XIX SYNOD (2011), SESSIONS 1-3

SPEECHES

REPORTS

DECISIONS

DECREES

PASTORAL LETTERS

Vol. 19  Nos. 1 - 3  December 2011
CONTENTS

Editorial ......................................................... 3

XIX Synod (2011), Session 1 .............................. 7
  Inaugural Address .......................................... 9
  Report ......................................................... 15
  Decisions ...................................................... 43
  Concluding Address ....................................... 48

XIX Synod (2011), Session 2 .............................. 53
  Inaugural Address .......................................... 54
  Report on the Election and Enthronement of the Major Archbishop ........... 61
  Request for Confirmation of the Election of the Major Archbishop .......... 66
  Confirmation by the Holy Father of the Election of the Major Archbishop .. 67

XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 .............................. 68
  Inaugural Address .......................................... 69
  Report ......................................................... 74
  Decisions ...................................................... 111
  Concluding Address ....................................... 116

Pastoral Letters/Guidelines/Decrees

Pastoral Letter on Mission Year — Sabhadinam — Mal ....................... 119
Pastoral Letter on Mission Year — Sabhadinam — Eng ....................... 126
Circular after the Demise of the Major Archbishop — Mal .................. 132
Circular after the Funeral of the Major Archbishop — Mal .................. 135
Circular after the Funeral of the Major Archbishop — Eng ................. 139
Circular on Mission Fund — Mal .................................. 142
Circular on Mission Fund — Eng ................................... 145
Circular after the XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 — Mal .................. 148
Circular after the XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 — Eng .................. 155

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia ........ 161
Guidelines for the Functioning of the Finance Council ..................... 166
Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Laity ............... 169

Decree promulgating the Mission Year ........................................ 179
Appointment letter of the Procurator of the Major Archbishop at the Apostolic See .................................................. 181
Appointment letter of the Administrator of the Eparchy of Thuckalay ................................. 182

Report of the Demise and the Funeral Service of Mar Varkey Vithayathil .................................................. 184
Appointment Letter of Mar Jose Chittooparambil, CMI, Bishop of Rajkot ................................................ 194
Table — Activities of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal .......................... 195
Statement of Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia ...................... 201
The year 2011 is uniquely eventful in the history of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, with both sorrowful as well as joyful events, at times plunging it into the depths of deep sorrow and at other times lifting it to the heights of great joy. On 1 April 2011, His Eminence Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, who shepherded the Syro-Malabar Church as its Father and Head for the last 14 years (of these, three years as Administrator) left for his eternal abode, leaving a great void in the hearts and minds of not only of the Syro-Malabar faithful, but also in the hearts of millions of people in the Universal Church and outside it, in India and abroad. The simple, unassuming at the same time forthright personality of Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil had gained him an enviable position in the hearts of countless number of people as evidenced by the large number of people who converged on the Basilica Grounds to attend the funeral ceremony conducted on 10 April and the array of dignitaries who were present and the media coverage given to that event. Yes, the Syro-Malabar Church can never forget Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil who had taken upon himself the mission of achieving unity and reconciliation in the Church. Now that he is in heaven, he can better intercede for this goal. We bow our heads before the loving memory of this great Father and Head of our Church. May his soul rest in peace!

The sad demise of Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil took place when the Bishops of the Syro-Church were making the ad limina visit to the Holy Father almost eight years after the previous visit. This was the first ad limina visit of our Bishops after the election of Pope Benedict XVI. The Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil had sent his requests through Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Curia Bishop. The ad limina visit provided our Church an opportunity to present the legitimate requests of the Syro-Malabar Church to the Holy Father and the Vatican dicasteries in a very persuasive manner from which we could reasonably expect a positive outcome in the near future. Bishop Bosco Puthur who took charge as the Administrator of the
Syro-Malabar Church after the demise of the Major Archbishop ably guided the Church in the interim, organizing the funeral services of the late Major Archbishop and convoking the Synod of election and the conducting the enthronement of the new Major Archbishop. The Synodal News places on record our sincere congratulations to Bishop Bosco Puthur on his successful administration of the Church which had won the admiration of all.

The Extraordinary Synod for the election of the Major Archbishop, convoked by Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Administrator, from 23 to 29 May 2011 had to fulfill a unique role, that of electing a Major Archbishop of our Church. It was an occasion for our Church to begin the tradition of electing the Major Archbishop and to fix the modus operandi to be adopted for the celebration of a Synod of Election of the Major Archbishop. These were moments of intense prayer in the Church for the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit for the election of a Major Archbishop filled with knowledge, wisdom, and erudition. On 26th May, Archbishop George Valiamattam, the President of the Synod for the election of the Major Archbishop announced to the waiting media personnel and the representatives of the faithful that we have a new Major Archbishop in the person of Mar George Alencherry, Bishop of Thuckalay. The news was welcomed all over the world with great satisfaction and joy. Many felt that it was the beginning of a new dawn for the Syro-Malabar Church. The installation ceremony of the New Major Archbishop took place at St. Mary’s Basilica, Ernakulam on 29th May with the presence of the Papal Nuncio and many ecclesiastical and political dignitaries. Indeed it was the beginning of a new dawn for the Syro-Malabar Church and Mar Alencherry has already won the appreciation of all. The Synodal News while congratulating the new Major Archbishop wish to assure him our intense prayers for fulfilling the aspirations of the four million Syro-Malabar faithful dispersed all over the world. May God strengthen his hands to guide our Church to her full blossoming!

The Church by its very nature is missionary to which the Syro-Malabar Church is no exception. Yet her missionary potential was restricted to a narrow strip of land for many years. It was only
with the opening of Chanda Mission in 1962 that a new phase of missionary spring began in the Syro-Malabar Church. As we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of this thrust of the Syro-Malabar Church into the virgin soils of mission \textit{ad gentes}, the year beginning from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012 was declared the Mission Year of the Syro-Malabar Church. Already it has succeeded in instilling renewed mission awareness among our faithful through the various programmes planned and implemented by the Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. Let us hope that the celebration of the Mission Year brings a new spring time in the evangelization mission of the Syro-Malabar Church rekindling the missionary spirit of our Church and inspiring our missionaries to deepen their commitment to the mission and to boldly face the adversities in the mission field. The Synodal News wishes the celebration of the Mission Year every success.

In this issue of the Synodal News we have included documents relating to the three Sessions of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church held in the year 2011. Besides, there are reports on the demise of the former Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and his funeral service, report on the election and enthronement of the new Major Archbishop Mar George Alencherry Pastoral Letters and Circulars, Documents on Mission Year Celebration, Important ecclesiastical provisions and guidelines, 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.
XIX Synod (2011)
Session 1
10 – 14 January 2011
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10-14 January 2011
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Today as we are gathered here for the first session of XIX Synod, we have the privilege of having His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio in India with us during this inaugural sitting of our Synod. I have great joy in welcoming Archbishop Pennacchio to our midst. It is indeed a sign of the communion of our Church with the Apostolic See and I thank the Apostolic Nuncio for having accepted our invitation. Certainly this will help in deepening the communion between the Apostolic See and the Syro-Malabar Church. Shortly after my inaugural speech, the Apostolic Nuncio will address the Synod and there will also be occasion for an exchange of ideas which will help create better understanding concerning not only the richness of the Syro-Malabar Church, but also her dreams and aspirations, concerns and anxieties, especially with regard to her legitimate rights for evangelization and pastoral care of her faithful all over India and abroad. I am sure that this personal encounter of the representative of the Holy Father with the Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church would certainly throw much light on these issues and help expedite the process of arriving at a just solution to them in the light of the provisions in the Codes of Canon Law and the constant teaching of the Magisterium of the Universal Church. In the name of all of you here present, I extend a very cordial welcome to His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio in India.

Not very long ago, we had assembled in this same hall for the second session of XVIII Synod. Almost every one of the 47 Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, with the exception of a few bishops emeriti, is present in this session of the Synod. I extend to all of you
a very warm welcome to this Synodal Session. A special welcome to Bishop Jose Chittooparambil, CMI, who was ordained on the 11 September last year and is attending our Synod for the first time as a full-fledged member. Let me also felicitate in the name of all of you Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop James Pazhayattil and Bishop George Punnakottil who celebrate their Golden Jubilee of priestly ordination this year. Felicitations also to Bishop Pauly Kannookadan who celebrates the Silver Jubilee of priestly ordination. This year the Archeparchy of Kottayam celebrates its Centenary. My sincere congratulations and prayerful wishes to Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, Bishop Jose Pandarasseril, and Archbishop Emeritus Kuriakose Kunnacherry, and the Clergy, Religious and the laity of the Archeparchy of Kottayam. My sincere congratulations and prayerful wishes also to Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and the Emeritus Bishop Paul Chittilapilly on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the eparchy of Thamarassery. Next year we celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Chanda Mission. This has to be viewed not only as the Golden Jubilee of the Chanda Mission, but as the celebration of the missionary initiative of the Syro-Malabar Church in the past century that began with the erection of the eparchy of Chanda and therefore it is to be the celebration of the whole Church. We have formed a committee to organize the celebrations. I extend my heartfelt congratulations and prayerful wishes to Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram and the clergy, religious and the lay faithful of the eparchy of Chanda. A very special congratulation to Archbishop Andrews Thazhath who has been elected President of KCBC. I extend to him our sincere prayers and best wishes so that he may fulfill this great responsibility very successfully.

I am not very sure whether I will be able to attend all the sittings of the Synodal session due to sever back pain. However, I will try to be with you as much as possible. In my absence, Archbishop George Valiamattam, the senior most Bishop of our Church will preside over the proceedings of the Synodal Sittings. This is not a mere assembly of Bishops; rather it is an ecclesial action by which we manifest not only to our faithful but also to everyone else the close communion among ourselves which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. I pray that the Holy Spirit may guide us in all our discussions and deliberations so that united we may find apt solutions to many of the issues concerning our Church, issues our faithful face in the present day situations, in all aspects of
her ecclesial, liturgical, spiritual and temporal life. Already through the inspiring talk of Bishop Raphael Thattil and the Holy Qur\'bana we are prepared spiritually for our Synodal Session. While I thank sincerely Bishop Thattil for his enlightening and stimulating insights, I exhort all of you to cooperate generously with the discussions and deliberations in the Synodal sittings by your active participation.

