മീഡിയ ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളിലൂടെ നടന്നു എന്നതും അപലപനീയമാണ്. സഭാതലവന്റെ സംരക്ഷകർ എന്ന് സ്വയം വിശേഷിപ്പിച്ച് എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരുപതയെയും അതിരുപതയിലെ വൈദികരെയും സഹായമെത്രാന്മാരെയും അപ

മാനിക്കുന്ന വിധത്തിൽ പ്രതികരിച്ചവരും ഇവർക്കെതിരായി പ്രതികരിച്ചവരും ചേർന്ന് ചാനലുകളിലും ഇതര മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലും സൃഷ്ടിച്ച പ്രകോപനങ്ങൾ സഭാവിരുദ്ധ പ്രവൃത്തിയാണ്. സാമൂഹ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ പരസ്പരം അധിക്ഷേപിക്കുന്ന വിവിധ ഗ്രൂപ്പുകളെ നിയന്ത്രിക്കാൻ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. 'ഭിന്നതയുടെ മതിലുകൾ തകർത്ത് നമ്മെ ഒന്നിപ്പിച്ച ഈശോയാണ് നമ്മുടെ സമാധാനം' (എഫേ. 2:14). സഭയിൽ ഭിന്നത വളർത്താൻ മാത്രം ഉപകരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാവിധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെയും സിനഡ് ഏകസ്വരത്തിൽ അപലപിക്കുന്നു. ചാനൽ ചർച്ചകളിൽ പങ്കെടുക്കുന്നതിനും പത്രക്കുറിപ്പുകൾ നൽകുന്നതിനും വൈദികർക്ക് മെത്രാന്റെ അനുമതി ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന കാര്യം വീണ്ടും ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭയിലെ അല്മായർക്ക് അഭിപ്രായപ്രകടനത്തിനും സഭാഭരണത്തിലെ പങ്കാളിത്തം ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുന്നതിനുമായി വ്യവസ്ഥാപിത മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളും സംഘടനാ സംവിധാനങ്ങളുമുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ, അടുത്ത കാലത്ത് നിക്ഷിപ്ത താല്പര്യങ്ങളുള്ള ചില വ്യക്തികൾ സഭയിലെ അല്മായരുടെയും സന്യസ്തരുടെയും അവകാശസംരക്ഷകർ എന്ന വ്യാജേന സ്വന്തം നിലയിൽ സംഘടനകൾ രൂപപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇത്തരം സംഘടനകൾ പലപ്പോഴും സഭാവിരുദ്ധ ശക്തികളുടെ കൈകളിലെ പാവകളായി വർത്തിക്കേണ്ടി വരുന്നതായും സിനഡ് സംശയിക്കുന്നു. സഭയിൽ വിഭാഗീയത വളർത്താനും സഭയെ സമൂഹമധ്യത്തിൽ അവഹേളിതയാക്കുവാനുമാണ് ഇത്തരം സംഘടനകളുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ ഇടവരുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതിനാൽ അതിരൂപതാ സുതാര്യതാ സമിതി (A.M.T.), അതിരൂപതാ സംരക്ഷണ സമിതി, അല്മായ മുന്നേറ്റം, ഇന്ത്യൻ കാത്തലിക് ഫോറം, വേൾഡ് ക്രിസ്ത്യൻ കൗൺസിൽ, സേവ് അവർ സിസ്റ്റേഴ്സ് തുടങ്ങിയ സംഘടനകളുടെ സഭാവിരുദ്ധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ സിനഡ് പൂർണ്ണമായും നിരാകരിക്കുന്നു. ഇവയെ സഭാസംഘടനകളായി അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്ന് സിനഡ് അറിയിക്കുന്നു.

മുന്നോട്ടുള്ള വഴി

അഭിപ്രായഭിന്നതകൾ അവസാനിപ്പിച്ച് എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയ്ക്കും സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയ്ക്കും മുന്നോട്ടു പോകേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. 'നിങ്ങൾ ഒരേ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ചിന്തിച്ച്, ഒരേ സ്നേഹ

ത്തിൽ വർത്തിച്ച് ഒരേ ആത്മാവും ഒരേ അഭിപ്രായവുമുള്ളവരാകുവിൻ' (ഫിലി. 2:2) എന്ന ശ്ലീഹായുടെ വാക്കുകൾ നമുക്ക് ഓർമ്മിക്കാം. ഇതിന് ആവശ്യമായ ഒരു കർമ്മപദ്ധതി കൂടിയാലോചനകളിലൂടെ സിനഡ് രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയ്ക്ക് സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലുള്ള പ്രമുഖസ്ഥാനം സിനഡ് പ്രത്യേകമായി ഊന്നിപ്പറയാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. തങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് സഭയും കാലഘട്ടവും പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്ന ആത്മീയ ഔന്നത്യവും ഉദാരതയും എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ വൈദികരും സന്യസ്തരും അല്പമായരും പ്രകടമാക്കും എന്ന് സിനഡ് പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നു.

മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെ ആഗോളതലത്തിലുള്ള ഭാരിച്ച ഉത്തരവാദിത്തങ്ങൾ പരിഗണിച്ച് എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുടെ ദൈനംദിന ഭരണനിർവ്വഹണത്തിന് ഒരു മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയെ നിയമിക്കുന്ന കാര്യം സിനഡ് 2007 മുതൽ ചർച്ച ചെയ്തിരുന്നതാണ്. ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനം 2019 ജനുവരി സിനഡിൽ റോമിന്റെ അംഗീകാരത്തിനായി അയച്ചിരുന്നു. എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതാ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയായി മണ്ഡ്യ രൂപതാധ്യക്ഷനും അതിരൂപതാംഗവുമായ മാർ ആന്റണി കരിയിൽ സി.എം.ഐ.യെ സിനഡ് തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിരൂപതയുടെ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തയായ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിനോടും അതിരൂപതാ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയോടും ചേർന്ന് ഒരേ മനസ്സോടെ അതിരൂപത സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചത്തിൽ മുന്നോട്ട് നീങ്ങുമെന്ന് സിനഡ് പ്രത്യാശിക്കുന്നു. 'മിശിഹായിൽ നാമെല്ലാവരും ഒന്നാണെന്ന' ശ്ലീഹായുടെ ആഹ്വാനം (ഗലാ. 3:28) നമ്മെ നയിക്കട്ടെ. മലമേൽ പണിത ഗോപുരം പോലെ അതിരൂപതയുടെ മഹത്വം വർദ്ധമാനമാകട്ടെ എന്ന് സിനഡ് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു. സഹോദരർ ഒരുമിച്ചു വസിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ വൈശിഷ്ട്യവും സൗന്ദര്യവും അതിരൂപതയിൽ വർദ്ധിച്ചു വരട്ടെ.

എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുടെ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്ററായി സേവനം ചെയ്ത അഭിവന്ദ്യ ജേക്കബ് മനത്തോടത്ത് പിതാവിനോട് സിനഡിനുള്ള ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ നന്ദി അറിയിക്കുന്നു. അപ്പസ്തോലിക് അഡ്മിനിസ്ട്രേറ്റർ എന്ന നിലയിൽ അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാവ് സ്വീകരിച്ച നടപടികൾ പ്രശ്നപരിഹാര

ങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറെ സഹായകമായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിരൂപതയുടെ സഹായ മെത്രാന്മാരായിരുന്ന മാർ സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ എടയന്ത്രത്ത്, മാർ ജോസ് പുത്തൻവീട്ടിൽ എന്നീ പിതാക്കന്മാർക്ക് പുതിയ അജപാലന സ്ഥാനങ്ങൾ നിർണ്ണയിക്കണം എന്ന ഉത്തരവാദിത്തം പരിശുദ്ധ സിംഹാസനം സിനഡിനെ ഭരമേൽപ്പിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഈ പിതാക്കന്മാരെ തൽസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽ നിന്ന് മാറ്റിനിർത്തിയത് ശിക്ഷാനടപടിയായി വ്യാഖ്യാനിക്കുന്നത് ശരിയല്ലെന്നും എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുടെ ഭരണ നിർവ്വഹണം ക്രമീകരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഭാഗമായി പരിശുദ്ധ സിംഹാസനമെടുത്ത നടപടിയുടെ ഭാഗമായിരുന്നു എന്നും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയുടെ സഹായ മെത്രാന്മാരെന്ന നിലയിൽ ഇവർ ചെയ്ത സേവനങ്ങളെ സിനഡ് നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു. അഭിവന്ദ്യ സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ എടയന്ത്രത്ത് പിതാവിനെ മണ്ഡ്യ രൂപതയുടെ മെത്രാനായും അഭിവന്ദ്യ ജോസ് പുത്തൻവീട്ടിൽ പിതാവിനെ ഫരിദാബാദ് രൂപതയുടെ സഹായ മെത്രാനായും സിനഡ് തിരഞ്ഞെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. പുതിയ അജപാലന മേഖലകളിൽ എല്ലാവിധ നന്മയും പിന്തുണയും ഈ പിതാക്കന്മാർക്ക് സിനഡ് വാഗ്ദാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഈ പിതാക്കന്മാർ പുതിയ ദൗത്യം ഏറ്റെടുക്കുന്നതുവരെ എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിമെത്രാസന ഭവനത്തിൽ താമസിച്ച് മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയെ സഹായിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

എറണാകുളം-അങ്കമാലി അതിരൂപതയിലെ മേൽപറഞ്ഞ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് കോടതികളിൽ നിലവിലുള്ള വിവിധ കേസുകൾ നിയമപരമായും അനുരഞ്ജനാരുപിയിലും പരിഹരിക്കേണ്ടത് അതിരൂപതയുടെ സുഗമമായ പ്രയാണത്തിന് ആവശ്യമാണെന്ന് സിനഡു വിലയിരുത്തുന്നു. ഇതിനായി വിരമിച്ച പ്രഗൽഭന്യായാധിപന്മാരുടെ ഒരു സമിതിയെ സിനഡ് നിയോഗിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഈ സമിതിയുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ വ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾ പരിഹരിക്കാൻ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരിയെ സിനഡ് ഉത്തരവാദിത്തം ഏൽപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

അഖിലേന്ത്യാ തലത്തിലും ആഗോള തലത്തിലും സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയ്ക്ക് നമ്മുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് അഭിവന്ദ്യ മാർ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരിപ്പിതാവ് നൽകിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന നേതൃത്വത്തെ സിനഡ് നന്ദിയോടെ ഓർമ്മിക്കുന്നു. വ്യക്തിപരമായ

ആരോപണങ്ങൾ ഉയർന്നപ്പോഴും സമചിത്തതയോടെയും ക്രിസ്തീയ അരുപിയിലും പ്രതികരിച്ച അഭിവന്ദ്യ പിതാവിന്റെ മാതൃക അനുകരണീയമാണ്. സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയെ ഏറെ സ്നേഹിക്കുകയും പ്രതിസന്ധി ഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ വ്യക്തമായ ഇടപെടലുകൾ നടത്തുകയും ചെയ്ത പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപ്പാപ്പയെയും പൗരസ്ത്യ തിരുസംഘത്തെയും സിനഡ് ഏറെ ആദരവോടെയും നന്ദിയോടെയും അനുസ്മരിക്കുന്നു. വിവാദങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായി ചെയ്തതും പറഞ്ഞതുമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ പരസ്പരം ക്ഷമിക്കാനും മറക്കാനും നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിന്റെ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ അരുപിയിൽ എല്ലാവരും തയ്യാറാകണം. നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്ക് തുറന്നു കിട്ടിയ പുതിയ പ്രേഷിത സാധ്യതകൾ ഫലപ്രദമായി പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്താനും ഇതാവശ്യമാണ്. ഇതിന് സഹായകമായ അനുരഞ്ജനശ്രമങ്ങൾ എല്ലാ തലത്തിലും ഉണ്ടാകണം. നാമെല്ലാം ഒന്നാകണമെന്ന ഈശോയുടെ സ്വപ്നം (യോഹ. 17:23) സഫലമാക്കാൻ നമുക്ക് ഒരുമിച്ച് നീങ്ങാം.

നമ്മുടെ അമ്മയായ പരിശുദ്ധ കന്യകാമറിയത്തിന്റെയും നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെയും നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ വിശുദ്ധരുടെയും വാഴ്ത്തപ്പെട്ടവരുടെയും മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ്യത നമുക്ക് സഹായമാകട്ടെ. നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിശോമിശിഹായുടെ വിശുദ്ധ കുരിശിനാൽ നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരെയും ആശീർവ്വദിച്ചുകൊണ്ട്,

സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ സിനഡ് പിതാക്കന്മാർ

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിൽനിന്ന് 2019-ാം ആണ്ട് സെപ്തംബർ മാസം 30 -ാം തിയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

CIRCULAR

Unanimously published by the Members of the Synod
of the Syro-Malabar Church after the XXVII Synod,
Session II, held from 19-30 August, 2019
at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, Kochi

Dearly beloved in Our Lord Jesus Christ,

We are getting prepared for the celebration of the feast of the Nativity of our beloved Mother Bl. Virgin Mary. We shall offer our prayers of gratitude for the blessings showered on the Syro-Malabar Church by God Almighty through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin. We recognize that the permission to spread the Gospel all over India and to spread the Word of God outside India as special blessings given to our Church by God.

At the same time, we are passing through some of the difficult and painful phases in the history of our Church. We remember with great gratitude the prayers offered by the faithful to find a God-blessed solution to these difficult problems faced by the Church. The impact of our prayers was reflected in the discussions of the Synod Fathers. The discussions were held in a spirit of deep humility and fraternal fellowship inspired by the Holy Spirit. Most of the days of the Synod were spent on finding a solution to some of the difficult issues faced by the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in a spirit of prayer. The directives of the Holy See were also available

to guide the discussions of the Synod. The problems associated with the land deal in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the publication of fake documents, the problems of indiscipline and an arrangement for a smooth functioning of the pastoral activities of the Archeparchy were the major issues discussed in the Synod. It was a great act of grace that all the Members were given the opportunity to share their opinions. We apologize before God as well as before people for the failures in taking decisions to take suitable actions at the appropriate times when the body of the Church was experiencing gashes inflicted by these issues whereby the Church failed to bear witness to the Gospel.