At the beginning of this Synodal Session, let me draw your attention to some of the major events that took place after our last Synodal Session. A very significant event was the meeting of the Syro-Malabar Bishops’ Delegation with the Secretary of State, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and the Apostolic Nuncio. As requested by the Synod, I had appointed a delegation of Bishops to represent before the Holy See the serious concerns of our Church with regard to our legitimate rights for evangelization and pastoral care of our migrants all over India and abroad. The members of the delegation were Archbishop George Valiamattam, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop George Alencherry, the Secretary of the Synod, Bishop Gratian Mundadan, CMI, the Apostolic Visitor, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants and Bishop Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop who was also the convener of the Delegation. On 14th October 2010, the delegation had its meeting with the Secretary of State and the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches at the Vatican. Not all the members of the delegation could be present in Rome due to various difficulties; nevertheless, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop George Alencherry, Bishop Gratian Mundadan, and Bishop Bosco Puthur who could be in Rome at that time did present very convincingly our request for the restoration of All India Jurisdiction for our Church. I am happy to inform you that the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone gave a very patient listening to our requests and Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches did intervene strongly on our behalf while explaining different aspects of our request to the Secretary of State. On the whole the delegation was satisfied with the encounter and we hoped that a positive outcome would certainly come very soon.

On 1 November 2010, our delegation had a meeting with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, who is now present with us. Here too not all the delegation members could be
present. Archbishop George Valiamattam, Bishop George Alencherry, Bishop Gratian Mundadan, CMI and Bishop Bosco Puthur were present for the meeting. The Apostolic Nuncio also was very sympathetic to our request and gave the delegation a patient listening. The outcome of this meeting, I am sure, we will be able to hear from the mouth of the Apostolic Nuncio himself shortly.

Another important event that took place around this time was the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops held from 10 to 24 October 2010. Bishop Bosco Puthur took part in the Synod as our delegate. In his intervention, Bishop Bosco clearly emphasized the inadequacy of the pastoral care given to our faithful there. I am glad to quote a few lines from his intervention:

“The local Ordinaries [of Arabia and Kuwait] are neither able to do nor adequately prepared to give proper pastoral care as per the heritage of the individual Church.” ... “Serious restrictions are placed on the Syro-Malabar Hierarchy through a “Rescript” from the Holy See, which prevents any involvement of our Church in providing proper pastoral care to our faithful in the area.” ... “The Syro-Malabar Church is not granted any freedom to look after her faithful in the region, a right envisaged in the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, Canon Law and other magisterial documents. ... As there is the inadequacy in the pastoral care, there is the ever growing danger of our people being led astray by Pentecostal groups thriving in the Gulf region. Hence it is essential to entrust the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful to our own Church, erecting proper ecclesial structures and granting jurisdiction to our hierarchy.” ... “We hope and pray that the Apostolic See may take appropriate action to redress the grave situation in the region and enable all concerned to provide adequate pastoral care to our faithful in accordance with the liturgical and spiritual tradition of the St Thomas Christians.”

In fact these are the two main concerns of the Syro-Malabar Church. The first concern is the restoration of All India Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Church so that she can enjoy unhindered right to evangelization and pastoral care of her faithful all over India. This is a right guaranteed in the Codes of Canons of the Church and her constant magisterium. In spite of this fact, the plea of the Syro-
Malabar Church right from 1980 onwards for the restoration of All India Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Church has been constantly ignored just because of the majority of the Latin Bishops in India did not agree to it. This is indeed an injustice and a great harm to the Syro-Malabar Church and also to the Universal Church. I have written to the President of the CBCI that we have become very much disillusioned and disappointed about the attitude of the Latin Bishops over the question of All India Jurisdiction of the Syro-Malabar Church and the possibility of ever achieving it with the concurrence of the Latin Bishops. Consequently we are forced to think seriously about the usefulness of working as a conference of Bishops where the majority is always trying to deny the legitimate rights of a minority Church even when there are no convincing reasons to support their positions which are diametrically opposed to the much acclaimed fundamental principles of the Universal Church enshrined in the Codes of Canons of the Church and constant teachings of the magisterium. We feel now that it is quite meaningless to say that we form one conference while our legitimate rights are continually denied by the Latin Bishops.

The second concern is the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar migrants outside India, especially in the Arabian Gulf States. There are thousands of our faithful living in these Gulf States, but the Syro-Malabar Church is prevented from providing them with adequate pastoral care, by a rescript imposed on her unjustly by which exclusive jurisdiction is given to the Latin Vicars Apostolic and the Pastors of the Syro-Malabar Church are restricted from entering the country. Considering the great harm being caused by this situation to the spiritual well-being of our faithful, it is high time that this unjust rescript is revoked and the Syro-Malabar Church is given freedom to look after her own faithful also in the Gulf States. While proclaiming our allegiance to the Holy See, I hope and pray that these anomalous situations are rectified and proper hierarchical structures and provisions are made in accordance with the Codes of Canon Law and other documents of the Church.

As usual we have a number of items on the agenda that call for our serious attention. As there are very few days at our disposal, we will try to give sufficient time to as many of them as possible, especially to those that need our immediate attention. I request your whole-
hearted co-operation and active participation in these discussions and deliberations so that we may arrive at the best solutions.

In conclusion, I invoke God’s blessing upon all of us so that we may have a very fruitful session of our Synod. May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of our Apostle St. Thomas and St. Alphonsa, and all the blesseds of our Church, help us during these days. With these words I declare the first session of the XIX Synod 2011 open.

Mount St. Thomas
10 January 2011
Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
The XIX Synod (2011), Session 1 began with a recollection preached by Bishop Raphael Thattil at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer for some time and a concelebrated Holy *Qurbana* of the Bishops for which Archbishop George Valiamattam was the main celebrant at the instance of the Major Archbishop. The Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio joined the concelebrated *Qurbana*. Bishop Bosco Puthur preached the homily.

**The Formal Inauguration of the Synod:** The Major Archbishop formally inaugurated the First Session of the XIX Synod during the Synodal Sitting at 2.30 p.m. which began with a prayer led by Archbishop George Valiamattam. The Major Archbishop in his inaugural address welcomed the Apostolic Nuncio. He welcomed also all the Bishops to the Synodal Session. He thanked Bishop Raphael Thattil for preparing the Bishops to enter the Synod with proper dispositions through good spiritual thoughts and pastoral insights. The Major Archbishop congratulated the newly appointed Bishop Mar Jose Chittooparambil, the Bishop of Rajkot who was attending our Synod for the first time as a full-fledged member. He felicitated Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop James Pazhayattil and Bishop George Punnakottil who celebrate their Golden Jubilee of priestly ordination this year. He extended his felicitations also to Bishop Pauly Kannookadan who celebrates the Silver Jubilee of priestly ordination this year. He expressed sentiments of joy regarding the centenary celebrations of the Archeparchy of Kottayam and congratulated Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB and Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, and Archbishop Emeritus Kuriakose Kunnacherry, the clergy, religious and the laity of the Archeparchy. In connection with the Silver Jubilee of the eparchy of Thamrassery, he congratulated also Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and the emeritus Bishop Paul Chittilapilly. He also brought to the attention of the Synod the celebration of the missionary initiative of the Syro-
Malabar Church in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Chanda Mission. He extended heartfelt congratulations and prayerful wishes to Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram, CMI and the clergy, religious and the lay faithful of the eparchy of Chanda. He conveyed his special congratulations to Archbishop Andrews Thazhath who has been elected President of KCBC.

Referring to the major events after the previous Session of the Synod, the Major Archbishop said that the Bishops delegation appointed had met the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone and the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri in Rome and the Apostolic Nuncio in Delhi. He said that on the whole the delegation was satisfied with the meeting and that we could expect a positive outcome in the near future. The second important event he mentioned was the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East held from 10 to 24 October 2010 in which Bishop Bosco Puthur took part as our delegate. He said that Bishop Bosco made a strong appeal to the Synodal Fathers regarding our just demands to revoke the rescript that limits the right for pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful and to give freedom to our Church to look after our own faithful also in the Gulf States. The Major Archbishop noted that the two main concerns of our Church are 1. the restoration of All India Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Church and 2. the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar migrants outside India, especially in the Arabian Gulf States. Referring to a letter written to Cardinal Oswald Gracias, President of CBCI, he said that he has mentioned in it our disillusionment over the attitude of the Latin Bishops regarding the question of All India Jurisdiction of the Syro-Malabar Church and the possibility of ever achieving it with the concurrence of the Latin Bishops. He indicated that we are forced to rethink seriously about the usefulness of working as a conference of Bishops where the majority is always trying to deny the legitimate rights of a minority Church.

Concluding his inaugural address, the Major Archbishop declared the XIX Synod (2011), Session 1 open.

Participants: The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, (Major Archbishop), Mar George Valiamattam (Tellicherry), Mar Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Mar Andrews Thazhath (Trichur),
Mar Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Mar Joseph Powathil (Emeritus, Chanaganacherry), Mar Joseph Pallikaparampill (Emeritus, Palai), Mar Dominic Kokkat, CST (Emeritus, Gorakhpur), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Mar Abraham Mattam VC (Emeritus, Satna), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar George Punnakottil (Kothamangalam), Mar James Pazhayattil (Emeritus, Irinjalakuda), Mar Paul Chittilapilly (Emeritus, Thamarrassery), Mar Gregory Karotemprel, CMI (Emeritus, Rajkot), Mar Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI (Chanda), Mar Jacob Manathodath (Palghat), Mar Simon Stock Palathra CMI (Jagdalpur), Mar George Alencherry (Thuckalay), Mar Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Mar Thomas Chakiath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Mar Joseph Kunnath CMI (Adilabad), Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC (Satna), Mar Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Mar Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil (Idukki), Mar Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Mar Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Mar Anthony Chirayath (Sagar), Mar Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Mar Joseph Arumachadath, MCBS (Bhadravathi), Mar John Vadakel, CMI (Bijnor), Mar Bosco Puthur (Major Archiepiscopal Curia), Mar George Njaralakkatt (Mandy), Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamrassery), Mar Raphael Thattil (Auxiliary, Trichur), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), and Mar Jose Chittooparambil, CMI (Rajkot).

The Major Archbishop said that owing to his health condition, he would not preside over all the sittings of the Synod and that Archbishop George Valiamattam would take his place whenever needed. He informed the Synod that the Moderators, Tellers, the Committee for the Media, the Committee for the Pastoral Circular and the Bishop organizing liturgical celebrations would be the same as in the previous Synod. The Synod accepted the proposal and accordingly, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB Bishop Jacob Manathodath and Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy were to act as Moderators, Bishop Raphael Thattil, Bishop Paul Alappatt, and Bishop Pauly Kannookadan as Tellers, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Mathew Arackal, and Bishop Thomas Chakiath as members of the Committee for the Media, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam as Convener and Bishop
Joseph Kunnath, CMI and Bishop Thomas Elavanal, MCBS as members of the Committee for the Pastoral Circular and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrat as the person to see to the ordering of the Liturgical Celebrations during the Synod.

**Presentation Regarding Evangelization and Pastoral Care:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, assisted by the Secretary Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt, MST gave a power point presentation on the question of evangelization and pastoral care. In this presentation he gave a short history of the Syro-Malabar Church, a report of its attempts so far for providing pastoral care outside the Syro-Malabar Jurisdiction and the suggestions regarding the areas in which the Church should get legitimate rights for evangelization and pastoral care.

**Address of the Apostolic Nuncio:** His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio addressed the Synod emphasizing the following points: 1. the common mission of the Church for evangelization and dialogue, 2. the need of the *missio ad gentes*, 3. the need of a new evangelization, 4. the need for inter-religious dialogue and, 5. an appeal for unity in multiplicity as a nature of the Church. He made a mention of the forthcoming commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the First Pastoral Visit of Pope John Paul II to India and the *ad limina* visit for the Syro-Malabar Bishops from 1 – 9 April 2011.

The Apostolic Nuncio said that the appeal of the Syro-Malabar Church regarding All India Jurisdiction and related questions are seriously considered by the Holy See and that we have to be a little more patient in this matter to arrive at the best solution. He invited the interventions of the Bishops regarding this matter. Many of the Bishops expressed their deep concern regarding the delay in granting the just demands of our Church in matters of pastoral care and jurisdictional rights over the faithful of our Church. The following are the points strongly put forward by the Bishops:

1. The multiple jurisdiction in the Church in Kerala is functioning smoothly.
2. There is no need of any apprehensions about a divided Church if the Syro-Malabar Church is granted All India Jurisdiction.
3. There is no justification for the delay in granting our just demands.

4. The Syro-Malabar Church has ever stood for unity in the Catholic Church.

5. Our Church has always maintained communion with the Universal Church.

6. Only if jurisdiction is granted over the diaspora communities of our Church we can foster vocations to priesthood and religious life by our own unique style of pastoral care and catechesis to our people.

7. What we ask for is the restoration of jurisdiction we had in India before the coming of the Portuguese missionaries.

8. A solution to this problem can come only through the intervention of the Holy See.

9. It is the refusal to accept the ecclesiology of the Ecumenical Council Vatican II and the attempt to replace it by an ecclesiology of their own that prompt some circles of the Latin Hierarchy to deny our just rights of jurisdiction and pastoral care.

10. The eparchy of Chicago and all the other oriental rites have very good relations with the Latin Church in the United States where they have jurisdiction all over the country.

11. There exists healthy collaboration among the Latin Church and the Oriental Churches in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu where multiple jurisdiction is already present.

12. The Oriental Churches also should have the right for evangelization. It is for this the Syro-Malabar Church demands All India Jurisdiction.

13. There is the danger of the young students and workers emigrated from our Church to the cities outside Kerala losing their faith and becoming members of religious sects.

Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked the Apostolic Nuncio for his presence in the Synod and the words of assurance he gave regarding the concerns that the Synod Fathers expressed.
Release of the Book ‘Syro-Malabar Patriarchate’ by Mar Paul Chittilapilly: The book of Mar Paul Chittilapilly by name ‘Syro-Malabar Patriarchate’ was released by Bishop Abraham Mattam, V.C. giving a copy to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio. Bishop Paul Chittilapilly thanked the Nuncio and all the Bishops who participated in the function. He gave a copy of the book to all the Bishops.

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.

Holy Qurbana in a New Chant: Bishop George Punnakottil requested the Synod to have a celebration of the Holy Qurbana in a new chant on one of the days of the Synod. The Synod allotted 13 January for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana in this new chant.

Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop George Alencherry, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous session of the Synod. The Synod reviewed their implementation.

Finalizing the Agenda: After having approved the agenda, the Synod requested the Moderator to allot time for the different items in the agenda given below:

1. Growing alcoholism that threatens the well-being of our community.
2. Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
3. Church’s mission in the protection of environment.
4. Guidelines for the collaboration between the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, and other Commissions of the Church, especially the commission for Laity in the apostolate outside the Syro-Malabar Eparchies or Exarchies.
5. The draft text of the Second Anaphora.
7. Regulation of Devotional practices in our Church in accordance with the spirit of the Liturgical Year and the teachings of the Church.

8. Holy Communion on the Tongue.


10. Discussion on the study regarding the use of options in the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana with their meaning in the Oriental tradition of our Church.

11. List of the authorizations given by the Synod to print for particular purposes the liturgical texts by individual Bishops.

12. Modified draft of the statutes of the Commission for Lity.

13. Guidelines for the granting of awards, honours and titles in the Syro-Malabar Church with the proposals of their names.

14. Programme on the ongoing formation of the diocesan clergy after proper consultations in the eparchies and the Major Seminaries.

15. The project of the Census in the Syro-Malabar Church.

16. Programme of the degree course before the entrance to the Major Seminary.

17. Guidelines for religious working in other sui iuris Churches.

18. The apostolate for the Family, Youth, Women, and Dalits in the context of the CBCI Reorganization.

19. The structure to be created for the apostolate of the Religious in the Syro-Malabar Church.

20. 50th International Eucharistic Congress scheduled to take place from June 10 – 17, 2012 in Dublin and our participation in it.

21. Election of the President of Paurastya Vidyapitham.

22. Further discussion on sponsoring the Mission dioceses.

23. Proper selection of Candidates for priesthood.

25. Objective Study and evaluation of the implementation of the Vatican and post Vatican teachings and directives with special reference to the Syro-Malabar Church.


27. Clarification regarding the occasions for the use of sash.

28. Arrangements in the Sanctuary of the Syro-Malabar Church.


30. Directive regarding the use of the Propria of the Qurbana (whether it is permitted to use the propria given in the 1989 Taksa; the possibility of using the propria in four volumes).

31. A more effective communication and Public Relation effort on the part of the Church.

32. Extending the term of Juniorate.

33. Syro-Malabar Website.

34. Ad limina Visit.

35. Reporting by the Delegation of Bishops to the Holy See.

36. Reporting on the activities of the Curia.


38. Clarification on the concept of Monastery-Church.

39. Instituting a Charitable Trust at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

**Report of the Delegation of Bishops:** Representing the Delegation of Bishops to the Holy See, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath said that the Delegation had a meeting with the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone and the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri who gave a patient listening with great understanding to the requests of our Church regarding All India Jurisdiction and other related matters. The attitude of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri was especially positive and he was explaining our
just demands to the Secretary of State. Both of the Cardinals said that they would talk to the Holy Father and see what could be done.

The Delegation to the Nuncio also was satisfied with the response from the latter as he promised to present the matter to the Holy Father.

*Ad limina Visit:* The Bishops discussed the preparations needed for the *ad limina* visit. The following points suggested were:

1. It is good that the report of the Apostolic Visitor be presented to the Holy See well in advance of the *ad limina* visit to which the Apostolic Visitor responded positively.

2. The address of the Major Archbishop to the Holy Father may be prepared in the best way possible so as to bring home to the Holy Father our deepest concerns of All India Jurisdiction and the Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar Migrants.

3. A letter could be sent to the Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches making it clear that we the Bishops are coming for the *ad limina* visit with the earnest hope that a solution to our problems would be given by the Holy Father.

A committee of Bishop Bosco Puthur, Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, and Fr. Antony Kollannur was constituted to draft the address of the Major Archbishop to the Holy Father and the letter to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

In a subsequent discussion on the *ad limina* Visit the following additional points were proposed by the Bishops:

1. All the Bishops as a group should have meetings with the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, the Secretary of State and the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

2. The other dicasteries that could be visited by smaller groups are the Congregations for Catholic Education, the Doctrine of Faith, Clergy, and the Saints, and the Pontifical Councils for Inter-religious dialogue, Migrants, Laity and Christian Unity. Those Bishops who wish to visit these dicasteries have to give their names in advance to the Coordinator of our *ad limina* visit who would in turn communicate it to the dicasteries concerned.
3. What we have to present to each dicastery should be given in writing so that they may give sufficient attention in following it up. For each group one Bishop could prepare and present this paper.

4. It is good that some Bishops visit also the Cardinal Members of the Plenary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches resident in Rome for which appointment may be taken in advance.

5. The group that visits the Congregation for Catholic Education should make a strong appeal to get the permission needed for the Canon Law Faculty in Paurastya Vidyapitham, Vadavathoor.

6. The question of subsidies to our dioceses for different items, especially for the Minor Seminaries could be discussed with the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

7. All the Bishops together with a community of our priests, religious and lay faithful in Rome could celebrate a Holy Qurbana in St. Peter’s Basilica on the occasion of the ad limina visit.

8. A seminar on the life and mission of our Church enlisting especially the participation of other Oriental Churches in Rome could be conducted either before or after the ad limina visit. It was suggested that the Mar Thoma Yogam with the cooperation of the Pontifical Oriental Institute could organize this seminar.

Concluding this discussion, the Synod designated Bishop Bosco Puthur as the Coordinator of the ad limina visit and requested him to prepare a tentative programme of the ad limina visit together with Bishop Anthony Chirayath and present it to the current Session of the Synod.

Later in another sitting Bishop Bosco explained the details of the tentative programme he had prepared in collaboration with Bishop Anthony Chirayath and informed the Bishops that the letter which they would receive from the Holy See would be sufficient for processing the Visa for the ad limina visit. Bishop Bosco requested that those Bishops indicated as the leader of the groups visiting various Dicasteries of the Holy See were expected to prepare a short
presentation of the points we would like to bring to the attention of the Dicasteries concerned. It was clarified that those Bishops, who want longer stay in Rome or in Europe, should get suitable sponsoring letters by themselves for the visas they need. It was also agreed that the Bishops could visit as a Body the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul and that the visit to the other Basilicas could be left to the convenience of individual Bishops. There was also a proposal to visit as a group the church in Orthona where the relics of St. Thomas are kept. Bishop Pauly Kannookadan was asked to organize this visit on a convenient day.