Land Deal

The controversies arising from the land deal were hurting the Church for almost a year. The problems became very acute and painful when the accusations were hurled at the Major Archbishop who is the head and Father of the Syro-Malabar Church. Various reports and evaluations done on the land deal were discussed threadbare at the Synod. The Synod realizes that all are collectively responsible in the failures including the Major Archbishop, the Auxiliary Bishops, the Members of the Curia and other canonical bodies. What is evident from a detailed evaluation of these reports is that there was no incident of any personal gain on the part of the Major Archbishop, Auxiliary Bishops and other authorities from the sale of the property. What is evident is that the Archeparchial authorities and the canonical bodies failed to intervene at the appropriate time when the middle men acted with the intention of making more money through clandestine business deals. We realize the genuineness of the pain experienced by the clergy, the religious and the people from their fear that the Archeparchy would lose its assets on account of the lack of supervision on the part of the priests assigned specially for this matter as well as of the authorities.

If the Archeparchy has suffered any loss in the land deal, it should be accessed through careful scientific study and retrieved. The recently appointed Metropolitan Vicar should initiate a time bound programme for this purpose in consultation with the Permanent Synod. We request all the faithful and the clergy to cooperate with the programmes to be initiated for this purpose by the Synod. We can overcome this crisis if we act with an open mind as a family setting aside all prejudices. This Synod is firmly committed to taking necessary steps in this regard.

Fake Documents Controversy

It is very unfortunate that a few fake documents were produced in order to accentuate the accusations against those involved in the land deal. In the case filed under the aegis of the Synod to investigate the source of these fake documents, the inclusion of the names of Bp. Jacob Manethodath and of Fr. Paul Thelakatt added a new dimension to the case. Against the affidavit of the priest who filed the case on behalf of the Synod, these names were maliciously included and the priest submitted a statement excluding those names, in line with the original complaint, as per section 164 of CrPC. Now this is the only statement which has legal standing. The Synod wants to make it clear again that it never intended to include those names. The Synod has a serious doubt that some malicious persons have worked behind the scene to sabotage the case by including those names. The Fathers of the Synod join in the pain experienced by the priests and the laity from the Archeparchy if they are unjustly imputed in this case. The Synod is of the view that no one should suffer unjustly on account of this case, even when the Synod is determined to pursue the origin of the fake documents through legal procedure. Whatever steps that are legally justifiable in this matter will definitely be taken by the Synod.

Indiscipline

The Synod remembers with gratitude the praiseworthy service rendered by the priests, the religious and the laity of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in these difficult days of disputes and acrimonious debates who discharged the pastoral duties with great diligence and self-discipline. Many of the protest meetings in connection with the land deal disputes were highly nefarious and controversial and crossed all boundaries of decency and Christian manners. The actions of a few individuals who burned the effigy of the Major Archbishop are highly despicable and deserve the utmost condemnation. Their protest march to the archbishop's house and the holding of the press conferences abusing the Major Archbishop were reprehensible actions that should never have come from priests and are a serious blot on the dignity and holiness of the priesthood of Christ to which these priests are called to share. Such reprehensible actions of a few priests turned out to be occasions of celebrations for the anti-Church elements in the society.

The action of a priest who observed a fast in the Archbishop's house and the behavior of a few priests who supported such actions have inflicted deep wounds in the body of the Church. The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church condemns very strongly such actions of the priests and has conveyed its deep anguish to the concerned people. The Synod hopes that those responsible for such actions would realize the pain they have inflicted on the people of God through their scandalous behavior. The Synod reminds everyone not to repeat such actions. Through their actions they have made not only the Syro-Malabar Church but also whole Church in India a victim of mockery and cruel jibes. When they were reacting against the financial losses of the Archeparchy, they forgot about the Church that was redeemed by the blood of Christ (Acts. 20:28).

We have to listen to the cry of the Lord: "I was wounded in the house of my friends (Zac.13:6). The Synod is entrusting the responsibility of

taking action on these matters of indiscipline to the newly appointed Metropolitan Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. A committee of bishops was appointed to help the Metropolitan Vicar in order to create an atmosphere of repentance and reconciliation for those involved in grave acts of indiscipline. The Synod requests the concerned people to accept these directions with an open mind. In the near past, the positions taken by a few priests and the religious in matters connected with some disputed issues were viewed as highly dangerous by the whole Church. The leadership of the Church is taking these steps with the intention of keeping everyone close to the Church who is the mother of all.

In the background of these disputes, different groups in the social media were creating divisions. Their actions are highly contemptible. Both the actions of all those individuals and groups who proclaimed themselves to be defenders of the Head of the Church while denigrating the Archeparchy, its bishops, the religious and its faithful, and the actions of those who reacted to them in the social media and the channel discussions on these issues are to be seen as anti-Catholic Church activities. All the dioceses have to pay special attention to controlling these individuals and groups. "Our peace is in Jesus Christ who has unified us by destroying the wall of division (Eph. 2:14). The Synod condemns all these activities that create divisions in the Church and reminds all that the priest who participate in channel discussions and issue press statements have to get the prior permission of their respective bishops.

There are well established procedures and platforms for the laity to express their opinions and to get involved in the administration of the Church. But in recent times, some vested individuals have formed their groups under their own auspices with the dubious pretext of protecting the right of the laity, priests and the religious. The Synod feels that these organizations have become pawns in the

hands of anti-Church groups. These associations have only created divisions among the faithful and have brought the Church into derision and contempt. Hence the Church rejects the activities of groups like the Archdiocesan Movement for Transparency (AMT), the Committee for the Protection of the Archeparchy, Progressive Movement of the Laity, World Christian Council and Save Our Sisters. The Synod hereby affirms that these organizations are not recognized as Church organizations.

New Steps Forward

The Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the Syro- Malabar Church have to move forward by ending these differences of opinions. Let us recall the words of the Apostle who reminds us to be: “like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.” (Phil. 2:2). The Synod has produced a programme of action through consultation. The Synod acknowledges the special place of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in the history of the Syro Malabar Church. The Synod hopes that the priests, the religious and the laity would show in their actions the spirit of nobility and dignity that the Synod expects from those concerned of the Archeparchy.

The Synod was thinking from 2007 onwards of the need of appointing a Metropolitan Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the administration of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, taking into account the global responsibility of the Major Archbishop. The decision of January 2019 Synod with respect to this was intimated to the Vatican for its approval. The Synod has elected Mar Antony Kariyil, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya as the Metropolitan Vicar of the Major Archbishop for Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The Synod hopes that the Archeparchy would move forward with a single mind in union with the Major Archbishop, who is also the Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, and the Metropolitan Vicar of the Major Archbishop. Let us be

guided by the words of the Apostle in his letter to the Galatians that “we are all one in Christ” (3:28). The Synod prays that the glory of the Archeparchy may shine like a tower built on the top of the mountain. Let there be an increase in the beauty and nobility of the Archeparchy from the unity of brothers living together.

The Synod expresses its sincere gratitude to Mar Jacob Manathodath, the Apostolic Administrator of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. The steps he has taken as the Apostolic Administrator have helped the Archeparchy in solving many of its problems. The Holy See has entrusted the Synod with the task of finding new pastoral assignments for Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and Bishop Jose Puthenveettil. They were removed from their previous positions not as a punitive measure but for the new arrangements that were to be put in place for the administration of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Their service as the auxiliary bishops is remembered with gratitude by the Synod. Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath is appointed the Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya while Mar Jose Puthenveettil is appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad. The Synod offers all support and prayers in their new assignments. These Bishops will be staying at the Archbishop’s house, Ernakulam, helping the Metropolitan Vicar until they assume their positions in their respective Eparchies.

The Synod considers it important to resolve all the cases in the courts in connection with the above-mentioned problems of the Archeparchy for its smooth functioning. A committee of reputed retired judges has been appointed by the Synod. The Synod has entrusted the Metropolitan Vicar with the task of resolving these disputes in the courts in consultation with this committee.

The Synod remembers with gratitude the stellar leadership provided to the Syro-Malabar Church as well as to the world wide Catholic Church by the Major Archbishop, Cardinal Mar George Alencherry. His exemplary and mature response and his unparalleled

equanimity in the midst of explosive personal accusations are highly commendable. The Synod also remembers with gratitude all the help and guidance it has received from the Holy Father Pope Francis as well as from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. All are requested to forget and forgive the accusations and disparaging remarks aired by different people and individuals during these turbulent times, in a Christian attitude of charity and forgiveness. This is also needed in order to utilize the new opportunities of evangelization that are now open to the Syro-Malabar Church. Conciliatory efforts should come from all the people in this matter. We shall act together to realize the dream of Jesus Christ that all should be one (Jn. 17:23).

May the intercession of the Bl. Virgin Mary, of St. Thomas the Apostle and all the saints of the Church be with us. Imparting blessings to all of you by the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

The Synod Fathers of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad, on 30 September 2019.

ഇടയലേഖനം - സഭാദിനം 2019

സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി തന്റെ സഹശുശ്രൂഷകരായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്താമാർക്കും മെത്രാൻമാർക്കും വൈദികർക്കും സമർപ്പിതർക്കും തന്റെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ ദൈവജനത്തിനും എഴുതുന്നത്. കർത്താവിന്റെ കൃപ നിങ്ങളെല്ലാവരോടും കൂടെ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കട്ടെ!

ഈശോമിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരേ, നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർതോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ ദുക്നാന തിരുനാൾ ദിവസമായ ജൂലൈ 3 ആണല്ലോ പതിവനുസരിച്ച് സീറോമലബാർ സഭാദിനമായി ആചരിച്ചു വരുന്നത്. തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ സുവിശേഷ പ്രഘോഷണത്തിലൂടെ വിശ്വാസം സ്വീകരിച്ച പൂർവ്വികന്മാർ നമുക്ക് കൈമാറിത്തന്ന വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ വെളിച്ചം കൂടുതൽ പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കാൻ കടപ്പെട്ടവരാണ് നാമെല്ലാവരുമെന്ന് ദുക്നാന തിരുനാൾ ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ രൂപതകളിലും ഇടവകകളിലും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലും സഭാദിനം ആഘോഷിക്കുമ്പോൾ, കാലഘട്ടത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകതകളിൽ ഈശോമിശിഹായുടെ സുവിശേഷം ഫലപ്രദമായി പ്രഘോഷിക്കാനുള്ള കൃപയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി നമുക്ക് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കാം. ഗാഗൂൽത്തായിൽ രക്തം ചിന്തിയവനിലുള്ള വിശ്വാസത്താൽ പ്രേരിതനായി മൈലാപ്പൂരിൽ തോമാശ്ലീഹ സ്വന്തം രക്തം ചിന്തി മരണം കൈവരിച്ചതു മുതലാണ് നമ്മുടെ സഭ വളർന്നു തുടങ്ങിയത്. തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ സുവിശേഷ പ്രഘോഷണത്തിലൂടെ രൂപീകൃതമായ വിവിധ സഭകളുടെ ഇടയിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ മുൻപന്തിയിൽ നിൽക്കുന്നു. ഇക്കാരണത്താൽ, നമ്മുടെ പിതാവിനെപ്പോലെ ധീരതയോടെ സുവിശേഷത്തിനു സാക്ഷ്യം വഹിക്കാ

നുള്ള ദൗത്യം നമുക്കുണ്ട്. 'അവനോടൊപ്പം മരിക്കാൻ നമുക്കും പോകാം' (യോഹ. 11:16) എന്ന അപ്പസ്തോലന്റെ വാക്കുകൾ ഈ ശോചനീയമായുള്ള ആഴമായ സൗഹൃദത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ശക്തി പ്രാപിച്ച വയായിരുന്നു. ഈശോയെ കൂടുതൽ അറിയാനും കൂടുതൽ സ്നേഹിക്കാനും ആഗ്രഹിച്ച ശ്ലീഹായുടെ ആത്മാർത്ഥത നിറഞ്ഞു നില്ക്കുന്ന സമീപനം സുവിശേഷത്തിൽ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. 'കർത്താവേ, നീ എവിടേയ്ക്കു പോകുന്നുവെന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ, പിന്നെ വഴി ഞങ്ങൾ എങ്ങനെയാണിത്?' (യോഹ. 14:5) എന്ന ചോദ്യവും ഈശോമിശിഹായെ ഏറ്റവും അടുത്തനുഗമിക്കാനുള്ള അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ആഗ്രഹത്തെയാണ് പ്രകടമാക്കുന്നത്. താൻ സ്ഥലത്തില്ലാതിരുന്നപ്പോൾ മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കു നൽകപ്പെട്ട ഉത്ഥിതന്റെ ദർശനം തനിക്കും ലഭിക്കണമെന്ന തീവ്രമായ ആഗ്രഹവും 'അവന്റെ കൈകളിൽ ആണികളുടെ പഴുതുകൾ ഞാൻ കാണുകയും അവയിൽ എന്റെ വിരൽ ഇടുകയും അവന്റെ പാർശ്വത്തിൽ എന്റെ കൈ വയ്ക്കുകയും ചെയ്തല്ലാതെ ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുകയില്ല' (യോഹ. 20:25) എന്ന ശാഠ്യവും തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ വിശ്വാസത്തിന്റെ വലിയ ഏറ്റുപറച്ചിലായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം, ഈശോമിശിഹായോടുള്ള വ്യക്തിപരമായ സ്നേഹവും അടുപ്പവും ഹൃദയത്തിൽ സൂക്ഷിച്ച തോമാശ്ലീഹാ, തന്റെ ഗുരുവിൽ ഉത്ഥിതന്റെ അടയാളങ്ങൾ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ നടത്തിയ 'എന്റെ കർത്താവേ എന്റെ ദൈവമേ' എന്ന വിശ്വാസ പ്രഖ്യാപനം, അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ സ്നേഹവും തീക്ഷ്ണതയും പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതായിരുന്നു.