**Report on the Activities of the Curia:** Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor of the Curia presented a report on the activities of the Curia for the year 2010 with help of power point projection. The Synod highly appreciated the presentation and decided that similar reports of the activities of the Curia should be given to the Bishops periodically in the form of e-mail. The Bishops could in turn publish them in the diocesan Bulletins.

In connection with the reporting of the activities of the Curia at the request from the Synod, the Moderator clarified that a new person would be appointed in the office of the Procurator in Rome in the place of Mgr. Cherian Kanjirakompil. Besides, Bishop Jacob Angadiath clarified that the problems at Coppel were being resolved gradually with the blessing of the Church by him and that by and by peace and harmony could be established to the satisfaction of all concerned.

**Charitable Trust at the Major Archepiscopal Curia:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Curia Bishop, presented to the Synod a proposal to form a Charitable Trust that could receive donations from benefactors both from India and abroad, and utilize them for charitable purposes. After a short discussion, the Synod decided to form the Charitable Trust at the Major Archepiscopal Curia and requested Bishop Bosco Puthur to present a draft of the Trust Deed to the Permanent Synod.

The Synod also discussed the offer of the Doha Syro-Malabar Community to contribute Rs. 50,00,000.00 to the Curia to be distributed for poor girls at the time of their marriage and decided to receive the first installment of this donation during the tea break in the afternoon of the day. Bishop Bosco Puthur was authorized to accept the amount in the name of the Major Archbishop.
Mission Jubilee of the Syro-Malabar Church: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, presented to the Synod a detailed draft proposal for the celebration of the Mission Year in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Chanda Mission. ‘Mission Year’ was accepted as the name of the Mission Jubilee. This name could be translated into the vernacular of different regions of our Church according to the decisions of the Regional Bodies of the Bishops. In Malayalam it was suggested to be ‘Preshithavarsham,’ in Hindi ‘Preshithvarsh,’ in Tamil ‘Narchaithi Aandu,’ etc. The duration of the Mission Year is from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012. The declaration of the Mission Year could be done during this Synod and the formal inauguration could be done in the dioceses and parishes on 15 August 2011. It was decided to have the concluding celebration of the Mission Year in New Delhi. It was proposed to publish in connection with the Mission Year a comprehensive Directory of the missionary enterprise of the Syro-Malabar Church the follow up of which was entrusted to the organizing committee. At the strong appeal from Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram, CMI, the Synod accepted as a policy measure to make the external celebrations of the Mission Year as simple as possible and to reach out to the grass root level. The Synod in general approved the proposals of the action plan presented by the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants for the Mission Jubilee celebration. The Synod nominated Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST (Convener), Bishop Simon Stock Palathra, CMI, Bishop Anthony Chirayath, who form the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants together with Bishop Mathew Arackal and Bishop Raphael Thattil to be the Episcopal Members of the Central Organizing Committee of the Mission Year celebration.

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, in a subsequent sitting briefed the Bishops on the various suggestions proposed by the Committee for the celebration of the Mission Jubilee:

1. The Central Organizing Committee will send the detailed programme to be executed in the eparchies.

2. The representatives of the Major Religious Congregations also will be included in the Central Organizing Committee.

3. The Budget for the celebrations will be presented to the Permanent Synod for approval.
4. The programmes will be organized ensuring the involvement of the various Commissions and the Liturgical Research Centre.

5. The seminars, including the one planned in Rome, will be organized under the aegis of the Liturgical Research Centre.

6. The formulation of the *karozootha* and the preparation of the renewal programmes, etc. will be done by the Commission for Liturgy.

7. A Directory of the Missionary endeavours of the Syro-Malabar Church will be prepared under the leadership of Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam and will be published in the name of the Church.

8. Mission quiz and similar programmes are to be organized by IMPACT, the missionary animation centre of MST.

9. Emblem, Anthem, Posters, etc. are to be entrusted to the Major Seminaries both in Kerala and outside.

10. Inauguration of the Mission Year could be conducted on 15 August in the Cathedral Churches of the eparchies.

11. A celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* with the participation of all Bishops may be organized on 21 August 2011 at Kodungalloor.

12. Conclusion of the Mission Year may be done with a Public function and exhibition in Delhi.

13. It was also proposed that a celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* could be arranged on 3 April in St. Peter’s Basilica with the participation of the Secretary of State and the Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches and also of our priests, religious and faithful in Rome so that the Mission Jubilee will receive wide coverage in *L’Osservatore Romano* and other Media.

14. If possible a one-day seminar for the Bishops could be organized along with the forthcoming Synod.

15. An Annual Retreat for the Syro-Malabar Bishops could be organized in the context of the Mission Year.
16. The Bishops from the Mother Church could visit the mission eparchies and territories during the Mission Year.

17. Mission Congresses could be organized first in the parishes, then in the Forane Churches and as culmination in each eparchy.

18. The Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants could be requested to give input materials from the conciliar and post-conciliar documents especially from ad gentes for seminars and discussions in the eparchies.

Bishops were asked to give the Commission further suggestions on their own accord. On the basis of all the suggestions, the Commission will communicate to the Bishops the final programmes for the Mission Year.

Another important point of discussion regarding the Mission Year was the funding of its programmes for which one suggestion was to take an additional Sunday collection in our eparchies besides the Syro-Malabar Mission Sunday collection.

At the request of Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, for clarification regarding the funding of the Mission Year, the Synod decided the following: The funding of the Mission Year should be done by the eparchies. To realize this, the Central Organizing Committee was asked to prepare a budget and present it to the Permanent Synod for approval. After having obtained the approval, a request may be sent to the eparchies for the share of the expenses from each eparchy. Bishop Mathew Arackal proposed that the Religious also should be approached in the collection of funds for the Mission Year instead of putting the financial burden for this celebration solely on the eparchies. The Synod consented to this proposal.

**Mission Funding Agency for the Syro-Malabar Church:**
During the discussion on the Mission Jubilee Celebration, Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI volunteered to work for establishing a Mission Funding Agency for the Syro-Malabar Church. The Synod wholeheartedly welcomed the benevolence of Bishop Gregory Karotemprel and authorized him to execute the project. The Synod requested him to present the modalities of the project to the Permanent Synod for approval.
The Challenges to Our Community that Emerge from Growing Alcoholism: Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Advocate Charly Paul who presented to the Synod the dangers that arise from growing alcoholism in our community. With facts and figures, he presented the gravity of this social evil and appealed to the Bishops to take effective measures to counteract its consequences. He spoke also about the use of drugs among the youth. The Bishops were of opinion that we should take serious steps to make our community conscious of the evils of alcoholism and to insist on the abstinence from alcoholic drinks during feasts and other celebrations. The Synod decided to take corrective measures against alcoholism on different levels of the community through disciplinary and pastoral measures, to declare solidarity with the anti-alcoholic movements taken up by the priests, religious and lay leaders of the community and to make effective lobbying on local level with the political leaders through appropriate means especially in connection with the elections. The Moderator thanked Advocate Charly Paul for his valuable presentation in the Synod.

Church’s Mission in the Protection of Environment: Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil who came to the Synod to present a study on the Church’s mission in the protection of environment. During the discussion that followed the main idea expressed by the Bishops was that scientific study is needed for some of the ecological issues before taking any definitive stand from the part of the Church regarding those issues. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath brought to the attention of the Bishops the findings of a seminar organized by the LRC on this topic. He said that the proposals of this seminar also could be taken into consideration in addressing the ecological issues. It was pointed out that the III Major Archiepiscopal Assembly recently conducted, had proposed various measures for the protection of environment on the basis of which the Synod had approved an action plan and appointed a committee for its implementation. The Synod decided that this committee could continue its efforts towards the protection of environment. The Moderator thanked Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil for his well-studied presentation and the clarifications given to the questions.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia: Bishop Jose Porunnedom presented to the Synod a draft of the guidelines for the functioning of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
The Synod discussed in detail the clauses of the guidelines one by one and suggested modifications and even redrafting for some of them. An important suggestion was that the guidelines should concentrate only on those matters that pertain to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. All other matters related to the administration of the Major Archiepiscopal household need not be brought to the consideration of the Synod. The Synod requested the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions to present the modified guidelines for the functioning of the Curia in the following Session of the Synod.

While discussing the accountability of the Finance Officer to the Commission for Finance as proposed in the guidelines, it was pointed out that such a provision would run counter to the Common Law and that the Finance Officer should not be made accountable to the Commission for Finance. To clarify this question further the Synod requested the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions to prepare a draft of the Statutes of the Commission for Finance and the Finance Council taking into consideration the functioning of these Bodies vis-à-vis the Finance Officer.

**LRC Award:** Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the house that after due process of the selection, the Board of Directors of LRC had decided to honour Fr. Mathew Vellanickal with the LRC Award of this year.

**Syro-Malabar Website:** Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI and Bishop Jose Porunnedom, the Bishop Members of the Governing Body of the Syro-Malabar Website, explained to the Bishops the need for inducting a new team for the management of the Syro-Malabar website under the leadership of Fr. Jose Palakeel, MST. As per this arrangement the MST will take up the supervision of the website and the Synod may have to contribute some share of the funds required for the project. The Synod consented to this proposal and in order to get a clear picture of the working of the website the Synod requested the Bishop Members of the Governing Body to give an assessment of the project together with its prospective development in the following Session of the Synod.

**The Modified Draft of the Statutes of the Commission for Laity:** Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission for Laity presented to the Synod the modified draft of the statutes of the Commission for Laity. Many Bishops gave their general comments
on the draft statutes and sought clarifications regarding the nature, objectives and the method of functioning of the Commission. While appreciating the work of the Commission so far that generated great enthusiasm among the laity to cooperate with the mission of the Church, the Bishops in general felt that more clarification was needed regarding the definition of laity who comes under the purview of the Commission and its functioning in relation to the apostolates for women, youth and Dalits. The Bishops were of opinion that women and youth need separate commissions or structures other than the Commission for Laity. There was a common understanding that there should be some sort of a commission or coordinated body on the eparchial level that could be linked to the Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Laity. A further suggestion was that the Commission should take care of the ecclesial participation of a vast number of unattached lay faithful that remain unattended in the eparchies and in the diaspora communities. There is also the need for distinguishing the style of functioning of the Commission for the Laity in the Syro-Malabar eparchies from the same for those outside these eparchies either in India or abroad.

During the subsequent discussion a few new lines of action were suggested by the Bishops to be included in the programme of the Commission for Laity:

1. The same style of functioning of the Commission in relation to the eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church should be continued with adaptations needed in relation to the laity of the diaspora communities.

2. Attempts may be made to start a youth association in our Church and extend it on the national level.

3. There should be special animation programmes for women, youth and Dalits under the aegis of the Commission and reports of the same are to be presented to the Synod.

The Synod constituted a committee of Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhi, Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Bishop George Alencherry, Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to work out more clarified
objectives, dynamics and spheres of action for the functioning of the Commission for Laity and to include provisions in the Statutes for its smooth functioning in collaboration with the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. In the light of the modifications suggested by the Synod and the proposals of this Committee, the Commission for Laity has to redraft the Statutes and present it in the following Session of the Synod.

_Election of the President of Paurastya Vidyapitham:_ Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Chairman, Synodal Commission for Vadavathoor, informed the Synod that as the present President of the _Paurastya Vidyapitham_ had completed two consecutive terms of office, there was the need of electing a new President. He presented to the Synod his findings of the enquiry regarding the eligible persons according to the Statutes of the _Paurastya Vidyapitham_. As the Bishops asked for more time to study about the probable candidates, the election was deferred to the following day.

_Programme of the Degree Course before the Entrance to the Major Seminary:_ Fr. Antony Nariculam, Rector of Pontifical Seminary, Aluva on behalf of the four Syro-Malabar Major Seminaries in Kerala, presented to the Synod the findings of a consultation of the Rectors, Presidents, Deans and Faculty Members of these seminaries, in which there was a strong recommendation to make graduation obligatory for the admission of candidates to the Major Seminary. The Bishops discussed all the positive points proposed in favour of this initiative in the findings of the seminar and pointed out the possible dangers that might come from it. After a fruitful and sufficiently long discussion, the Synod decided to make graduation as a requirement for admission of candidates to the Major Seminaries of the Synod. This policy of admission is to be made applicable from the academic year 2015-2016. This should not, however, diminish the importance of the IVth year course already implemented in some eparchies. The Moderator thanked Fr. Antony Nariculam for his presentation of this important step regarding the programme of Major Seminary formation.

_Ongoing Formation of the Diocesan Clergy:_ Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Chairman of the Commission for Clergy and Institutes of Consecrated Life, presented to the Synod two important proposals for the ongoing formation of the diocesan clergy. These proposals
were the result of extensive consultations in the eparchies and the Major Seminaries by the Commission for Clergy and Institutes of Consecrated Life. The following were the proposals:

1. A compulsory course for those priests who are in their fifth year of priesthood which should last for 15 days.

2. A week long course, two or three times a year, for other priests of different age groups. The eparchies should assign for each of these courses a specified number of priests. The ideal number of participants for each course is fifty. This will in no way disturb the pastoral arrangements of the eparchies as only limited number of priests has to be freed from their pastoral duties at a time.

The Bishops discussed these proposals and accepted one compulsory course of five days duration for priests who have completed three years of priestly service. This course is to be conducted in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia in two batches. After having conducted the course for three years an evaluation also should be done and if the course is found useful, it could be continued.

There was a suggestion that the dynamics of this course should be made attractive to the priests making use of the modern techniques of communication, pastoral management and updating the priests in theological and pastoral orientations.

**Proper Selection of Candidates to Priesthood**: Bishop Jacob Manathodath brought to the attention of Bishops the danger of selecting candidates to priesthood from families of ill repute. The Bishops were of opinion that this observation has to be given due consideration in the selection of candidates. At the same time it is an open question whether some consideration could be given to exceptionally good candidates even from problematic families. All the same, the Bishops felt that we have to be careful in promoting such candidates. In this context the Bishops cited the irregularities in the formation of pious unions with the approval of Archbishop Vincent Concessao of Delhi Archdiocese by Fr. George Koovackal, CMI, and Fr. Joseph Kavalakkatt, V.C. especially by admitting ex-seminarians without proper consultation and scrutiny. The Bishops discussed in detail the inappropriate procedure of establishing religious communities from the part of Archbishop Vincent and
decided to request the Permanent Synod to take the Prior General and the Superior General into confidence and ask for clarifications with a view to find apt solutions in this matter and to write a letter to Archbishop Vincent of Delhi, with copies to the Apostolic Nuncio, the Prior General of CMI and the Superior General of V.C.

**New Structure for the Apostolate of the Religious:** After having discussed the proposal of Bishop Thomas Chakiath, to constitute a separate commission for the Communities of Consecrated life, dividing the functions of the present Commission for Clergy and Institutes of Consecrated Life, the Synod decided to constitute such a Commission with the name **Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.**

**Secretary to the Commission for Ecumenism:** Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism, informed the Synod that the Commission has decided to appoint Fr. Cherian Karukaparampil of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry, Secretary of the Commission for Ecumenism.

**Representative of the Synod for the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome:** In response to a letter from the General Secretary of the Synod of Bishops, Bishop George Alencherry was elected the Synodal representative for the aforesaid Synod in Rome. As substitute, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt was also elected. Archbishop George Valiamattam who was presiding the sitting informed the Synod that the Major Archbishop had designated Bishop Bosco Puthur as his delegate to which the Synod gave its consensus.

**Seminar in Rome:** Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the Synod that the proposed seminar in connection with the *ad limina* visit would be conducted by Mar Thoma Yogam in the Pontifical Oriental Institute in the afternoon on 31 March 2011.

**LRC Seminar:** Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the Bishops that the venue of the proposed LRC Seminar was to be shifted from Chennai to Bombay due to some inconveniences.

**Remembrance of Fr. Joby Vettukallumkal, O.P.:** The Synod expressed deep sorrow at the untimely death of Fr. Joby Vettukallumkal, in a bike accident on Thursday, 13 January 2011. He was a Norbertine
Priest from the eparchy of Mananthavady who was ordained priest only on 4 January by Bishop George Njaralakkatt. In a previous sitting of the Synod, Bishop Njaralakkatt had briefed the Synod of this tragic accident. The Synod conveyed heartfelt condolences to the Norbertine Congregation, the eparchy of Mananthavady and the relatives of the deceased.

**Information Shared by Bishop Jacob Angadiath:** In response to the suggestions of the Bishops with regard to the incardination of priests and recruitment of seminarians for the eparchy, Bishop Angadiath informed the Synod that the process for incardination of those priests already working in the eparchy has been initiated and he requested the co-operation of Bishops in this regard. He also informed that one seminarian is already undergoing formation in the seminary of the New York Archdiocese and discussions are on with regard to one or two other candidates. In this regard he also requested the support of the Bishops by giving some of their seminarians for the eparchy of Chicago who are now undergoing their theological formation. Bishop Jacob Angadiath thanked the Bishops for their prayers and support in resolving the issue in the Coppel parish of the Syro-Malabar eparchy of Chicago.

**Concluding Celebrations of the Centenary of the Archeeparchy of Kottayam:** Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB informed the Bishops that the concluding celebrations of the centenary of the Archeeparchy of Kottayam would be held on 29 August, the day on which the eparchy of Kottayam was erected and he invited the Bishops to join the celebrations.

**Participation of the Syro-Malabar Church in the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin:** Fr. Antony Kollannur briefed the Bishops about the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, scheduled to take place from 10 to 17 June, 2012. It was suggested that the Syro-Malabar Priest Co-ordinator in the United Kingdom and other chaplains in UK and Ireland could ensure a meaningful presence of the Syro-Malabar Church in this event. Another idea was that if some of our Bishops could attend this event, it would give a greater impact. The Synod decided to entrust Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST to make arrangements for the participation of the Syro-Malabar delegation in the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin.
Directive Regarding the Use of the Propria of the Qurbana:
Bishop George Punnakotttil, Chairman of Commission for Liturgy presented the problem with regard to the use of Propria for the Holy Qurbana as no text is available to the people, although it is printed in the new Taksa. Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary of the Commission enquired whether the previous edition of the Taksa could be abrogated so that only the new Taksa would be used for Holy Qurbana. It was pointed out that the use of the propria text was made optional and therefore, the earlier versions of the taksa could not be abrogated. Bishop Jacob Angadiath drew the attention of the Bishops to the need of having the translations of the propria into English. After some discussion the Synod decided the following:

1. To use the new Taksa with the new set of propria.
2. To print the new set of propria separately for the use in Liturgy.
3. To print the book for the use of the people with the new set of propria.
4. To print the four volume propria in one volume for optional use.

It was informed that the new set of propria would be printed in the English Taksa when the translations were ready.

Liturgical Text for the Blessing of Marriages with Non-Christians: The Synod discussed the draft of the liturgical text for the blessing of marriages with non-Christians and approved it with certain modifications for promulgation after the usual procedure.

Holy Communion on the Tongue: Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy presented to the Synod the results of the study regarding administering Holy Communion on the tongue. There was a short discussion on the subject and the Synod felt that there was no need of further directive in this matter. What is needed is to give pastoral instructions wherever needed in order to prevent abuses arising from distributing Holy Communion in hand.

Presentation of the List Prepared by the Commission for Liturgy of the Authorizations Given by the Synod to Print for Particular Purposes the Liturgical Texts by Individual Bishops:
Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy presented to the Synod the earlier Synod directive regarding the publication of liturgical texts. In this connection the Synod felt that the abuses in this regard, if any, are to be corrected. There were certain observations by the Bishops regarding the liturgical songs especially during the Holy Qurbana that some of them are not in tune with the spirit of the liturgy and the theology embedded in it. It was requested that some guidelines could be given by the Synod regarding the Concelebration of Holy Qurbana and Holy Qurbana celebrated by a priest alone. The discussion on this topic is to be continued.

**Arrangements in the Sanctuary of the Syro-Malabar Church:**
Since the proposals on the arrangements in the sanctuary presented by the Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy had not undergone the study of the Central Liturgical Committee, it was suggested that the matter could be presented in the following Synod after having been approved by the CLC.