തന്റെ ഗുരുവിനോടുള്ള സ്നേഹവും അടുപ്പവും പരസ്യജീവിതകാലത്തെ സാധാരണ അനുഭവങ്ങളുടെ പരിമിതികൾ കടന്ന് ഉത്ഥാനാനുഭവത്തിലെത്തിയപ്പോഴാണ് തോമാശ്ലീഹായിലെ പ്രേഷിതൻ രൂപപ്പെടുന്നത്. പലസ്തീനയിൽ നിന്ന് കൊടുങ്ങല്ലൂർ വഴി, വിവിധ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കടന്ന് മൈലാപ്പുരിൽ അവസാനിച്ച തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ പ്രേഷിത യാത്ര ആധുനിക സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ വിശാല വഴികളിലൂടെ തുടരാൻ വിളിക്കപ്പെട്ടവരാണ്, സഭാമക്കളായ നമ്മൾ എല്ലാവരും. നമ്മുടെ സഭയും തോമാശ്ലീഹായിൽ നിന്ന് വിശ്വാസം സ്വീകരിച്ച ഇതരസഭകളും ഈ ദൗത്യം തുടരുന്നുണ്ട്. തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ വിശ്വാസ തീക്ഷ്ണതയും അദ്ദേഹം ജീവിച്ച കാലഘട്ടത്തിന്റെ വെല്ലുവിളികളും അതിന്റെ ഫലമായ രക്തസാക്ഷിത്വവും നമ്മുടെ സുവിശേഷപ്രചരണ സംരംഭങ്ങളിൽ കാലാനുസൃതമായി പ്രതിഫലിക്കണം.

സഭാദിനാചരണത്തിന്റെ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ, സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ പ്രേഷിത പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെയും അവ ലോകത്തിനു നല്കിയ

നിരവധി ഫലങ്ങളെയും ഓർത്ത് നന്ദി പറയാം. ലോകമെമ്പാടും ഇന്ന് സീറോമലബാർ സഭയുടെ മക്കൾ സജീവസാക്ഷ്യം നൽകി ജീവിക്കുകയും പ്രവർത്തിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നത് സന്തോഷകരമായ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സഭയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മെത്രാന്മാരും വൈദികരും സമർപ്പിതരും മറ്റ് വ്യക്തി സഭകളിൽ ഫലപ്രദമായ അജപാലന-പ്രേഷിത ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതും അഭിമാനാർഹമായ കാര്യമാണ്. മാർതോമ്മാ ശ്ലീഹാ തെളിയിച്ചുതന്ന വിശ്വാസദീപം ലോകമാസകലം പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തീക്ഷ്ണതയോടെ നമുക്കു തുടരാം. ഭാരതം മുഴുവനിലും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനം നടത്തുവാനുള്ള അവസരം ലഭിച്ച നമ്മുടെ സഭ പ്രേഷിത ചൈതന്യത്തിൽ കൂടുതൽ വളരേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഗൾഫ്, സിംഗപ്പൂർ, ആഫ്രിക്കയിലെ ചില രാജ്യങ്ങൾ എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലെ നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വായ സിക്സിക്കും കൂടി നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ തനതായ അജപാലന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ അവയുടെ പൂർണ്ണതയിൽ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി എല്ലാവരും പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം.

ഏതൊരു പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനവും ആത്മാർത്ഥതയോടെ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയും പ്രതിബദ്ധതയോടെ തുടരുകയും ചെയ്യണമെങ്കിൽ അയച്ചുവന്നോടുള്ള ബന്ധവും വിശ്വസ്തതയും സജീവമായി നിലനിർത്തണം. ആധുനിക സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ പ്രായോഗിക സംസ്കാരത്തിൽ, ചില തത്വചിന്തകളും ദൈവശാസ്ത്ര സമീപനങ്ങളും ഈ വിശ്വസ്തതയ്ക്ക് എതിരായി നിൽക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ഈശോയുടെ രക്ഷാകരദൗത്യം തങ്ങളോടുതന്നെയും വിശ്വാസസമൂഹത്തോടും പൊതുസമൂഹത്തോടും ഫലപ്രദമായി പ്രഘോഷിക്കാൻ എല്ലാ സഭാംഗങ്ങൾക്കും സാധിക്കണം.

വർത്തമാനകാലത്തിൽ സഭയുടെ പ്രേഷിത സ്വഭാവത്തെയും ദൗത്യത്തെയും ലോകത്തിനു മുൻപിൽ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ എപ്പോഴും ശ്രദ്ധാലുവാണ്. യുവജനങ്ങൾക്കുവേണ്ടി റോമിൽ നടന്ന പ്രത്യേക സിനഡിനുശേഷം പുറത്തിറക്കിയ 'ക്രിസ്തു ജീവിക്കുന്നു' (*Christus vivit*) എന്ന അപ്പസ്തോലിക പ്രബോധനം മാർപാപ്പയുടെ ലോകത്തോടുള്ള ശക്തമായ സുവിശേഷ പ്രഘോഷണമാണ്. ഈ അപ്പസ്തോലിക പ്രബോധനത്തിൽ ഏതൊരു ക്രൈസ്തവനും വിശ്വസിക്കേണ്ടതും ജീവിക്കേണ്ടതും പ്രഘോഷിക്കേണ്ടതുമായ മൂന്ന് സത്യങ്ങളെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ദൈവം നിന്നെ സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നു, ക്രിസ്തുവാണ് രക്ഷകൻ, ക്രിസ്തു ജീവിക്കുന്നു എന്നിവയാണ് മാർപാപ്പ ലോകത്തോട് പ്രഘോഷിക്കുന്ന സുവിശേഷ സത്യങ്ങൾ. ഉപ

ഭോഗ മരണസംസ്കാരങ്ങൾ ആധുനിക മനുഷ്യന്റെ നിഷേധാത്മകതയെ വളർത്തി സുവിശേഷമൂല്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും സഭയിൽ നിന്നും അകറ്റുമ്പോൾ രക്ഷകനായ ക്രിസ്തു ഇന്നും ജീവിക്കുന്നവനാണെന്നു പ്രഘോഷിക്കുന്നതാണല്ലോ വിമോചനത്തിന്റെ സുവിശേഷം. എല്ലാ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും അടിസ്ഥാനമിടേണ്ടതും അർത്ഥം കണ്ടെത്തേണ്ടതും ഈ സത്യത്തിൽ നിന്നാണ്. ഈ കാലഘട്ടത്തിലും നമ്മൾ പ്രഘോഷിക്കേണ്ടതും ജീവിക്കേണ്ടതും പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കേണ്ടതുമായ സത്യവും ഇതുമാത്രമാണ്.

ദൈവം നൽകിയ അനുഗ്രഹങ്ങൾക്കിടയിലും ഇനിയും ആത്മപരിശോധനയ്ക്ക് വിഷയമാക്കേണ്ട കാര്യങ്ങൾ നമ്മുടെ മുൻപിലുണ്ട്. സഭയുടെ എല്ലാ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിലും ഇടപെടലുകളിലും സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ കലർപ്പില്ലാത്ത സന്ദേശം പകർന്നുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ നമുക്കു കഴിയണം. ആദിമസഭയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന പങ്കുവയ്ക്കൽ മനോഭാവം വിവിധ സഭാസംവിധാനങ്ങളിലും സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ നടത്തിപ്പിലും വിഭവങ്ങൾ കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലും നയരൂപീകരണത്തിലും കൂടുതൽ പ്രകടമാക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ചരിത്രത്തിലൂടെ ദീർഘയാത്ര തുടരുന്ന ഇന്നത്തെ സഭ, ആദിമസഭയുടെ ജാഗ്രതയും തീക്ഷ്ണതയും കൈമോശം വരാതെ കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിക്കണം. മണവാളൻ എപ്പോൾ വരുമെന്ന് നിശ്ചയമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ, വിളക്കണയാതിരിക്കാൻ എണ്ണകരുതി സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ കാത്തിരിക്കുന്ന കന്യകമാരുടെ ജാഗ്രത സഭയുടെ എല്ലാ മേഖലകളിലും ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുവാൻ കൂട്ടായ്മയോടെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ദൈവം ഈ ലോകം മുഴുവനെയും സ്നേഹിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും ദൈവപുത്രനായ ഈശോമിശിഹായാണ് നമ്മുടെ രക്ഷകനെന്നും ഈ രക്ഷകൻ ഇന്നും ജീവിക്കുന്നുവെന്നും ഫലപ്രദമായി പ്രഘോഷിക്കുവാൻ നമുക്ക് സാധിക്കണം.

ഈ പ്രഘോഷണത്തിലും സാക്ഷ്യത്തിലും നമുക്കു വന്നുപോയ പോരായ്മകളെ എളിമയോടെ അംഗീകരിക്കാം. തെറ്റിദ്ധാരണകളെയും വിമർശനങ്ങളെയും എതിർപ്പുകളെയും ഈശോയുടെ ശൈലിയിൽ സ്വീകരിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കണം. നാമെല്ലാവരും വിശുദ്ധിയിലേയ്ക്ക് വളരാൻ വിളിക്കപ്പെട്ടവരാണെന്ന സത്യം 'ആനന്ദിച്ച് ആഹ്ളാദിക്കുവിൻ' എന്ന തന്റെ ചാക്രിക ലേഖനത്തിൽ ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. വിശുദ്ധിയെന്നത് നമ്മുടെ ദുർബലതയും ദൈവിക കൃപയുടെ ശക്തിയും തമ്മിലുള്ള കണ്ടുമുട്ടലാണ്. നമ്മുടെ പരിമിതികളിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ ഉയരത്തിലേയ്ക്കു നോക്കാൻ വേണ്ടി, ദൈവത്താൽ സ്നേഹിക്കപ്പെടാ

നും, വിമോചിതരാകാനും വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിൽ നമുക്ക് ഭയപ്പെടാതിരിക്കാം (ആനന്ദിച്ച് ആഹ്ലാദിക്കുവിൻ, നമ്പർ 34). എല്ലാ ക്ലേശങ്ങൾക്കുമീടയിൽ ആനന്ദം നൽകുന്ന രക്ഷയുടെ പ്രത്യാശ നമുക്ക് മുറുകെപിടിക്കാം.

നമ്മുടെ സഭാദിനാചരണവേളയിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്കെഴുതുവോൾ സുപ്രധാനമായ ചില വാർത്തകൾ കൂടി പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുവാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. തിരുകുടുംബ സന്യാസിനി സമൂഹത്തിന്റെ സ്ഥാപകയും നമ്മുടെ സഭാഗവ്യമായ വാഴ്ത്തപ്പെട്ട മറിയം ത്രേസ്യ അടുത്ത ഒക്ടോബർ മാസത്തിൽ വിശുദ്ധ പദവിയിലേയ്ക്കുയർത്തപ്പെടുമെന്ന് നമുക്ക് അറിവു ലഭിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ കാനഡയിലെ മിസിസാഗ എക്സാർക്കേറ്റ്, രൂപതയായി പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഉയർത്തിയ വിവരം നിങ്ങൾ അറിഞ്ഞു കാണുമല്ലോ. രൂപതയുടെ ഉദ്ഘാടന ചടങ്ങിലും പ്രഥമ മെത്രാന്റെ സ്ഥാനാരോഹണ കർമ്മത്തിലും ഞാൻ പങ്കെടുത്തിരുന്നു. മൂന്നാമത്തേത്, വരുന്ന ഒക്ടോബർ മാസത്തിൽ, നമ്മുടെ സഭ യിലെ പിതാക്കന്മാരെല്ലാം ആദ് ലിമിന (*ad limina*) സന്ദർശനത്തിനായി റോമിലേയ്ക്ക് പോകുന്നു എന്നതാണ്.

നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയിൽ നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ എല്ലാ നിയോഗങ്ങളെയും എളിയവനായ എന്നെയും ഓർക്കുന്നതിന് നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. ആഗസ്റ്റ് മാസം നടക്കാനിരിക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ സിനഡിനു വേണ്ടിയും നിങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം. നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ തോമാശ്ലീഹായെപ്പോലെ ഉത്ഥിതനായ ഈശോയെ നാഥനും രക്ഷകനുമായി ഏറ്റു പറഞ്ഞ്, ഈശോ ഇന്നും ജീവിക്കുന്നു എന്ന ഉറച്ച ബോധ്യത്തിൽ നമ്മുടെ എല്ലാ ജീവിത സാഹചര്യങ്ങളിലും പ്രേഷിത ചൈതന്യത്തിൽ മുന്നേറാൻ നിരന്തരം പരിശ്രമിക്കാം. ദുർഗ്ഗതികളിന്റെയും സഭാദിനത്തിന്റെയും മംഗളങ്ങൾ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ആശംസിക്കുന്നു.

കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചു ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2019-ാം ആണ്ട് ജൂൺ മാസം 14-ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

PASTORAL LETTER *SABHADINAM-2019*

George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop
of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops,
Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful
of the Syro-Malabar Church.

May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

As we always do, we celebrate the *Sabha Dinam* on the third of July, the feast of the *Dukarana* of St. Thomas. The feast reminds us of the duty not only of presenting but of spreading more brightly the torch of faith handed down to us by our ancestors. We should pray specially for the grace to proclaim the faith, taking into account the special nature of our age when we gather to celebrate the feast at our parish, diocesan and institutional levels.

The Church has grown from the bloodshed through the martyrdom of St. Thomas who was inspired by the bloodshed by Jesus at Golgotha. We are in forefront of the Churches that were formed through the evangelization of St. Thomas, in missionary efforts.

Hence we have an added obligation to proclaim boldly our faith in the Lord like the Father of our faith. The words of the Apostle, "Let us go and die with him" (Jn. 11:16) are formed from his deep attachment to the Lord. His desire to follow Jesus closely is revealed in his words, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. Then,

how do we know the way?”(Jn. 14:5). His words “Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hands into his side, I will not believe” (Jn. 20:25) were the expression of his desire to proclaim boldly the faith in the resurrection of the Lord and his desire to have for himself the vision of the risen Christ that the other Apostles received. His words, “My Lord and my God” were the reflection of his deep personal attachment to the Lord that was kept in his heart. Apostolic zeal emerged in him when he received the experience of the resurrection of the Lord apart from the experiences he received while moving with the Lord in his earthly life. We are today called to follow in the new ways of the modern world what the Apostle did in his unbelievably hazardous journey from Palestine to Cranganore, traversing many countries, finally arriving at Mylapore. His zeal, his boldness to confront the challenges facing him and his martyrdom should be reflected in our missionary endeavors.

In the background of the celebration of the *Sabha Dinam*, we shall thank the Lord for the missionary work of the Church as well as of the fruits of that work in the world. It is with joy that we acknowledge the fact that the sons and daughters of the Syro-Malabar Church are now giving a powerful witness to their faith in all parts of the world. It is also a matter of great pride that our bishops, priests and the religious are working with great zest in other rites of the Church. We shall continue witnessing to the faith by keeping alive the torch of faith handed over to us by St. Thomas the Apostle. Our Church which has been given the privilege of spreading the faith all over India has to continue its missionary effort without any slackening. All have to pray for the spread and preservation of our faith in other regions like the Gulf countries, Singapore and Africa.

We have to keep our relationship with the Lord strongly through our commitments and missionary efforts. There are some philosophical ideologies and theological approaches in the consumerist culture

of the modern world that are contrary to this relationship. It should become possible for all the faithful to proclaim the redemptive mystery to themselves and to the public.

Holy Father, Pope Francis always points out the duty and obligation of the Church in this matter. The Apostolic Exhortation (*Christus vivit*) issued by the Holy Father after the Synod on the Youth is a strong teaching. He presents three important truths that are to be believed and lived out by every Christian: God loves you, Christ is Redeemer, Christ is alive. When the culture of consumerism is drawing people away from Christ, the Holy Father is offering the liberating power of the Gospel as an alternate vision to counter the negative forces. All the evangelizing efforts have to draw their strength from this truth. This is the only Truth that we have to proclaim in our age.

Even in the midst of many blessings given to us, we have to bring forward to our mind's eye many other truths for a close examination. We should be able to convey the undiluted message of the Gospel in all the dealings of the Church. The attitude of sharing that was prevalent in the early years of the Church should be reflected in the handling of the resources of the Church, policy-making and in the management of the different institutions of the Church. The Church which journeys through the centuries of its existence has to maintain this vigilance and zeal. We have to maintain the same kind of watchfulness that was kept by the virgins in the parable of the wedding reception. It should be possible for us to proclaim that God loves us, that Jesus is our Redeemer and that He is alive today in our midst.

We shall acknowledge with humility the failures that have occurred in our witness to the Gospel. The Holy Father has reminded us in his Encyclical, "Rejoice and Be Glad" that all of us are called to holiness. The encounter between our weakness and the presence of the grace of God leads us to the path of holiness. We shall strive to rise from our limitations to ascend to the heights of holiness, to

be loved by God, to be liberated (No. 34). We shall hold firmly the hope of salvation in the midst of our difficulties.

I would like to share a few other important matters at this time. Blessed Mariam Theresia, the founder of the Holy Family Congregation will be canonized in October. Also, as you might have come to know, the Exarchate of Mississauga was raised to the state of an Eparchy and the Exarch was appointed the Bishop of the newly raised Eparchy. I had the happiness of participating in both the ceremonies. The third item of news that I want to share with you is that all the bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church will be going to the Vatican for their *ad limina* visit in the month of October.

I am thankful for your prayers for all the intentions of the Church as well as for me your unworthy minister in the Lord .You also have to pray for the Synod that would be held in August. Like our Father St. Thomas, we shall strive to go forward in a missionary spirit, confessing our faith in the risen Jesus with the awareness that Jesus is alive in our midst. I wish you cordially all the blessings of the feast of the *Dukarana* and *Sabha Dinam*.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkannad, on 14 June 2019.

സർക്കുലർ ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനം

2019 ഒക്ടോബർ 03 മുതൽ 14 വരെ റോമിൽ നടന്ന സീറോമലബാർ സഭയിലെ മെത്രാന്മാരുടെ ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനത്തിനുശേഷം എല്ലാ സീറോമലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും വേണ്ടി മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് കർദ്ദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി പുറപ്പെടുവിക്കുന്ന സർക്കുലർ.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരേ,
2019 ഒക്ടോബർ 03 മുതൽ 14 വരെ തീയതികളിൽ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയിലെ പിതാക്കന്മാരുടെ ആദ് ലിമിന അപ്പോസ്തലോരും സന്ദർശനം റോമിൽ നടന്നു. 'ആദ് ലിമിന അപ്പോസ്തലോരും' എന്ന ലത്തീൻ പ്രയോഗം തന്നെ അർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നത് അപ്പസ്തോലന്മാരുടെ പിൻഗാമികളായ മെത്രാന്മാർ റോമിൽ രക്തസാക്ഷിത്വം വരിച്ച പത്രോസ് - പൗലോസ് ശ്ലീഹന്മാരുടെ അടുത്തേക്കു ചെല്ലുന്നു എന്നാണ്.

ഒക്ടോബർ 3-ാം തീയതി രാവിലെ 8 മണിക്ക് വി. പത്രോസിന്റെ കബറിടത്തിങ്കൽ എല്ലാ പിതാക്കന്മാരും കൂടി അർപ്പിച്ച വിശുദ്ധ കുർബ്ബാന യോടുകൂടിയാണ് സന്ദർശനം ആരംഭിച്ചത്. ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശന പരിപാടികളിൽ ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടത് പരി. പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പായുമായുള്ള കൂടിക്കാഴ്ചയായിരുന്നു. ഒക്ടോബർ 3-ാം തീയതി രാവിലെ 10.30 മുതൽ 12.30 വരെ നടന്ന പാപ്പായുമൊത്തുള്ള സംഭാഷണം വളരെ ഹൃദ്യവും സഫലവുമായിരുന്നു. വത്തിക്കാൻ കൊട്ടാരത്തിലെ കൺസിസ്റ്ററി ഹാളിലാണ് പാപ്പാ ഞങ്ങളെ സ്വീകരിച്ചത്. ഹാളിൽ രണ്ടുവശത്തായി ഓരോ വരിയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഇരുന്നു. പാപ്പാവന്നപ്പോൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കസേര ഞങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് അല്പം അകലെയാണെന്നു കണ്ട് തർജ്ജമചെയ്യാൻ വന്നിരുന്ന അച്ചനോടു

കസേര കുറച്ചുകൂടി അടുപ്പിച്ചിടാൻ പറഞ്ഞു. മാർപാപ്പയും കസേര അടുപ്പിച്ചിടാൻ സഹായിച്ചു. പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവും തർജ്ജമക്കാരനും ഞങ്ങൾ 48 പിതാക്കന്മാരും അല്ലാതെ മറ്റാരും ആ ഹാളിൽ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നില്ല.

ആദ്യമേ തന്നെ, പരി. പിതാവ് സഭയ്ക്ക് പൊതുവെയും നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്ക് പ്രത്യേകമായും ചെയ്യുന്ന നന്മകൾക്കു നന്ദി പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ സംസാരിച്ചു. പിന്നീട് ഗൾഫ് നാടുകളിലെ നമ്മുടെ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് സഭയുടെ പാരമ്പര്യമനുസരിച്ചുള്ള അജപാലനം നാം നിയോഗിക്കുന്ന വൈദികർ വഴി ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിത്തരണമെന്ന് പരി. പിതാവിനോട് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചു. തുടർന്ന് മാർപാപ്പയുടെ ആവശ്യപ്രകാരം അഭിവന്ദ്യ മൂലക്കാട്ടു പിതാവിനെ മോഡററ്ററായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചു. സംസാരിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹം പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ച പിതാക്കന്മാരെ മൂലക്കാട്ട് പിതാവ് ആശയാവതരണത്തിനു ക്ഷണിച്ചു. ഓരോരുത്തരെ കേട്ടശേഷം പാപ്പാ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നു.

പരി. പിതാവുമായുള്ള സംഭാഷണത്തിൽ നിന്നും രൂപപ്പെട്ട പ്രധാന ആശയങ്ങളും കർമ്മപദ്ധതികളും താഴെപ്പറയുന്നവയാണ്:

1. വൈദികർക്കു തങ്ങളുടെ വിളിയെയും ദൗത്യത്തെയുംകുറിച്ച് ആഴമായ ബോധ്യങ്ങളുണ്ടാകാൻ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുക. വൈദികർക്കുള്ള പാപ്പയുടെ സന്ദേശത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ 2019 ആഗസ്റ്റ് 4-നു താൻ വൈദികർക്ക് എഴുതിയ കത്ത് പരി. പിതാവ് ഞങ്ങളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെടുത്തി. നാലു പ്രധാന ചിന്തകൾ പാപ്പാ പങ്കുവെച്ചു: വൈദികർ ദൈവത്തോടു നിരന്തരബന്ധത്തിലായിരിക്കണം, വൈദികർ തങ്ങളുടെ മെത്രാന്മാരോടും നല്ല ബന്ധത്തിലായിരിക്കണം, അതിനായി മെത്രാന്മാർ വൈദികരെ തികഞ്ഞ കരുതലോടെ കാണുകയും സ്നേഹിക്കുകയും വേണം, വൈദികർ തമ്മിലും ഊഷ്മളമായ സ്നേഹസംബന്ധങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കണം, വൈദികർക്ക് അല്പമായരോടും നല്ല ബന്ധങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ കഴിയണം. ആഴമാർന്ന സമർപ്പണമനോഭാവത്തോടെ അവർ ശുശ്രൂഷ ചെയ്യണം.
2. ഗൾഫ് നാടുകളിലെ സീറോമലബാർ വിശ്വാസികൾക്കു സഭാ പാരമ്പര്യങ്ങൾക്കനുസൃതമായി അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു താൻ കളമൊരുക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ് എന്ന് മാർപാപ്പ പറഞ്ഞു.

3. പൗരസ്ത്യ കത്തോലിക്കാ സഭകൾക്കുവേണ്ടി ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സിനഡൽ നടത്തണമെന്നുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിന് പാപ്പാ അനുകൂലമായ മറുപടി നൽകി.
4. റോമിൽ പത്തുസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ സീറോമലബാർ സമൂഹങ്ങൾക്കു വി. കുർബാനയും മറ്റു തിരുക്കർമ്മങ്ങളും നടക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അവയെല്ലാം ക്രോഡീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് ഒരു ദൈവാലയവും വൈദികമന്ദിരവും റോമൻ വികാരിയേറ്റിൽ നിന്ന് അനുവദിച്ചു കിട്ടിയാൽ നന്നായിരുന്നു എന്ന ആവശ്യത്തിന്, ഈ വിഷയം പിന്നീട് തന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്ന് പാപ്പാ അപ്പസ്റ്റോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററായ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്ത് പിതാവിനോട് പറഞ്ഞു.
5. സീറോമലബാർ സഭയ്ക്ക് ഇന്ത്യമുഴുവനിലും ലഭിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന അജപാലന സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യത്തെ പരാമർശിച്ച് ശരിയായ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനം ത്വരിതപ്പെടുത്തണമെന്ന് പാപ്പാ പറഞ്ഞു. പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനം എന്താണെന്ന് മാർപാപ്പ വ്യക്തമാക്കി: 'എങ്ങനെയെങ്കിലും ക്രൈസ്തവരുടെ എണ്ണം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുകയല്ല; നല്ല ക്രൈസ്തവജീവിത മാതൃകവഴി ജനങ്ങളെ ക്രിസ്തുവിലേക്ക് ആകർഷിക്കുകയാണു വേണ്ടത്'. സഹനവും രക്തസാക്ഷിത്വവും മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനത്തിന്റെ അവിഭാജ്യ ഭാഗങ്ങളാണെന്ന് പരിപിതാവ് കൂട്ടിച്ചേർത്തു.
6. അവസാനമായി, ഞങ്ങളുടെ ആദ് ലിമിന യുടെ നാളുകളിൽ തന്നെ റോമിൽ നടക്കുന്ന ആമസോൺ സിനഡിനെക്കുറിച്ച് പാപ്പായോടു ഞങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചു. സിനഡിന്റെ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ സംബന്ധിച്ച് മാധ്യമങ്ങളിൽ തെറ്റായ വാർത്തകൾ വരുന്നുണ്ടെന്ന് മാർപാപ്പാ പറഞ്ഞു. സിനഡിന്റെ വിജയത്തിനുവേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണമെന്ന് മാർപാപ്പ ഞങ്ങളോട് ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടു. വളരെ ഹൃദ്യമായ അനുഭവമാണ് മാർപാപ്പയുമായുള്ള കുടിക്കാഴ്ചയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാവർക്കുമുണ്ടായത്.

Legion of Christ സന്യാസസമൂഹത്തിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിലുള്ള റോമിലെ മാത്തർ എക്സെസിയെ ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ സെമിനാരിയിലായിരുന്നു എല്ലാ മെത്രാന്മാരും താമസിച്ചത്. ഏഷ്യയിൽ നിന്നും ലാറ്റിൻ അമേരിക്കൻ രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നും വൈദികപരിശീലനം നേടുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളാണ് ഈ സെമിനാരിയിൽ ഉള്ളത്. കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നു തന്നെ 25 വൈദികവിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾ ഇവിടെ താമസിച്ചു പഠിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനം ഞങ്ങൾ മെത്രാന്മാർക്ക് എല്ലാവർക്കും വലിയ ദൈവാനുഗ്രഹത്തിന്റെ അനുഭവമായിരുന്നു. ആഗസ്റ്റ് സിനഡിൽ ഉണ്ടായ വർദ്ധിച്ച കൂട്ടായ്മയും ഐക്യവും വളർത്താൻ ആദ് ലിമിനയിലെ പരിപാടികൾ വളരെ സഹായകമായി. പരി. പിതാവു മായുള്ള കുടിക്കാഴ്ചയ്ക്കുശേഷം നടന്ന പൗരസ്ത്യസഭകൾക്കു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള കാര്യാലയത്തിലെ സന്ദർശനം എറെ ഫലദായകമായിരുന്നു. അടുത്തകാലത്ത് നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്കു വേണ്ടി ഈ കാര്യാലയത്തിന്റെ പ്രീഫെക്ട് കർദ്ദിനാൾ ലെയനാർദോ സാന്ദ്രി എടുത്ത തീരുമാനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഞങ്ങൾ നന്ദി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തി. ആഗസ്റ്റ് സിനഡിന്റെ വിജയത്തിൽ അദ്ദേഹം സംതൃപ്തി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചു. വർദ്ധിതമായ ഐക്യത്തിലും സമാധാനത്തിലും സഭ മുന്നേറണമെന്ന് അദ്ദേഹം ഓർമ്മപ്പെടുത്തുകയും ചെയ്തു. റോമിലെ മറ്റു കാര്യാലയങ്ങളും പിതാക്കന്മാർ സന്ദർശിച്ച് ആശയവിനിമയം നടത്തുകയുണ്ടായി. ഒക്ടോബർ 11-ാം തീയതിയോടുകൂടി കാര്യാലയ സന്ദർശനങ്ങൾ സമാപിച്ചു.