**Report on the Editio Typica in Syriac of the Holy Qurbana:**
Fr. Pauly Maniyattu presented the observations of the scholars who studied the draft of the *Editio Typica* in Syriac of the Holy Qurbana prepared by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and informed that the report with the suggested corrections and modifications would be sent to Rome. It was pointed out that, since the Syro-Malabar Church is one of the sui iuris Churches which enjoys faculty in liturgical matters including printing and publishing of her proper liturgical texts, the publication of the *Editio Typica* should be a venture of the Syro-Malabar Church to be executed with wider discussions and in particular the scrutiny by the Central Liturgical Committee. We could receive by all means the help of the Oriental Congregation in this regard. There should also be clarification with regard to the sources of the *Editio Typica* as the Synod has entrusted the Liturgical Research Centre with the task of preparing the critical text of the Syro-Malabar Qurbana. Finally the Synod decided to write to the Holy See that the *Editio Typica* of the Holy Qurbana is being examined by the Commission for Liturgy and the Commission would like to get the sources of the *Editio Typica* of the Holy Qurbana so that the Synod could finalize it.
Clarification on the Use of Mitre and Crosier during Liturgical Celebrations: The Commission for Liturgy requested more time to study this matter and so the Synod referred the matter to the CLC for further study. The Moderator thanked Fr. Pauly Maniyattu for his presentations.

Deepika: Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam welcomed Fr. Alexander Paikada, CMI and Mr. P.P. Sunny, the Chief Editor and Managing Director of Deepika respectively to share their observations about the present situation of Deepika. Mr. Sunny thanked the Bishops for the opportunity given to them to explain the situation of Deepika before the Bishops. Since his take over, he has tried to bring awareness among the faithful of our Church that Deepika belongs to the Church. He requested the Bishops to appoint priests as Regional Managers who can devote their time fully for the co-ordination of the work of Deepika. Care should be given to keep the expenses for the circulation and the income proportionate to each other. He requested the co-operation of all – Bishops, parish priests and the faithful to increase the circulation to get more advertisements and thus increasing the income. The Bishops congratulated the Managing Director and the Chief Editor for the progress Deepika has made so far and assured their cooperation for its further progress.

Extending the Term of Juniorate: Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, presented the request of SMRC for a recommendation of the Synod to get the term of Juniorate extended from six years to nine years in exceptional cases. Since the law requires the Juniorate to be completed in six years time during which most of the junior sisters are undergoing some secular studies, there is not sufficient time for proper spiritual preparation before taking the perpetual vows. On the other hand, some Bishops pointed out that the provision in the present code is in view that a member should not remain in the congregation for a period longer than 6 years without having full membership in it. After a brief discussion, the Synod decided to recommend the request of SMRC to get the term of Juniorate extended from six years to nine years in exceptional cases dispensing the canonical provision CCEO c. 526 2 for the favourable consideration of the Holy See.

Clarification on the Concept of Monastery Church: Bishop Raphael Thattil presented the topic emphasizing the need to have a clarification on the concept of ‘monastery church’ in the context
of the issue of Infant Jesus Church, Thalore, where the Superior of the Monastery considers that the Local Bishop cannot interfere with the regulation of the liturgical services conducted there for the parishioners because it is a monastery church. Now the parish has been removed from the monastery, but the persons in charge of the monastery church carries on with all the liturgical functions, in spite of the directives given by the Local Bishop. After a brief discussion, the Bishops reiterated that we should adhere to the guidelines approved by the VII Synod (1999), held from 14 to 20 November 1999 and once again reaffirmed the authority of the Local Bishop over the liturgical celebrations in the monastery church. The Synod clarified that the monastery could engage in pastoral activities only as far as it is assigned to it by the Bishop and that the monastery church envisaged in CCEO 437 §1 is meant only for the liturgical celebrations of the members of the monastery.

Press Release: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath presented the draft of the press release and the Synod approved it with a few modifications regarding the content.

Awards, Honours and Titles: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan presented the proposals of the committee for preparing the guidelines for the granting of awards, honours and titles in the Syro-Malabar Church. After a brief discussion the Synod decided to confer the honours of Vaidikaratnam to priests who have rendered exceptionally noteworthy priestly service during their sufficiently long period of ministry and Maipan to priests who have manifested exceptional excellence in erudition and in imparting Christian message. The Synod also decided to confer the honour of Syro-Malabar Sabha tharam to exemplary Catholic lay persons who have rendered exceptional service to Church and Society during their sufficiently long period of Christian witness. These honours are to be granted on the level of the Syro-Malabar Church to persons who have attained 50 years of age or above. The Synod authorized the Liturgical Research Centre and the different Commissions to confer Awards and Recognitions with the approval of the Synod to deserving persons of the Syro-Malabar Community for meritorious service in the Church and society. Regarding the awards to the Religious, the Synod felt that it could be decided after consulting the Religious.
Project of the Census in the Syro-Malabar Church: Bishop Sebastian Adyanthra briefed the Bishops on the project of a Census in the Syro-Malabar Church. The Bishops discussed the matter for a while on the modus operandi and magnitude of this venture and the expenses and risks involved. All felt the necessity of conducting a comprehensive census of the members of the Syro-Malabar Church. It was suggested that a scientific format for the census could be prepared and worked out at the eparchial level with special desk formed for the purpose. As this question needs further clarification, the Synod deferred the matter to the following Synod.

Scrutiny of the Decisions: The Secretary read out the decisions of the XIX Synod (2011), Session 1 including those of the final day and the Synod gave its final approval to them.

Declaration of the Mission Year: The Major Archbishop read out the decree, Prot. No. 40/2011 and declared the Year starting from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012 to be observed as the Mission Year of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Bishops welcomed the declaration with great applause.

Conclusion of the Synod: The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present session of the Synod and gave the concluding address. He thanked the Divine assistance that enabled the Bishops to make intense discussions and deliberations leading to appropriate decisions on various issues. He said that through the Synodal interactions the Bishops could grow in the spirit of communion and brotherly love and thus turn this Synodal Assembly into an ecclesial action manifesting the close communion among the Bishops. He thanked His Excellency Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio for his presence during the inaugural Qurbana and the inaugural sitting of the Synod which manifested the unbroken communion between the Apostolic See and the Syro-Malabar Church. The Major Archbishop reiterated the main concerns he had highlighted in his inaugural speech: The full flowering of the Syro-Malabar Church by the restoration of All India Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Church so that she can enjoy
 unhindered right to evangelization and pastoral care of her faithful all over India. He affirmed that only then can the Syro-Malabar Church not only offer pastoral care to her children dispersed all over India, and when it is extended beyond the confines of India, in the Gulf Countries and all over the world, but also fulfill the obligation of being truly missionary and "give an incisive contribution to the proclamation of Christ." Consequently he pointed out that it was high time that the Syro-Malabar Church was given the freedom to carry on this mission _ad gentes_, not as a subsidiary organ of the Latin Church, but on her own, as required by the constant teachings of the Church. He congratulated the delegation of the Syro-Malabar Bishops to the Apostolic See for their successful presentation of our cause before the Apostolic See. The Major Archbishop also highlighted many of the momentous decisions the Synod took such as the declaration of the Year starting from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012 to be observed as the Mission Year of the Syro-Malabar Church, the founding of a Charitable Trust and a Mission Funding Agency at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, etc. He congratulated the Bishops for succeeding in discussing many of the items that were included in the agenda for which they could find appropriate solutions in a very short time at their disposal including many current issues that affect not only our community but the society at large such as the growing alcoholism and drug addiction, protection of the environment, etc.

The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude in a special way to all those who helped in the conduct of the Synod, Archbishop George Valiamattam who presided over the Synodal Sittings in his absence, Bishop George Alencherry, the Secretary of the Synod, the Moderators Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB and Bishops Jacob Manathodath and Lawrence Mukkuzy who had wisely guided the proceedings of this Session of the Synod, Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, Fr. James Kallumkal, VC the Vice-Chancellor and the Staff of the chancery, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil and other fathers, the Holy Family Sisters and their helpers who serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. Informing the members about the following Synodal Session to be held from 17 (10.00 a.m.) to 27 (6.00 p.m.),
August 2011, the two Saturdays in between having the sittings up to 6.00 p.m. and invoking the blessings of God and the intercession of Mary our mother and St. Thomas our Apostle, and St. Alphonsa, and the Blessed of our Church, the Major Archbishop declared the XIX Synod, Session 1, closed.

Mount St. Thomas, George Alencherry, Secretary
14 January 2011 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur, Chancellor
Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
XIX Synod (2011), Session 1
10 – 14 January 2011

DECISIONS

1. To send to the Bishops periodical reports of the activities of the Curia in the form of e-mail.

2. To form a Charitable Trust at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and to request Bishop Bosco Puthur to present a draft of the Trust Deed to the Permanent Synod.

3. a. To fix the name of the Mission Jubilee of the Syro-Malabar Church as ‘Mission Year’ which could be translated into the vernacular of different regions of our Church according to the decisions of the Regional Bodies of the Bishops like ‘Preshithavarsham,’ ‘Preshithvarsh,’ ‘Narchaithi Aandu,’ etc.

b. To fix the duration of the Mission Year from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012.

c. To declare the Mission Year during this Synodal Session.

d. To have the concluding celebration of the Mission Year in New Delhi and

e. To approve the proposals of the action plan presented by the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants for the Mission Jubilee celebration with the suggested modifications.

4. To authorize Bishop Gregory Karotempreil, CMI, to execute the project of establishing a Mission Funding Agency for the Syro-Malabar Church and to request him to present the modalities of the project to the Permanent Synod for approval.

5. To nominate Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST (Convener), Bishop Simon Stock Palathra, CMI, Bishop Anthony Chirayath, who form the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants together with Bishop Mathew Arackal
and Bishop Raphael Thattil to be the Episcopal Members of the Central Organizing Committee of the Mission Year celebration.

6. That the funding of the Mission Year should be done by the eparchies and Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

7. To request the Central Organizing Committee of the Mission Year to prepare a budget and present it to the Permanent Synod for approval and after having obtained the approval, to send an appeal to the eparchies for the share of the expenses from each eparchy.

8. To take corrective measures against alcoholism on different levels of the community through disciplinary and pastoral measures, to declare solidarity with the anti-alcoholic movements taken up by the priests and lay leaders of the community and to make effective lobbying on local level with the political leaders through appropriate means.

9. To request the follow up committee of the III Major Archiepiscopal Assembly to continue its efforts towards the protection of environment.

10. To request the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions to present the modified guidelines for the functioning of the Curia in the following Session of the Synod.