റോമിലെ വിവിധ കോൺഗ്രിഗേഷനുകളുടെയും പൊന്തിഫിക്കൽ കൗൺസിലുകളുടെയും ഓഫീസുകൾ സന്ദർശിക്കാൻ പോയ വേളയിൽ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് യാത്രാസൗകര്യം ഒരുക്കിത്തന്നത് The Work of the Church എന്ന ഒരു സമൂഹത്തിലെ വൈദികരാണ്. റോമിലെത്തുന്ന മെത്രാന്മാർക്ക്, അവർ ഏതുരാജ്യക്കാരായാലും, സന്മനസ്സോടെ ഇവർ ചെയ്തുവരുന്ന ശുശ്രൂഷകളെ എത്ര പ്രശംസിച്ചാലും മതിയാവുകയില്ല.

റോമിൽ നാലു മേജർ ബസിലിക്കകൾ ഉണ്ട്: വി. പത്രോസിന്റേത്, സെന്റ് ജോൺ ലാറ്ററൻ, മേരി മേജർ, വി. പൗലോസിന്റേത്. ഇവയിൽ മൂന്നിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ മെത്രാന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും ചേർന്ന് സഭയുടെ നിയോഗങ്ങൾക്കായി വി. കുർബാന അർപ്പിച്ചു. മേരി മേജർ ബസിലിക്കയിൽ മറിയം ത്രേസ്യമ്മയുടെ നാമകരണത്തിനു തലേദിവസം ആഘോഷമായ ജാഗരണ പ്രാർത്ഥന നടത്തി. വിശുദ്ധരുടെ നാമകരണനടപടികൾ നടത്തുന്ന കാര്യാലയത്തിന്റെ പ്രീഫെക്ട് കാർഡിനൽ ജ്യോവാന്നി ബെച്യു ആയിരുന്നു കാർമ്മികൻ.

ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനത്തിനു ശേഷം മെത്രാന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും ഒക്ടോബർ 13-ാം തീയതി വി. പത്രോസിന്റെ ചത്വരത്തിൽ നടന്ന നാമകരണ നടപടിയിൽ സംബന്ധിച്ചു. അന്ന് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് പാപ്പാ

മറ്റു നാലു പേരോടൊപ്പം നമ്മുടെ മറിയം ത്രേസ്യോമ്മയെയും വിശുദ്ധ പദവിയിലേയ്ക്കുയർത്തി. വി. കുർബാനയോടുകൂടി നടന്ന പ്രസ്തുത ചടങ്ങിൽ കേന്ദ്രസർക്കാറിന്റെ പ്രതിനിധികളായി മന്ത്രി ശ്രീ വി. മുരളീധരനും മണിപ്പൂർ മന്ത്രി സഭയിലെ ശ്രീ ശ്യാം കുമാറും ഇന്ത്യയുടെ വത്തിക്കാൻ സ്ഥാനപതി ശ്രീ സിബി ജോർജും സംബന്ധിച്ചിരുന്നു. മറിയം ത്രേസ്യോമ്മയോടൊപ്പം കാർ ഡിനൽ ജോൺ ഹെൻറി ന്യൂമാനും വിശുദ്ധനായി നാമകരണം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു എന്നത് പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവ്യമാണ്. നാമകരണത്തിനു പിറ്റേന്ന് റോമിലെ വി. അനസ്താസിയായുടെ ബസിലിക്കായിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ മെത്രാന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും ചേർന്ന് കൃതജ്ഞതാബലിയർപ്പിച്ചു. സീറോ മലബാർ വിശ്വാസിസമൂഹത്തിനു വേണ്ടി റോമിൽ സ്ഥാപിതമായ ഇടവകയുടെ രജത ജൂബിലിയാഘോഷങ്ങളുടെ സമാപന സമ്മേളനം ഒക്ടോബർ 6-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച *ദിവീനോ അമോരെ* എന്ന മാതാവിന്റെ തീർത്ഥാടന കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ വെച്ചു നടന്നു. അന്നേ ദിവസം നടത്തപ്പെട്ട വി. കുർബാനയിലും പൊതുസമ്മേളനത്തിലും എല്ലാ മെത്രാന്മാരും സംബന്ധിച്ചു.

ആദ് ലിമിനസന്ദർശന ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ നടന്ന മറ്റൊരു പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട സംഭവമാണ് നമ്മുടെ പ്രൊക്യൂരയുടെ ആശീർവാദം. Domus Mar Thoma (മാർ തോമാ ഭവൻ) എന്നാണ് പ്രൊക്യൂരയുടെ പേര്. ഇവിടെയും മെത്രാന്മാർ എല്ലാവരും ചേർന്നുള്ള വി. കുർബാന ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. കുർബാനയ്ക്കുശേഷം കർദ്ദിനാൾ സാന്ദ്രി *ദോമൂസ് മാർതോമ്മ* ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു. അദ്ദേഹവും ഞാനും ചേർന്ന് ആശീർവാദ കർമ്മം നിർവഹിച്ചു. ഉച്ചഭക്ഷണത്തോടെ സമാപിച്ച ചടങ്ങിൽ വത്തിക്കാനിലെയും റോമിലെയും പല വിശിഷ്ട വ്യക്തികളും വൈദികരും സമർപ്പിത ശ്രേഷ്ഠരും അല്പമായപ്രതിനിധികളും സംബന്ധിച്ചു. നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ റോമിലെ ഔദ്യോഗിക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഈ ഭവനം പലവിധത്തിലും ഉപകരിക്കും. ഇതിന്റെ നിർമ്മാണവും സംവിധാനവും അനേകരുടെ നിരന്തരവും കഠിനവുമായ പരിശ്രമത്തിന്റെ ഫലമാണ്. യൂറോപ്പിലെ അപ്പസ്തോലിക് വിസിറ്റേറ്ററും നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ റോമിലെ പ്രൊക്യൂറേറ്ററുമായ അഭിവന്ദ്യ സ്റ്റീഫൻ ചിറപ്പണത്തു പിതാവിന്റെ നേതൃത്വം പ്രത്യേകം പ്രശംസ അർഹിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരം ഒരു പൊതുഭവനം റോമിൽ ലഭിച്ചതിൽ നമുക്കു നന്ദിപറയാം. സഭാ മക്കൾ ഏവരും നല്കിയ സംഭാവന

കളാണ് ഈ സ്വപ്നം സാക്ഷാത്ക്കരിക്കാൻ നമുക്കു സഹായകമായത്. എല്ലാവർക്കും നന്ദി പറയുന്നു!

ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനം പിതാക്കന്മാർക്ക് മാനസികവും ആത്മീയവുമായ ഒരു വിരുന്നനുഭവമായിരുന്നു. സാർവത്രികസഭയുടെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ മനനം ചെയ്ത് വീക്ഷണങ്ങൾ വിശാലമാക്കാൻ പിതാക്കന്മാർക്കു സാധിച്ചു. അസ്സീസിയിലേക്കുള്ള ഒരു ദിവസത്തെ തീർത്ഥാടനം നവമായ ആത്മീയോൽക്കർഷത്തിന് ഏറെ ഉപകരിച്ചു. വി. ഫ്രാൻസിസിന്റെ ഭൗതികാവശിഷ്ടങ്ങൾ സൂക്ഷിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന ദൈവാലയത്തിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ ഒരുമിച്ചു വി. കുർബാന അർപ്പിച്ചു. ഫ്രാൻസിസ്കൻ കൊൺവെൻചൽ ആശ്രമത്തിലെ വൈദികസഹോദരൻമാർ ഞങ്ങൾക്ക് ചെയ്തുതന്ന സഹായങ്ങൾ നന്ദിയോടെ സ്മരിക്കുന്നു. ആദ് ലിമിന സന്ദർശനവും അനുബന്ധപരിപാടികളും ഒക്ടോബർ 14-നു സമാപിച്ചു.

റോമിലെ പ്രധാന പരിപാടികളുടെ വാർത്തകൾ ദൃശ്യശ്രാവ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെയും പത്രങ്ങളിലൂടെയും നിങ്ങൾ അറിഞ്ഞിരുന്നുവല്ലോ. കൂടുതൽ വിശ്വാസതീക്ഷ്ണതയോടും സഭയോടുള്ള പ്രതിബദ്ധതയോടുംകൂടി നമ്മുടെ ശുശ്രൂഷകൾ തുടരാൻ കാര്യവദാനായ കർത്താവ് നമ്മെല്ലാവരെയും അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ. പരി. അമ്മയുടെയും പുതുതായി നാമകരണം ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ട വിശുദ്ധമറിയം ത്രേസ്യായയുടെയും മാദ്ധ്യസ്ഥ്യസഹായം നിങ്ങൾക്കും നിങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്കും ലഭിക്കുമാറാകട്ടെ!

ഈശോയിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,

കർദ്ദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച് ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ്സിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2019-ാം ആണ്ട് നവംബർ മാസം 1-ാം തിയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

CIRCULAR - *AD LIMINA VISIT*

George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Men and Women Religious and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.
May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The *ad limina apostolorum* visit of the Syro-Malabar Bishops was held at the Vatican from October 3-14, 2019. The visit started with the Holy Qurbana offered by the bishops at the tomb of St. Peter at 8 am on 3 October. The very meaning of *ad limina apostolorum* is that the bishops who are the successors of the apostles are at the place of the apostles, Peter and Paul who were martyred in Rome.

The most important part of the *ad limina* visit was the meeting with the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The meeting took place on 3 October from 10.30 am to 12.30 p.m. We were received in the Consistory Hall of the Vatican Palace. We were seated in two lines. When the Holy Father came, he saw that his chair was placed a little far from the bishops and he then asked the priest-translator to move the chair close to the bishops. He did also help in moving the chair. In the Hall, there were forty eight bishops, the translator and the Holy Father, and nobody else. It was very cordial and fruitful.

At the outset, I offered our gratitude to the Holy Father for what he is doing for the Church in common and specially to the Syro-Malabar Church. I requested the Holy Father to give the Syro-Malabar Church the permission to render pastoral service to the people of our Church *sui iuris* in the Gulf countries. At the request of the Holy Father, Archbishop Mar Moolakkatt was appointed the moderator of the meeting and he invited all the bishops who raised their hands to speak one after another. The Holy Father responded to each question individually. The following are the ideas and action plans that were formulated in the meeting with the Holy Father:

1. There is the need to do the possible so that the priests get a deeper awareness of their vocation and mission. When he was requested to give a special message for the priests, he brought to our attention the letter he wrote on 4 August 2019 for priests. The Holy Father shared four major ideas: Priests should live in a close relationship with God; they should foster a close relationship with their respective bishops; the bishops should love them and deal with them with great sensitivity and regard; the priests should develop cordial relationship with the laity and they should be discharging their duties with great commitment.
2. For the faithful in the Gulf countries, arrangements are being made to give them pastoral care according to their Church traditions and faith heritage.
3. Pope responded positively to the suggestion of the bishops to hold a special Synod for the Oriental Catholic Churches.
4. The Holy Father, in response to the request of the Bishops to have a church and a rectory in order to coordinate the activities of the ten Syro-Malabar Centres in Rome, asked Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the Procurator and Apostolic Visitor of Europe, to bring this request to his attention later.
5. The Holy Father has asked us to speed up programmes for evangelization as the Church has got now the permission to

engage in pastoral activities in the whole of India. Evangelization does not mean just an increase of the number of Catholics but the development of committed Christians who can attract people to Christ through their exemplary lives. The Holy Father added that suffering and martyrdom are integral parts of the ministry of evangelization.

6. Lastly, we asked for details of the Amazon Synod to be held soon in Rome. The Pope spoke about the misinformation that was making rounds at that time in the media. He asked us to pray for the successful completion of the Synod. All of us were edified and had very cordial feelings after the meeting with the Holy Father.

All the bishops stayed at the international Seminary of *Maria Mater Ecclesiae* under the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ. The seminarians from Asia and Latin America reside at this college. From Kerala itself, 25 students are now staying there for their priestly formation.

The *ad limina* visit was a time of special blessings for us bishops. The programmes of the visit cemented more deeply the unity and fraternity that augmented among the bishops during the August Synod. The visit to the Oriental Congregation after the meeting with the Holy Father was very fruitful. We expressed our gratitude to Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for his decisive interventions in favour of our Church in recent times. He expressed his satisfaction at the success of the August Synod and encouraged us to go forward in peace and unity. The bishops exchanged their views visiting the other Congregations too. The visits to the various offices were concluded on 11 October.

The transportation arrangements for visits to the different Congregations and the Pontifical Councils were made by the priests of the *Opera della Chiesa*. Their services to the bishops who come to Rome are inestimable.

There are four major basilicas in Rome: St. Peter's, St. John the Lateran, Mary Major and St. Paul's Outside the Wall. In three of them, all the bishops offered Holy Masses for the intentions of the Church. A prayer vigil was held at the Mary Major Basilica on the day before the canonization of Sr. Mariam Thresia. Cardinal Becciu, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints was the main celebrant at the prayer vigil.

All the bishops participated in the canonization ceremony on 13 October after the *ad limina* visit. On that day, the Holy Father raised Sr. Mariam Thresia to the status of sainthood along with four others including Cardinal Newman. The Canonization ceremony that included Holy Mass by the Holy Father was attended by Sri. V. Muraleedharan, the Hon. Minister of State, Sri. Syam Kumar, the Manipur cabinet minister and Sri. Siby George, the Indian Ambassador to the Vatican, as members of the Indian delegation. All the bishops joined together to offer a Holy Qurbana of thanksgiving at St. Anastasia Basilica in Rome on the following day after canonization.

The concluding part of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of the community of the Syro-Malabar faithful in Rome was held on Sunday, 6 October at the Marian pilgrim Centre of *Divino Amore*. All the bishops participated in the Holy Mass and the meeting held on that day.

Another important event during the days of *ad limina* visit was the blessing of the *Procura* known as *Domus Mar Thoma*. All the bishops were concelebrants at the mass. After the Holy Mass, Cardinal Sandri inaugurated the *Procura*. He and I jointly blessed the *Procura*. Many of the faithful and distinguished guests from various Congregations and religious superiors participated in the function which concluded with a lunch. This house will be useful for the various activities of our Church in Rome. Its construction and renovation were done with the help and contributions of many

people. The leadership of Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitator in Rome as well as the Procurator of the Church deserves our gratitude. We are grateful to God Almighty for making it possible for us to have this common house in Rome. The contribution of the faithful in the procurement of this house is being acknowledged here with great gratitude.

The *ad limina* visit was an occasion of great spiritual and ecclesial experience for all the bishops. The Bishops could witness the working of the Universal Church and broaden their outlook based on that knowledge. The pilgrimage to Assisi was another event of great spiritual blessings. We offered a Holy Mass together at the church where the relics of St. Francis Assisi are kept. We remember with special gratitude the service rendered by the priests of the Franciscan Conventual Monastery. All the programmes connected to the *ad limina* visit came to an end on 14 October.

You have come to know about all these, I am sure, through the print and visual media. May the Lord bless you to discharge your great service to the Lord with more faith and deep attachment to the Church. May Holy Mother and St. Mariam Thresia, the new saint from our Church, may intercede for you and your families.

Yours cordially in Christ Jesus,

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St Thomas, Kakkannad, on 1 November 2019.

സർക്കുലർ

സീറോ മലബാർ മിഷൻ വാരാചരണം 2019

സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ചുബിഷപ്പ് കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി തന്റെ സഹശുശ്രൂഷകരായ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്താമാർക്കും മെത്രാൻമാർക്കും വൈദികർക്കും സമർപ്പിതർക്കും തന്റെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷയ്ക്ക് ഏല്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്ന എല്ലാ ദൈവജനത്തിനും എഴുതുന്നത്.

മിശിഹായിൽ പ്രിയ സഹോദരീ സഹോദരന്മാരേ!

ഈശോയുടെ ദനഹതിരുന്നാളായ 2019 ജനുവരി 6 മുതൽ 12 വരെ സീറോ മലബാർ സഭ പ്രേഷിതവാരമായി ആചരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. ഈയവസരത്തിൽ മിഷൻവാരവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് ഏതാനും ചിന്തകൾ നിങ്ങളുമായി പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ദനഹതിരുന്നാളിന്റെ വേളയിൽ സ്വയംവെളിപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ട് ഈശോ തന്റെ പ്രേഷിത ദൗത്യത്തിന് തുടക്കം കുറിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ ചെയ്തത്. പതിതരോടും പാർശ്വവത്കരിക്കപ്പെട്ടവരോടും അവിടുന്ന് സവിശേഷമായ സ്നേഹവും കാരുണ്യവും പുലർത്തിയിരുന്നതായി സുവിശേഷം സാക്ഷ്യപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു. സ്വയം വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയ മിശിഹായുടെ മൗതികശരീരമായ തിരുസഭയും ഈ പ്രേഷിത ദൗത്യത്തിൽ അനുസ്യൂതം പങ്കുചേരുന്നു. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് 'സഭ സ്വഭാവത്താലെ പ്രേഷിതയാണ്' (AG:2) എന്ന് വത്തിക്കാൻ കൗൺസിലിന്റെ 'ജനതകളിലേക്ക്' എന്ന പ്രമാണരേഖ നമ്മെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. പ്രേഷിത അവബോധവും ആവേശവും സ്വന്തമാക്കി നമ്മുടെ കഴിവും ജീവിതാന്തസുകളും സാഹചര്യങ്ങളുമനുസരിച്ച് സുവിശേഷപ്രഘോഷണത്തിനും പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തിനുമായി മുന്നിട്ടിറങ്ങുവാൻ സഭാമക്കൾ എല്ലാവരെയും സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം ഉദ്ബോധിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.

ഈശോയുടെ മുഖം ഇന്ന് ലോകത്തിൽ പ്രകാശിതമാകുന്നത് നമ്മിൽ ഓരോരുത്തരിലൂടെയുമാണ്. 'നിങ്ങൾ ലോകമെങ്ങും പോയി സകല സൃഷ്ടികളോടും സുവിശേഷം പ്രസംഗിക്കുവിൻ' (മർക്കോസ്:16/15) എന്നുള്ള തമ്പുരാന്റെ ആഹ്വാനം പൂർത്തീകരിക്കപ്പെടേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. തിന്മയുടെശക്തി പതിയിരുന്ന് സഭയെ ആക്രമിക്കാൻ പരിശ്രമിക്കുമ്പോൾ, ആത്മീയതയിൽ നമ്മൾ കൂടുതൽ ശക്തരാകേണ്ടത് ഇന്നിന്റെ ആവശ്യമാണ്. കുടുംബങ്ങളെ ആത്മീയതയിൽ നയിക്കുവാനുള്ള മാതാപിതാക്കളുടെ കടമകൾ ഒരിക്കലും മറന്നുകൂടാ. നമ്മുടെ മുൻതലമുറക്കാർ കൈമാറി തന്ന വിശ്വാസവെളിച്ചത്തെ അണയാതെ കാക്കുവാൻ നമുക്കൊന്നുചേർന്ന് പരിശ്രമിക്കാം. മാർത്തോമ്മാസ്ത്രീഹായുടെ വിശ്വാസതീക്ഷ്ണതയും ധീരതയും ഏതുപ്രതിസന്ധികളെയും മറികടക്കുവാൻ ശക്തിപകരുന്നുണ്ട്. സുവിശേഷത്തിന്റെ പരിവർത്തനാത്മകമായ ശക്തി അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ് ഈശോയുടെ സുവിശേഷം എത്തിപ്പെടാത്ത സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ സുവിശേഷവുമായി കടന്നുചെല്ലുവാനുള്ള തീക്ഷ്ണത ഈ മിഷൻവാരാചരണത്തിലൂടെ നമ്മിൽ ഉജ്ജ്വലിപ്പിക്കാം. ആദിമക്രൈസ്തവരുടെ മാതൃക ഉൾക്കൊണ്ടുകൊണ്ട് എല്ലായിടത്തും എല്ലാവരുടെ ഇടയിലും അനുരഞ്ജനവും സാഹോദര്യവും പങ്കുവയ്ക്കലും സാധ്യമാക്കുവാനുള്ള നമ്മുടെ കടമയെ വിസ്മരിക്കാതിരിക്കാം. പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനം പലവിധത്തിലും നമുക്ക് നിറവേറ്റാം. ഈശോയിലൂടെ കരഗതമായ രക്ഷയുടെ സന്ദേശം പങ്കുവയ്ക്കുവാനുള്ള കാര്യപരിപാടികൾ രൂപതാതലത്തിലും ഇടവകതലത്തിലും എല്ലാഭക്തസംഘടനകളെയും കൂട്ടിയോജിപ്പിച്ച് ആസൂത്രണം ചെയ്തു നടപ്പാക്കുന്നത് പ്രേഷിതവാരാചരണത്തെ കൂടുതൽ അർത്ഥമുള്ളതാക്കി തീർക്കുവാൻ സഹായിക്കും. നമ്മുടെ വിശ്വാസം ഫലംചൂടുനൽ നമ്മുടെ പ്രേഷിതതീക്ഷ്ണതയിലും ഔദാര്യത്തിലുമാണ്.

നമ്മുടെ സഭ ഭാരതത്തിന് അകത്തും പുറത്തുമായി ധാരാളം മിഷനറിമാരെ നൽകിക്കൊണ്ട് പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്ക് ഇന്ത്യമുഴുവൻ അജപാലനശുശ്രൂഷയും സുവിശേഷപ്രഘോഷണവും നടത്തുവാനുള്ള അനുവാദം പരിശുദ്ധപിതാവ് നൽകിയിരിക്കുന്നതിന്റെ ഫലമായി രൂപംകൊണ്ട് ഷംഷാബാദ്, ഹോസൂർ രൂപതകൾ അജപാലന-സുവിശേഷപ്രഘോഷണാവകാശം മറ്റ് രൂപതകളോട് ചേർന്ന് പ്രായോഗികമാക്കുന്നതിൽ നമുക്ക് അഭിമാനിക്കാം. പ്രേഷിതവാരാചരണ ദിവസങ്ങളിൽ പ്രത്യേകമായി നമുക്ക് അവരെ അനുസ്മരിക്കാം.

ഭാരതസഭയുടെ പ്രേഷിതപ്രവർത്തനം ഏറ്റവും ഭംഗിയായി മുന്നോട്ടു പോകുവാൻ കാരണം നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ മിഷൻതീക്ഷണതയാണ്. എല്ലാമിഷനറിമാരെയും ഓർക്കേണ്ടതും അതോടൊപ്പം വിശ്വാസതീക്ഷണതയും ധൈര്യവുമുള്ള ദൈവവിളികൾ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതും ഇന്നിന്റെ ആവശ്യമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സഭയിലെ മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ ഏകോപിപ്പിക്കുവാനും മിഷനെ സഹായിക്കാനുമായി 'സീറോ-മലബാർ മിഷൻ' എന്ന പേരിൽ ഒരു ഓഫീസ് കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസ് കേന്ദ്രമാക്കി പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതായി നിങ്ങൾക്ക് അറിവുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. ലോകമെങ്ങും വ്യാപിച്ചുകിടക്കുന്ന അമ്പത്തിയൊന്ന് ലക്ഷത്തോളം വിശ്വാസികളുള്ള നമ്മുടെ സഭയുടെ 18 മിഷൻരൂപതകളിലും മറ്റ് പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും സേവനംചെയ്യുവാൻവേണ്ട വൈദിക പരിശീലനം നേടിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന 230 വൈദികവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെയും 34 സന്യാസാർത്ഥിനികളെയും ഈ ഓഫീസുവഴി സഹായിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കൂടാതെ, നമ്മുടെ മിഷൻപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ സുവിശേഷവൽക്കരണവും അതിനോട് ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള മറ്റ് ആവശ്യങ്ങളും സാധ്യമാക്കുന്നതിനായി മിഷൻ പ്രോജക്ടുകളും നൽകുന്നുണ്ട്. നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാർത്ഥനയും ഉദാരതയുമാണ് ഈ ഓഫീസിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ നയിക്കുകയും ക്രിയാത്മകമായ സമീപനങ്ങൾ കാഴ്ചവയ്ക്കാൻ സഹായിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നത്. സഭയുടെ വളർച്ചയിലും മിഷൻപ്രവർത്തനത്തിലും വളരെ ശ്ലാഘനീയമായ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഈ ഓഫീസുവഴി നിർവഹിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത് അഭിനന്ദനാർഹമാണ്. മിഷൻവാരാചരണത്തിലൂടെ സമാഹരിക്കുന്ന തുക സഭയുടെ മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്കായി മാത്രമാണ് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നത്.

നമ്മുടെ പിതാവായ മാർ തോമാശ്ലീഹായുടെ 'നമുക്ക് അവനോടുകൂടെ പോയി മരിക്കാം' (യോഹ 11:16) എന്ന വാക്കുകൾ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ സൂക്ഷിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ആ വിശ്വാസവെളിച്ചത്തിൽ മിഷനെ അറിഞ്ഞും സ്നേഹിച്ചും മിഷനറിമാർക്കുവേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചും മിഷൻ പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ സന്ദർശിച്ചും കൂടാതെ സാമ്പത്തികമായി സഹായിച്ചും നമ്മൾ ശക്തരായിതീരട്ടെ.

മിശിഹായിൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം,
കർദിനാൾ ജോർജ്ജ് ആലഞ്ചേരി
സീറോ മലബാർ സഭയുടെ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ്

കാക്കനാട് മൗണ്ട് സെന്റ് തോമസിലുള്ള മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പിന്റെ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2018-ാം ആണ്ടുനവംബർ മാസം 5-ാം തീയതി നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.

CIRCULAR

MISSION WEEK CELEBRATION 2019

George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop
of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops,
Priests, Consecrated Men and Women and Lay Faithful
of the Syro-Malabar Church.

May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

From the feast of *Denha* of Jesus on 6th January to 12th January 2019, we celebrate the Mission Week of the Syro-Malabar Church. On this occasion I would like to share with you some thoughts about the Mission Week. Jesus began his mission work revealing himself on the feast of Denha. The Gospels testify that he showed special love and mercy to the poor and the marginalized. The Church, which is the mystical body of Jesus who revealed himself, participates incessantly in this missionary duty. That is why the *Ad Gentes*, the decree of Vatican II teaches us that “the Church by its very nature is missionary” (AG 2). I exhort all the sons and daughters of the Church to acquire mission awareness and zeal and to venture fervently into Gospel proclamation and mission activities according to their ability, life-status and circumstances.

Today, the face of Jesus becomes luminous in the world through each one of us. “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation” (Mk 16:15). We have to fulfill the above command of Jesus everywhere. It is the need of the times to become stronger in our spirituality as the power of evil keeps attacking the Church

stealthily. Parents should never forget their spiritual duties towards their families. We shall work together to keep the light of faith handed over to us by our forefathers, alive and blazing. The zeal of faith and the courage of St. Thomas fill us with the strength to overcome crises and obstacles in our journey to heaven.

Through the Mission Week celebrations let us experience the transforming power of the Gospel and become filled with the zeal to reach out to those places where the Gospel of our Lord has not yet reached. Imitating the example of the first Christians, let us not forget our duty to foster reconciliation, fraternity and sharing everywhere and among all peoples. The programs for sharing the message of salvation achieved through Jesus must be planned and worked out at the eparchial and parish levels with the cooperation of all pious associations and this will imbue the celebrations of the Mission Week with deeper meaning and significance. Let us remember that our faith becomes fruitful in our missionary zeal and generosity.

Our Church has given innumerable missionaries to serve in the mission stations both in India and abroad. Let us be proud that the eparchies of Shamshabad and Hosur, which were established as a result of the jurisdiction given to us by the Holy Father for pastoral work and Gospel proclamation all over India, are fulfilling the same right in collaboration with various mission eparchies of our Church. Let us remember them in a special way when we celebrate the Mission Week.