11. To request the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions to prepare a draft of the Statutes of the Commission for Finance and the Finance Council taking into consideration also the functioning of these Bodies vis-à-vis the Finance Officer.

12. To consent to the proposal to induct a new team for the management of the Syro-Malabar website under the leadership of Fr. Jose Palakeel, MST and to contribute, if needed, some share of the funds required for the project, and to request the Bishop Members of the Governing Body, to give an assessment of the project together with its prospective development in the following Session of the Synod, in order to get a clear picture of the working of the website.
13. To accept as a policy measure to make the external celebrations of the Mission Year as simple as possible.

14. To accept as a measure of the ongoing formation of priests one compulsory course of five days duration for those who have completed three years of priestly service which is to be conducted in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia in two batches and to make an evaluation after having conducted the course for three years.

15. To constitute a committee of Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhi, Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Bishop George Alencherry, Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to work out more clarified objectives and dynamics for the functioning of the Commission for Laity and to include provisions in the Statutes for the smooth functioning of the Commission for Laity in collaboration with the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants.

16. To request the Commission for Laity to redraft the Statutes in the light of the modifications suggested by the Synod and the proposals of the Committee constituted to assist the Commission, and to present it in the following Session of the Synod.

17. To constitute a separate commission for the Communities of Consecrated life with the name Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

18. To approve the liturgical text for the blessing of marriages with non-Christians (Disparity of Cult marriages) with the modifications proposed by the Synod and to take further procedure for promulgation.

19. To make graduation as a requirement for admission of candidates to the Major Seminaries of the Synod. This decision will come into effect from the academic year 2015-2016.
20. To Nominate Bishop George Alencherry as the elected representative, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, being the Substitute, for the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome and to give consensus for the nomination of Bishop Bosco Puthur as the Delegate of the Major Archbishop.

21. To entrust Bishop Sebastian Vadakel to organize the participation of the Syro-Malabar delegation in the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin.

22. a. To use the new *Taksa* with the *propria*.
   
   b. Print the *propria* separately for the use in Liturgy.
   
   c. Print the book for the use of the people with the new set of *propria*.
   
   d. Print the *propria* in four volumes *propria* in one volume for those who would like to use it.

23. To write to the Holy See that the *Editio Typica* of the Holy *Qurbana* is being examined by the Commission for Liturgy and the Commission would like to get the sources of the *Editio Typica* of the Holy *Qurbana* so that the Synod could finalize it.

24. To refer the clarification on the use of mitre and crosier during Liturgical Celebrations to the CLC for further study.

25. To recommend the request of the SMRC to extend the term of Juniorate from 6 years to 9 years, in exceptional cases, getting dispensation from CCEO c. 526§2 for the favourable consideration of the Holy See.

26. To confer the honours of *Vaidikaratnam* to priests who have rendered exceptionally noteworthy priestly service during their sufficiently long period of ministry and *Malpan* to priests who have manifested exceptional excellence in erudition and in imparting Christian message.

27. To confer the honour of *Syro-Malabar Sabhatharam* to exemplary Catholic lay persons who have rendered exceptional service to Church and Society during their sufficiently long period of Christian witness.
28. To authorize the Liturgical Research Centre and the different Commissions to confer Awards and Recognitions with the approval of the Synod to deserving persons of the Syro-Malabar Community for meritorious service in the Church and society.

Mount St. Thomas, George Alencherry, Secretary
14 January 2011 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur, Chancellor
Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
My dear brother Archbishops and Bishops,

At the conclusion of the XIX Synod (2011), Session 1 of our Church, let us raise our hearts in thanksgiving to Almighty God who has been guiding us by His Spirit all through these days of intense discussions and deliberations and enabled us to arrive at appropriate decisions on the various issues we had taken up for consideration in this Session of our Synod. As I said in my inaugural address our Synodal Assembly is not a mere assembly of Bishops; rather it is an ecclesial action by which we manifest not only to our faithful but also to everyone else the close communion among ourselves which is a gift of the Holy Spirit. I am sure the togetherness in the Synodal Sittings, the interactions on many topics that affect our Christian witness and our Christian living, the praying and living together for a few days, etc., have strengthened our spirit of communion and brotherly love which was manifested by each one of you, also during this Session of our Synod, making it easier to take a united stand regarding many issues we addressed in this Session. I thank every one of you for your co-operation in making our Synodal Session fruitful.

This Synodal Session was remarkable by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio on the first day of our Synodal Session. I place on record our sincere thanks to His Excellency Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio for having accepted our invitation and for having conveyed to the Synod the blessings of the Holy Father and his message expressed through the address of the Apostolic Nuncio given during the inaugural sitting of our Synod. His presence during the Holy Qurbana celebrated together with the apex body of the Syro-Malabar Church and his presence during the inaugural session of our Synod has strengthened visibly the communion between the Apostolic See and the Syro-
Malabar Church. It was an occasion for us to reiterate our allegiance to the Apostolic See which was never broken in history. We were glad to hear the Apostolic Nuncio emphasizing the unity of the Catholic Church but at the same time highlighting the richness and diversity of the various traditions in the Church. I shall quote from his speech: "These differences are considered by the Church not as a weakness but as strength, like a fragrant bouquet that is made beautiful and aromatic precisely because it is made up of many different flowers. Like the sweet smelling bouquet or intricate mosaic, we too must strive to forge what unites us and cease from what will bring discord, mindful of the fact that our unity is not a mere human accomplishment but a living witness to the priestly prayer of Jesus, that all may be one." It is clear that this unity is not at the expense of the rich variety in the Church, but granting it the possibility of growing to its fullness, thus adding still greater beauty to the fragrant bouquet comprising of the 23 individual Churches in the Catholic Church.

In his address, the Apostolic Nuncio had underlined our common mission for evangelization and dialogue. Quoting Pope Benedict, from his recent Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini,* the Apostolic Nuncio explained that "The mission of proclaiming the word of God is the task of all of the disciples of Jesus Christ based on their baptism. No believer in Christ can feel dispensed from this responsibility which comes from the fact of our sacramentally belonging to the Body of Christ." The Apostolic Nuncio continued his Quotation from the Holy Father: "A consciousness of this must be revived in every family, parish, community, association and ecclesial movement. The Church as a mystery of communion, is thus truly missionary and everyone, according to his or her proper state of life, is called to give an incisive contribution to the proclamation of Christ" (*Verbum Domini*, N. 94). As a consequence, the Apostolic Nuncio highlighted the three-fold mission of the Church, *ad gentes,* the new Evangelization and Inter religious dialogue and reiterated that "while the Church enjoys and welcomes the beauty of its different rites, her mission is to be shared by all her children." Therefore the Apostolic Nuncio exhorted the Bishops regarding the urgent need to proclaim the word
and to care for the Church, not only among the Syro-Malabar faithful but with a consciousness of belonging to the Universal Church, the Body of Christ.

In fact these were the main concerns I had highlighted in my inaugural speech: The full flowering of the Syro-Malabar Church by the restoration of All India Jurisdiction to the Syro-Malabar Church so that she can enjoy unhindered right to evangelization and pastoral care of her faithful all over India. The restoration of All India Jurisdiction is a *sine qua non* for her full flowering and a first step before the jurisdiction all over the world over her faithful. Only then can she not only offer pastoral care to her children dispersed all over India, and when it is extended beyond the confines of India, in the Gulf Countries and all over the world, but also fulfill the obligation of being truly missionary and “give an incisive contribution to the proclamation of Christ” as reiterated by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in his latest Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*, N. 94 quoting which the Apostolic Nuncio exhorted the Syro-Malabar Bishops regarding the urgent need to proclaim the word and to care for the Church, not only among the Syro-Malabar faithful but with a consciousness of belonging to the Universal Church, the Body of Christ. In fact, the Syro-Malabar Church was doing this ministry for all these centuries, even though her territorial confines were limited to a very small strip of land in South India. Around 70% of the missionary personnel of the Latin Church in India are from the Syro-Malabar Church. Now it is high time that the Syro-Malabar Church is given the freedom to carry on this mission *ad gentes*, not as a subsidiary organ of the Latin Church, but on her own, as required by the constant teachings of the Church.

During this Synod we had the occasion to listen to the reporting of the Delegation we had sent to the Secretary of State and to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and to the Apostolic Nuncio. We were happy to hear that the delegation was well received which has given us the hope that our legitimate requests will be granted without further delay. I congratulate the members of the delegation for their success in presenting the request of our
Church very convincingly before the above mentioned organs of the Apostolic See.

Although we had very few days at our disposal, we could take up for our consideration many of the items we had included in the agenda and come up with appropriate decisions. We could discuss and plan our *ad limina* visit which we hope will be an occasion to present before the Holy Father himself the legitimate requests and genuine aspirations of our Church. The decision to form a Charitable Trust at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia is a very important and much needed step concerning our entire Church and especially the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. I hope this will give a new face to our Curia. The declaration of the Year from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012 as the Mission Year of the Syro-Malabar Church in connection with the Golden Jubilee of the Chanda Mission will certainly revitalize our missionary zeal for evangelization. I request the cooperation of all of you in making the celebration of the Mission Year an occasion for rekindling the missionary spirit of the entire priests, religious and lay faithful of our Church and for the growth in missionary vocations through the implementation of the various programmes proposed by the Central Organizing Committee of the Mission Jubilee. The establishment of a Mission Funding Agency for the Syro-Malabar Church at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia under the leadership of Bishop Gregory Karotempril, CMI, in connection with the celebration of the Mission Year would certainly boost the missionary enterprise of our Church. I wish him every success and request the cooperation of everyone. The Synod also discussed many current issues that affect not only our community but the society at large such as the growing alcoholism and drug addiction, protection of the environment, etc. We have also spent some time in formulating the Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and the Statutes of the Commission for Laity specifying the need to have special programmes and structures for the apostolate for the Family, Youth, Women and the Dalits. The proposal to establish a separate Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life would indeed help strengthen their activities and apostolates which are very vital to the
Church. The decision to make graduation obligatory for admission to the Major Seminaries is hoped to help improve the quality of our priests as also the programmes proposed for the ongoing formation of the diocesan clergy.