The major reason behind the multifarious activities of evangelization taking place in the Indian Church is our missionary zeal. It is the need of the hour to remember all missionaries and to encourage vocations motivated by the zeal of faith and courage. I hope you are aware of an office named 'Syro-Malabar Mission' at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad that works to coordinate and help the mission activities of our Church. This office helps 230 seminarians and 34 women candidates to religious life who are aspiring to serve in

18 mission eparchies of our Church that has 51 lakhs of faithful living all over the world. Besides this, other projects are also being undertaken for evangelization and related needs in the mission regions. Your prayers and generosity help the working of this office through creative interventions. This office offers commendable service in the growth of the Church and our mission activities. The amount that is collected through the celebration of the Mission Week is used exclusively for mission activities.

Let us keep in our hearts the words of our Father St. Thomas: "Let us also go that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). May we be strengthened in that light of faith by knowing and loving the mission, by praying for the missionaries, by visiting the mission regions and by contributing what we can financially to support this cause.

Lovingly in Jesus,

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Given from the Office of the Major Archbishop at Mount St. Thomas
on 5th November 2018.

Decrees
Document
Activities of the Tribunals
Statements of Accounts

Prot. No. 1317/2019

DECREE

Major Archiepiscopal Letter of Canonical Provision Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP
OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH sends his paternal Blessings
to YOUR EXCELLENCY MAR ANTONY KARIYIL CMI
at present Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya.

Whereas, considering my suggestion and deliberating on the nature of the dual offices of the Major Archbishop, namely, the head of the entire Syro-Malabar Church and Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the first Session of the XXVII Synod (7-18 January 2019) has discussed and decided in favour of appointing a Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly for the ordinary administration of the said Archeparchy;

Whereas, you as a person endowed with exemplary episcopal qualities with adequate intellectual formation, administrative experience and spiritual vision, having demonstrated especially in your Episcopal ministry in Mandya and is found suitable for the above mentioned office of Vicar of the Archeparchy;

Whereas, the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Third Sitting of the XXVII Synod Session II on Thursday, 22 August 2019, has elected you to the office of the Vicar *ad omnia* (that is, for all matters of ordinary administration) of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, transferring you from the Office of Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya;

Whereas the Apostolic See, by its letter Prot. No. 125/2011 dated 29 August 2019 has approved the said election and transfer; and

Whereas Holy Father Pope Francis has conferred upon you the title of Archbishop elevating to the same rank *pro hac vice* (that is, for this occasion) the titular see of *Macriana Maggiore* with the above mentioned letter of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches;

In virtue of the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop, hereby transfer you from the Eparchy of Mandya and appoint you Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.

As the Vicar *ad omnia* of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly endowed with ordinary vicarious power (c. 245), you shall exercise your duties as per norms of law (Common Law CCEO, the Particular Laws of the Syro-Malabar Church, and the Guidelines for the Vicar approved by the Synod). In the governance of the Archeparchy, you shall be assisted by the Archeparchial Curia (c. 243) and the canonical bodies, namely, College of Consulters (c.271), the Presbyteral Council (c. 264), the Finance Council (c. 263); the Pastoral Council (c. 272) and any other body legitimately constituted by the competent authorities. After taking charge of your office as Vicar, as decided by the Synod, you may dissolve, suspend, revive or reconstitute them as per norms of law, in consultation with the Major Archbishop.

This decree comes into effect on Friday, 30th August 2019. In the light of the understanding reached in the Synod, you are to take canonical possession of your office in accordance with the norms of law on Friday, 30th August 2019.

Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd and praying that through the intercession of Mary, *Mater amabilis* and St. Thomas, our Apostle you may in close communion with me, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the entire clergy, the consecrated persons and other faithful of the said Archeparchy, fulfil the duties of your office as “an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12), I send you, my hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given at Kakkanad from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas on Friday, the 30th day of the month of August of the year 2019 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
& Archbishop of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Prot. No. 1309/2019

DECREE

Major Archiepiscopal Letter of Canonical Provision Bishop of Bijnor

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY,
THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH,
sends his Paternal Blessings to you,
REV. FR. VINCENT NELLAIPARAMBIL,

priest belonging to the Eparchy of Bijnor, currently priest-in-charge of Mary Matha Mission Station at Chiniyalisaur, Uttarakhand, who, having obtained the prior assent of the Holy Father, has been elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Second Session of the XXVII Synod, held from 19 to 30 August 2019, Bishop of Bijnor, which Office fell vacant upon the acceptance of resignation of His Excellency Mar John Vadakel CMI, by Holy Father Pope Francis, upon completing 75 years of age. You as a person of exemplary priestly qualities with adequate intellectual formation, spiritual depth, pastoral and administrative experience have been chosen to succeed him as the Bishop of Bijnor.

Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1^o and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and efficient system of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Eparchy of Bijnor and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby appoint you BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF BIJNOR. You are

to be ordained Bishop in accordance with CCEO c. 187 §2 and c. 188 and take canonical possession of your Office in accordance with CCEO c. 189.

Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd, through the intercession of Mary our Mother, St Thomas, our Apostle, St. Joseph, the Patron of the Eparchy of Bijnor, you may, in close communion with the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Bijnor, fulfil the duties of your Office as “an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1Tim 4:12).

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on the 30th day of the Month of August of the year 2019 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

Prot. No. 1309/2019

DECREE

Major Archiepiscopal Letter of Canonical Provision Bishop of Mandya

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP
OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH SENDS HIS PATERNAL BLESSINGS
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY MAR SEBASTIAN ADAYANTHRATH.

As the Second Session of the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church held from 19 to 30 August 2019 elected Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI to the Office of the Vicar *ad omnia* of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, transferring him from the Office of Bishop of the Eparchy of Mandya, the See of the Eparchy of Mandya became vacant. This act of the Synod necessitated finding a suitable successor to Bishop Antony Kariyil CMI who shepherded the Eparchy for nearly four years, with paternal care and foresight.

In the background of the instruction of the Holy Father Pope Francis, (N. 2487/19), the XXVII Holy Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church, in the Second Session gathered at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, has found in Your Excellency the right person for the Office of the Bishop of Mandya and elected you to this Office. The Holy Father Pope Francis approved your election as Bishop of Mandya through the communication dated 29 August 2019 with N. 3035/19.

Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1^o and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and

efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Eparchy of Mandya and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, hereby appoint you BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF MANDYA. You are to take canonical possession of your Office in accordance c. 223 of Code of Canons for the Oriental Churches.

Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd and praying that you may, through the intercession of Mary our Mother and St. Thomas our Apostle, in close communion and collegiality with the Major Archbishop and the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Mandya, fulfil the duties of your Office as “an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1Tim 4:12), I extend to you, my hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 30th day of the month of August of the year 2019 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DECREE

Major Archiepiscopal Letter of Canonical Provision Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY
THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH
SENDS HIS PATERNAL BLESSINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
MAR JOSE PUTHENVEETIL.

The Second Session of the XXVII Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church held from 19 to 30 August 2019 at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, has found in you the right person for the Office of the Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad and elected you to this Office, at the request of His Excellency Archbishop Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, the Bishop of Faridabad and in the context of the instruction of the Holy Father Pope Francis (N. 2487/19). The Holy Father Pope Francis approved your election to the Office of the Auxiliary bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad through the communication dated 29 August 2019 with N. 3035/19. Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1^o and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Eparchy of Faridabad and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, hereby appoint you **AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF FARIDABAD**. You are to take charge of your Office in accordance with the direc-

tion of Archbishop Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Bishop of the Eparchy of Faridabad.

Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd and praying that you may, through the intercession of Mary our Mother and St. Thomas our Apostle, in close communion and collegiality with Archbishop Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara and the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Faridabad, fulfil the duties of your Office as “an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1Tim. 4:12).

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the 30th day of the Month of August of the year 2019 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DECREE

Conferring Major Archiepiscopal Status to Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation (SMC)

Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation, founded by the late Bishop of Palai, Mar Sebastian Vayalil and late Mr. Joseph Kalapurayil from Moolamattam of the Eparchy of Palai in 1958 as a Pious Union at Moolamattam for the spiritual training of women, has entered into the 61st year of its existence. This pious union, having as its specific charism, "To do humble service to the people of God especially the poor women and children", was erected as a Congregation of Eparchial Right on 2 February 1998 under the guidance and with the blessings of Mar Joseph Pallikaparambil, the then Bishop of Palai and with the approval of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Rome.

Living their specific charism, Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation, engaging themselves in various fields of apostolate, has grown considerably within a span of 61 years, inspired by the founders and encouraged by the Bishops of the Eparchy of Palai extending their presence to 13 Syro-Malabar eparchies/archeparchies in India and to some Latin dioceses in Germany and Italy. At present the Congregation has 48 canonically erected convents with 258 professed members, of which 249 are perpetually professed and 09, temporarily professed. There are also a good number of candidates under formation. Committed to their charism, the members of this Congregation today bear witness to the self-sacrificing love of Christ through the running of Homes for the Aged, Hospitals, *Balika Bha-*

vans, institutions for the physically handicapped and mentally challenged and other similar institutions.

Considering the growth of the Congregation over the years and the need for better coordination and more effective organization of activities in different eparchies in and outside India, the extraordinary General Synaxis of the Congregation held on 12 April 2019 decided to request the competent authority to raise the Congregation to Major Archiepiscopal Status. Accordingly Mother Snow Mary, the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation, presented an application to the Major Archbishop on 23 May 2019, requesting the Major Archiepiscopal Status to the Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation.

In this context, after having received the favourable opinion of the Bishop of Palai, the local Hierarchy of the place where the principal house of the Congregation is located, obtained the *nihil obstat* of the Hierarchs of the eparchies where the Congregation has canonically erected houses, consulted the Chairman of the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life and with the consent of the Permanent Synod held on 15 July 2019, the undersigned,

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY,

THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH,

hereby grants Major Archiepiscopal Status to

SISTERS OF ST. MARTHA'S CONGREGATION (SMC)

in accordance with CCEO c. 506 §3, with all the rights, duties and privileges attached to such status in Common and Particular Law. The Revised Articles of the Statutes of Sisters of St. Martha's Congregation, which is appended to this Decree, is also approved *ad experimentum* for a period of three years. The Congregation is to

revise the existing Statutes in accordance with CCEO c. 414 §2 in three year time from the date of issue of this Decree.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on the Twentieth Day of the Month of November of the year Two Thousand and Nineteen

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DECREE

Conferring the title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre on Martha Mariam Archdeacon Forane Church, Kuravilangad

The request from *Marth Mariam* Archdeacon Forane Church, Kuravilangad for a special title submitted with the signature of all the members present for the *pothuyogam* held on 25 June 2017 and with recommendation of Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Palai was discussed in the XXVI Synod, Session 1, held from 8 to 13 January. The Synod approved the norms for conferring special titles on Churches and Pilgrim Centres, namely, 1. The Church/Pilgrim centre should be an Eparchial Shrine, having great historical importance, with large number of pilgrims and having present relevance. 2. The request should be based on a decision of the *Pothuyogam* and there should be the recommendation of the Local Bishop. 3. Conferring of the title entails submitting of yearly report and 5% of the income from the offerings to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The Synod decided to institute the title 'Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre' to certain parish churches and pilgrim centres having great historical importance according to the norms and conditions to confer the title. The Synod found that *Marth Mariam* Archdeacon Forane Church fulfilled the requirements of the norms and proposed to confer the Title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre after the *Pothuyogam* of the Church accepts the norms and resubmit their application accordingly.

The *Pothuyogam* of *Marth Mariam* Archdeacon Forane Church, Kuravilangad held on 12 January 2018 having resubmitted the petition with the signatures of 862 participants accepting to abide by the norms indicated above and with the recommendation of the Eparchial Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church hereby confer the title of Major Archiepiscopal Pilgrim Centre on Martha Mariam Archdeacon Forane Church, Kuravilangad with effect from 21 January 2018, with all the rights and duties envisaged in the norms for such a Pilgrim Centre.

Given this from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad on 14 January 2018.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor

DOCUMENT

Guidelines on the Office of Vicar of The Major Archbishop for the Archeaparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly

1. The Syro Malabar Church, which had its origin from the apostolate of St. Thomas in India, was raised as a Major Archiepiscopal Church on 16 December 1992 having its See with the Title of “Ernakulam-Angamaly” and having the residence at the principal city Ernakulam.
2. The Major Archbishop, besides being the ‘father and head’ of the whole Syro Malabar Church, is also the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archeaparchy of Ernakulam- Angamaly (CCEO cc. 55-56, 57 §3, 151-153). Common law demands that for the administration based on these two offices there should be distinct curia, namely, Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the affairs of the whole Church (CCEO c. 114) and Curia for the Archeaparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly (CCEO c. 243).
3. Since the Major Archbishop has to care for the pastoral affairs of the whole Syro Malabar Church, it was not easy for him to concentrate on the ministry in the Archeaparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Hence, in the XV Synod (2007) January and August sessions, there was a suggestion to have an ‘Administrative Archbishop’ for the Archeaparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, namely, the Protosyncellus Auxiliary Bishop, having the title of Archbishop be given the charge of the ordinary administration of the Archeaparchy. Later sessions of the Synods also had discussions in this regard.
4. In the last 25 years of its existence, the Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church has grown global with several eparchies and archeaparchies. Because of the global mission, it has be-

come very difficult for the Major Archbishop to dedicate more time for the ordinary administration of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the biggest eparchy of this Church. Given the said situation, the Synod of Bishops of the Syro Malabar Church in its XXVII Synod session 1, held during 7-18 January 2019, discussed the nature of work of the Major Archbishop in both offices and deliberated on the possibilities of making his ministry more effective. The Synod reached consensus that a Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly with episcopal status be appointed and decision to that effect was taken. The Vicar shall ex officio be the Proto-Syncellus of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.

5. The said 'Vicar of the Major Archbishop' shall be elected by the Synod of Bishops and be appointed by the Major Archbishop. If the elected one is not a bishop, ordinary procedure for the election of bishops shall be followed.
6. The appointment of the Vicar is without prejudice to the prerogatives, rights and obligations of the Major Archbishop in relation to the Archeparchy. He has the right and duty to intervene when circumstances warrant it or when the Vicar requests for it.
7. He shall be commemorated in Liturgy¹ (Major Archbishop and Head of our Archeparchy). Ordinarily, the Major Archbishop shall preside over the solemnities like the Nativity of Our Lord, Blessing of the Holy Myron, Holy Week Liturgy, in the Cathedral. He may make pastoral visits to parishes in the Archeparchy after having informed the Vicar.
8. After the name of the Major Archbishop, the name of the Vicar of the Major Archbishop shall also be commemorated in the Liturgy within the territory of his Archeparchy².
9. The Vicar ad omnia of the Major Archbishop endowed with ordinary vicarious power (CCEO c. 245) administers the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly in all ordinary affairs in accordance with the norms of law. However, he shall not fail to consult the Major Archbishop on all important matters and

brief the Major Archbishop regularly about the administration. The Vicar is competent to make appointments, constitute different councils of administration and shall have the duty of supervision.

- 10. As the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, he represents the Archeparchy in juridical matters before civil authorities. He is responsible for the running of the Archeparchy as per norms of law. He is authorized to sign documents personally or through his representative on behalf of the Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly on temporal affairs and is fully responsible for the temporal administration of the Archeparchy as per norms of law. The Major Archbishop acts as appellate authority in this regard.
- 11. When the See of the Major Archbishop becomes vacant, the Administrator takes charge as per norms of law (CCEO c. 127; Particular Law no. 7). But the Vicar continues to function in his office for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly (CCEO cc. 224, 132 §2). When the new Major Archbishop takes charge, (cfr. c. 991 §1) the Vicar is confirmed to continue in office, unless the Synod makes other provisions.

(These Guidelines on the Office of Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam- Angamaly were first discussed in the Synod of Bishops held in January 2019 and sent to Rome for their observations. Incorporating the suggestions from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Rome, the Guidelines were finally approved with necessary modifications by the Synod of Bishops in the Second Session of the XXVII Synod held from 19 to 30 August 2019.)

-
- 1. സഭയുടെ തലവനും പിതാവും അതിരുപതാധ്യക്ഷനുമായ മേജർ ആർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് മാർ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്താക്കു വേണ്ടിയും
 - 2. അതിരുപത മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്തൻ വികാരി അർച്ച്ബിഷപ്പ് മാർ
..... പിതാവിനു വേണ്ടിയും

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE AND ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL - 2018

PART I TRIBUNAL MINISTERS

NAME	STATUS S= Priest S= Priest	DATE OF Birth	DATE OF Appointment	DATE OF Renewal	Academic Degree in Canon Law
I. PRESIDENT (Judicial Vicar) 1. Fr. Thomas Adoppillil	S	18.09.1958	Judge on 17.08.2007 Vice President On 8.6.2018 President on 18.6.2019	President on 18.6.2024	JCD, Ph.D

II. VICE – PRESIDENT							
2. Fr. Joseph Varanath	S	07.08.1960	Judge on 28.07.2000 Vice President On 27.11.2003	27-112021	D.O.C.L		
III. JUDGES							
3. Fr. Joseph Pathiyamoola MCBS	S	28.07.1955	01.09.1994	01.11.2020	D.O.C.L.		
4. Fr. Varghese Palathingal	S	19.01.1960	01.09.1994	01.11.2020	D.O.C.L.		
5. Fr. John Kochupurackal CST	S	30.07.1956	26.06.1996	18.08.2022	D.O.C.L		
6. Fr. Joseph Thoompunkal	S	30.12.1946	28.07.2000	01.11.2020	D.O.C.L		
7. Fr. Berchmans Kodackal	S	09.11.1951	18.08.2002	18.08.2022	D.C.L		
8. Fr. James Thalachelloor	S	19.07.1954	18.03.2010	18.03.2020	D.O.C.L.		
9. Fr. Vincent Chittilappilly	S	24.07.1966	18.03.2010	18.03.2020	D.O.C.L.		
10. Fr. Mathew Changankary	S	25.09.1965	14.02.2014	14.02.2024	JCD, Ph.D		
11. Fr. Thomas Thengumpally	S	30.05.1973	17.07.2014	17.07.2024	D.O.C.L		
12. Fr. Joseph Mukaleparambil	S	29.05.1977	18.03.2015	18.03.2020	D.O.C.L		

IV. DEFENDERS OF BOND						
1.Fr. Mani Kuthodiputhenpurayil	CST	S	05.04.1966	17.08.2007	17.08.2012	D.O.C.L.
2. Fr. Joseph Velinjilil		S	08.07.1960	18.03.2010	18.03.2020	D.C.L.
3. Fr. John Chennakuzhy		S	30.10.1969	14.02.2019	14.02.2024	D.C.L.
V. (Substitute)						
PROMOTERS OF JUSTICE						
1.Fr. Mani Kuthodiputhenpurayil	CST	S	05.04.1966	17.08.2007	17.08.2022	D.O.C.L

Name	Diocese/Congregation	DATE OF Appointment	Academic Degree in Canon Law
VI. ADVOCATES			
1. Rev. Fr. Philip Nelpuraparambil	Changanacherry	20.12.2010	D.O.C.L.
2. Rev. Sr. Asha John	CHF	“	D.O.C.L.
3. Rev. Sr. Sibi	CMC	“	D.O.C.L.
4. Rev. Fr. Varghese Koluthara	CMI	“	D.C.L.
5. Rev. Fr. Jose Paul Nellissery	Ernakulam-Ang.	“	M.C.L.
6. Rev. Fr. Jose Marattil	Idukki	“	D.C.L.

7. Rev. Fr. Kurian Thamarassery	Kanjirappally	“	D.O.C.L.
8. Rev. Fr. Abraham Kulamakkal	Palai	“	M.O.C.L.
9. Rev. St. Sherin	SH	“	D.O.C.L.
10. Rev. St. Mercilit	SVM	“	D.O.C.L.
11. Rev. Fr. Jose Vettickal	Tellicherry	“	D.O.C.L.
12. Rev. Fr. Vincent Cheruvathoor	Trichur	“	D.O.C.L.
13. Rev. Fr. Philip Nedumthuruthil	VC	“	D.O.C.L.
VII. NOTARY	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF Appointment	
Sr. Subha MSJ Notary & Office Secretary	23-10-1970	03-07-2019	

PART II

ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN SECOND INSTANCE

CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED AFTER AN ORDINARY

PROCESS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.

I	Causes pending at the beginning of the year		03
II	Causes introduced this year:		06
III	Decrees of ratification (total number):		Nil
IV	Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):		01
	a) In favour of nullity (“constat de nullitate”, at least on one ground)		01
	b) In favour of the bond (“non constat de nullitate”: on every ground alleged)		00
V	Grounds of nullity considered in the sentences (if a sentence considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the number of decisions under 5 may be greater than that under 4)		
		Affirmative <i>constat de nullitate</i>	Negative <i>non constat de nullitate</i>
	CCEO c. 824/ 2 Force or grave fear	01	00
VI	Causes abandoned:		
	a) Through renunciation		Nil
	b) Through abatement (<i>Peremptio</i>)		Nil
VII	Causes pending at the end of the year		08

PART III

ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN THIRD & SUBSEQUENT INSTANCES

**CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED AFTER A PROCESS
IN SECOND INSTANCE**

I	Causes pending at the beginning of the year		03
II	Causes introduced this year:		03
III	Decrees of ratification (total number):		Nil
IV	Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):		02
	a) In favour of nullity (“constat de nullitate”, at least on one ground)		01
	b) In favour of the bond (“non constat de nullitate”: on every ground alleged		01
V	Grounds of nullity considered in the sentences (if a sentence considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the number of decisions under 5 may be greater than that under 4)		
		Affirmative <i>constatde nullitate</i>	Negative <i>non constat de nullitate</i>
	CCEO c. 820§ 2 Error of quality	01	01
VI	Cases abandoned:		
	a) Through renunciation		Nil
	b) Through abatement (<i>Peremptio</i>)		Nil
VII	Cases pending at the end of the year		04

**ACTIVITIES OF THE LOWER TRIBUNALS
IN THE YEAR 2018**

There are sixteen eparchies in four metropolitan provinces and one archeparchy within the proper territory of the Syro Malabar Church. All the four metropolitan provinces have metropolitan tribunals and they function as the tribunals of appeal in the second instance as per c. 1064§1. The metropolitan tribunal of Kottayam judges cases only of the Archeparchy of the metropolitan of Kottayam. The eparchies of Belthangady, Thuckaly and Bhadravathi have single judge tribunals. The cases of the eparchy of Ramanathapuram are handled by the eparchial tribunal of Palakkad. The activities of the eparchial and metropolitan tribunals during the year 2018 are briefly given in the following tables:

Cases Processed by the Tribunals of the First Instance during the Year 2018													
Sl. No.	Tribunals	Cases for Process			Cases Disposed						Cases Pending		
		Cases Pending	Cases Introduced	Total	Affirmative Sen- tences	Negative Sen- tences	Total Sentences	Cases Abandoned	Penal Cases	Ratified and Non-consum	Total	Cases Pending	
1	Eparchial and Metropolitan Tribunals (First Instance)	09	21	30	21	--	21	--	--	--	--	09	
2	Bhadravathi	04	-	04	02	-	02	-	-	-	-	02	
3	Changanacherry	56	108	164	123	07	130	02	--	--	02	32	
4	Ernakulam-Ang	37	81	118	93	--	93	09	--	--	09	16	
5	Idukki	12	28	40	21	--	21	--	--	--	--	19	
6	Irinjalakkuda	110	66	176	87	04	91	11	--	04	15	70	
7	Kanjirappally	26	26	52	35	--	35	--	--	--	--	17	
8	Kothamangalam	40	41	81	32	01	33	--	--	01	01	47	

9	Kottayam	03	25	28	27		27	--	--	--	--	01
10	Mananthavady	06	50	56	41	--	41	05	--	--	05	10
11	Mandya	01	12	13	06	-	06	02	-	-	02	05
12	Palai	42	67	109	68	05	73	03	--	--	03	33
13	Palaghat	22	27	49	20		20	03	--	--	03	26
14	Tellicherry	35	106	141	72	01	73	20	--	--	20	48
15	Thamarassery	24	37	61	40	--	40	--	--	--	--	21
16	Thuckalay	03	03	06	03	-	03	01	-	-	01	02
17	Trichur	70	93	163	80	02	82	07	--	--	07	74
	Total	500	791	1291	771	20	791	63	--	05	68	432

Tribunal records show that there has been a definite hike in the number of cases in most of the tribunals. This hike may be due to the increased general awareness among the people of the new provisions in the motu proprio which make the nullity procedure of marriage cases more simple, easy and quick.

Cases Processed by the Tribunals of the Second Instance during the Year 2018											
Sl. No.	Tribunals	Cases for Process			Cases Disposed					Cases Pending	
		Cases Pending	Cases Introduced	Total	Decreases of	Ratification	Affirmative Sentences	Negative Sentences	Cases Abandoned		Total
1	Metropolitan Tribunals (Second Instance) Changanacherry	03	08	11	--	07	02	02	02	11	00
2	Ernakulam-Ang	--	01	01	01	--	--	--	--	01	00
3	Tellicherry	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	00	00
4	Trichur	02	01	03	--	--	--	--	--	--	03
	Total	05	10	15	01	07	02	02	02	12	03

Fr. Thomas Adoppillil
President, Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal

Summary of The Statement of Accounts

of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church
Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad for the year ended 31st March, 2019

2017-18		PARTICULARS	2018-19	
RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS		RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
I. INCOME & EXPENDITURE				
7,810,972		Syro Malabar Sabhadinam	7,884,592	
2,592,359		Contribution and Donations	2,123,501	
1,678,195		Administrative Receipts	2,041,176	
357,077		Synodal and Commission Meetings	151,418	
573,005		Agriculture Income	732,505	
123,931		Major Tribunal Collection	125,712	
89,387		Synodal News Collection	253,294	
96,198		Chancery Income	42,184	
588,006		Liturgical Research Centre	462,777	
170,253		Internet Mission	268,906	
		S.M. Youth Mission	473,112	
575,856		Commission for Litergy	401,268	
284,441		Catechetical Commission	992,198	
3,402,436		S.M. Mission Fund	4,381,649	
	186,240	Flood Relief Fund & Charity	20,663,844	20,663,844

	8,473,673	Administrative Expenses		8,112,438
	2,025,143	Synodal & Commission Meetings		1,083,958
	235,205	Agricultural Expenses		295,507
	240,295	Major Tribunal Expenses		164,546
	115,246	Synodal News Expenses		138,483
	69,392	Chancery Expenses		81,159
18,342,116	1,345,194	Sub-Total	0,998,136	30,539,935
II. CAPITAL RECEIPTS & INVESTMENTS				
1,600,000		Special Contribution Received	10,190,686	
	46,111	Land & Building		2,296,260
	413,855	Museum Building		10,386,037
	1,505,382	Furniture & Equipments		221,441
	1,394,467	Other Assets - Vehicle		158,832
1,600,000	3,359,815	Sub-Total	10,190,686	13,062,570
III. CURRENT LIABILITIES & ASSETS				
	575,856	Commission for Liturgy		401,268
	284,441	Catechetical Commission		992,198
	2,799,277	Liturgical Research Centre		578,832
	136,066	Syro Malabar Internet Mission		303,092

	3,326,360	S.M. Mission Fund		4,391,584
		S.M. Youth Mission		473,112
213,860		Mass Obligation	318,742	
60,000		Advance Account	60,000	
5,843,694		Apostolic Visitor Fund	7,204,240	
	200,000	Marriage Fund		900,000
	872,118	Syro Malabar Charity Fund	704,935	
3,271,373		Major Arch Bishop's Fund	376,369	
358,593		Curia Bishop's Fund	800,674	
9,747,520	8,194,118	Sub-Total	19,464,960	8,040,086
IV. BANK & CASH BALANCES				
32,400,000	38,856,788	Bank : Fixed Deposits	38,856,788	58,626,110
2,771,196	3,233,996	Bank : S.B. Accounts	3,233,996	2,345,323
269,152	243,293	Bank & Cash : Synodal News	243,293	358,104
1,123,511	1,007,147	Bank & Cash : Tribunal	1,007,147	968,313
-	26,806	Bank & Cash : Chaneery	26,806	68,831
53,962	40,300	Cash in Hand	40,300	52,840
36,617,821	43,408,330	Sub-Total	43,408,330	62,419,521
66,307,457	66,307,457	GRAND TOTAL	14,062,112	14,062,112
Sd/-				Sd/-
Fr. Joseph Tholanickal			C.J. Romid FCA	
Finance Officer			Chartered Accountant	