At the end of these five days of hectic activity I would like to express my gratitude in a special way to all those who helped us in the conduct of the Synod, Archbishop George Valiamattam who presided over the Sittings in my absence, Bishop George Alencherry, the Secretary of the Synod, the Moderators Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt and Bishops Jacob Manathodath and Lawrence Mukkuzy who have wisely guided the proceedings of this Session of our Synod, Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, Fr. James Kallumkal, the Vice-Chancellor and the Staff of the chancery, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil and the fathers, the Holy Family Sisters and their helpers who serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

The next Synod is scheduled for 17 (10.00 a.m.) to 27 (6.00 p.m.), August 2011, the two Saturdays in between having the sittings up to 6.00 p.m. May Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the prayers of His Mother Mary, St. Thomas our Apostle, St. Alphonsa, the first saint of our Church, and the Blesseds of our Church shower his blessings on us so that the work of this session of the Synod bear abundant fruit. With these words I formally declare the First Session of the XIX Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

Mount St. Thomas

14 January 2011

Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XIX Synod (2011)
Session 2
23 – 26 May 2011
XIX Synod (2011), Session 2
23 -26 May 2011
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH

Dear and Most Rev. Archbishops and Bishops,

The Holy Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church is convoked in order to elect a new Major Archbishop for our Church. First of all, I welcome you, venerable Fathers, to this august assembly of the Holy Synod. Two of our senior bishops, Mar John Perumattam MST and Mar Mathew Vattackuzhy are not able to be present here due to health problems. We remember them in our prayers.

Although overwhelmed by grief at the demise of His Beatitude Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil CSSR, our Major Archbishop, trusting in the providence of God Almighty and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother, St. Thomas, the Apostle, St. Alphonsa and the Blessed of our Church, we the bishops are here gathered together in synod in this momentous occasion, in order to elect the new Major Archbishop, who will guide our Church into the future. In the name of the whole synod, I take this occasion to pay homage to the venerable memory of His Beatitude Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, CSSR, who guided our Church in peace and unity for the last fourteen years. May he intercede for our Church from his heavenly abode.

At this moment the words and deeds, the very life example of His Beatitude Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil are fresh in our memory. Let me quote him from his Inaugural Address as the Apostolic Administrator of our Church, at the Vth Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church 12 -21 June 1997. “The most important item, in my opinion, is the proposal to seek ways and means to restore peace and harmony in our Church. The Holy Father has commissioned me specifically for this task... Nothing else has more urgency and importance than this
matter as far as our Church is concerned. Our faithful expect us to be of one heart and one soul before being and doing anything else”. He further specified that “this communion which the Holy Father repeatedly stresses means an openness to the Holy Spirit and to one another in charity and unity”.

As we are gathering for the first time in Synod after the heavenly journey of our Major Archbishop, I take this occasion to express the deep gratitude of the whole Church to all the people of good will who made it possible to bid adieu to our Major Archbishop with a solemn and dignified funeral. From the very moment of his death people of different walks of life generously expressed their sincere condolence either in person or through message. First of all I express my deep gratitude to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI who with a paternal heart consoled us at this moment of sorrow. Our gratitude goes to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, especially to the Cardinal Prefect His Eminence Leonardo Sandri, who sent His Excellency Cyril Vasil SJ, the Secretary of the Congregation to represent the Holy See at the funeral of our dear Major Archbishop. I express sincere thanks to the Cardinal Secretary of State and the heads of the Dicasteries of the Roman Curia for their condolence and solidarity. So too our thanks go to the heads of the Oriental Churches in the Catholic communion. A special word of thanks to the Cardinals, Archbishops and bishops of India who participated in the funeral and to others who sent condolence message. Our gratitude goes to the bishops of other Christian Churches and communities for their solidarity and friendship. We express our thanks to the leaders of different walks of life, including political, civil and police authorities and leaders of different religions.

My thanks go to the Archbishops and Bishops, priests, Religious and lay faithful of our Church for their generous solidarity and participation in everything, including the funeral of our dear Major Archbishop. A special gratitude goes to their Excellencies Mar Thomas Chakiath and Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath, priests, religious
and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly for the excellent organization of everything from the very moment of the death of our Major Archbishop.

It was while we were in Rome from 27 March to 8 April for *ad limina* visit that the death of our Major Archbishop occurred. For us it was a time for experiencing our deep communion with the universal Church especially through the person of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, the successor of St. Peter, the head of the Apostles. In the name of the synod of bishops of our Church I express our deep gratitude to all who made our *ad limina* visit a very fruitful spiritual pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles and an effective pastoral sharing with the different dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Our pilgrimage to Ortona, to venerate the relics of St. Thomas the Apostle was indeed a spiritually enriching experience. Special thanks to the Cardinal Prefect and other officials of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches for their generous support and to the members of the community of the *Opera della Chiesa* for their prompt help for our transportation in Rome.

Today we are assembled in the II session of the 19th Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church. At this momentous occasion of the synodal assembly for the election of the new Major Archbishop, the words of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, pronounced during the homily at the inaugural Holy Eucharist of the last Conclave, resound in our hearts: "at this time, above all, we pray with insistence to the Lord, so that after the great gift of Pope John Paul II, he again gives us a pastor according to his own heart, a pastor who guides us to the knowledge in Christ, to his love and to true joy". Yes, today we pray that after the great gift of His Beatitude Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, God again gives us a "Father and Head" according to his own heart, a Major Archbishop who confidently guides us into the future in love and communion.

We know that the term "synod" derives from a Greek verb, meaning to travel along the same way or to go along the same path together. Once again let me quote Cardinal Ratzinger. "To be truly "synodal"
then is to move forward, in harmony, under the impulse of the Spirit” (Acts of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, held in the Vatican from 8 to 16 January 1996, p.52). With gratitude to the Almighty God, today we honour St. Thomas the Apostle, our Father in faith. Our Church is apostolic: Church is the community gathered around the Apostles and she is a community which prays together. From the moment of Pentecost the gift of unity is showered upon her “from above”. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the heart of the communion in the Church. The unity of the Church is rooted in the unity of the Episcopate, which along with the whole community of the faithful, prays together, united under the power of the Spirit. In spite of all our human weaknesses and divisions, we are one in the grace of Jesus Christ, in the love of God the Father and in the communion of the Holy Spirit, enriched by the glorious tradition handed over to our Church from the time of St. Thomas the Apostle. This synod convoked for the election of the new Major Archbishop is for us the most solemn moment of that Koinonia par excellence. It is a time to set aside all human distractions and to concentrate ourselves and our Church towards the will of God. Let me quote Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, former Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. “The terms ‘majority’ and ‘minority’ can often lead to the concepts of ‘victory’ and defeat’, concepts which are foreign to and extremely dangerous for a fraternal communion...If winners and losers emerge from an encounter among parties in the Church, then it is the Church that loses and in such a situation there are, in fact, no winners” (Acts of the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church, held in the Vatican from 8 to 16 January 1996, p.19).

This synod has to be a sacred spiritual experience for us and for our Church. It is the first time that our Church is electing its Father and Head. It means that our Church has come of age and is mature enough to perform with dignity this sacred duty entrusted to her. Hence it is with an attitude of deep prayer and awesome fascination that we enter into the Holy Synod in order to elect our Major Archbishop. Acts of the Apostles inspiringly describes the election of Mathias. He has to be “with us a witness to the resurrection of Jesus” (Acts. 1:22). It was
in an atmosphere of prayer that the Apostles chose Mathias into the college of Apostles. Following that example we too have the grave duty to act with right intention for the good of our Church, having only God before our eyes, *solum Deum prae oculis habentes*.

Borrowing the words from *Universi Dominici Gregis*, the Apostolic Constitution of John Paul II on the election of the Roman Pontiff, let me remind the Fathers of the synod that we, the bishops are not to allow ourselves to be guided, in choosing the Major Archbishop, by friendship or aversion, or to be influenced by favour or personal relationships towards anyone, or to be constrained by the interference of persons in authority or by pressure groups, by the suggestions of the mass media, or by force, fear or the pursuit of popularity. Rather, having before our eyes solely the glory of God and the good of the Church, and having prayed for divine assistance, we shall give our vote to the person, who in our judgment is most suited to be the "father and head" of our Church in a fruitful and beneficial way.

In view of the sacredness of the act of election of the Major Archbishop and thus the need for it to be carried out in an appropriate setting where, on the one hand, prayerful atmosphere can be readily combined with juridical exactitude, and where, on the other hand, the synod of bishops can more easily dispose themselves to accept the interior movements of the Holy Spirit, everything has to be conducive to an awareness of the presence of God, in whose sight each person will one day be judged. Hence let us spend these days in prayer and silence. Let ourselves be guided by the Holy Spirit. The spiritual direction given by Fr. Mathew Vellanickal has masterly set the right ambient to this spiritual journey. In the name of the synod I express our gratitude to him.

We are living in a world often influenced by the media. Although the media is doing a wonderful service in diffusing the good news to all the corners of the world, the Church has to be rather careful not to be unduly influenced by it and thus perhaps become its victim. Let us remember that only the duly assigned persons shall dialogue with the
media and inform the result of the election in due time to the public.

I humbly request the venerable bishops of the synod, from the beginning of the election until its conclusion and the public announcement of its outcome, not to communicate — whether by writing, by telephone, by mobile or by any other means of communication — with persons outside, even with our own close friends or relatives. We have the duty of maintaining the strictest secrecy with regard to everything that directly or indirectly concerns the election process itself. Regarding the election process, and in particular regarding the voting which took place in the election itself, we are obliged to maintain strict secrecy with all extraneous persons. I hope that the synodal Fathers will be in agreement with the suggestion that from the beginning of the electoral process until the public announcement of the election of the Major Archbishop, the premises of the Curia at Mount St. Thomas will be closed to outsiders. No visitor will be allowed entry into the compound.

As per the Apostolic Constitution, *Universi Dominici Gregis*, before the election of the Roman Pontiff, the Cardinal electors make the following oath. "*we promise and swear to observe with the greatest fidelity secrecy regarding everything that in any way relates to the election of the Roman Pontiff and regarding what occurs in the place of the election, directly or indirectly related to the results of the voting; we promise and swear not to break this secret in any way, either during or after the election*". In spirit we too shall follow the same attitude.

Following the example of the first Christian community described in the Acts of the Apostles (cf. 1:14), the Syro-Malabar Church, spiritually united with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, shall persevere with one heart in prayer; thus the election of the new Major Archbishop will not be something unconnected with the People of God and concerning the synod of bishops alone, but will be in a certain sense a spiritual and ecclesial act of the Syro-Malabar Church. The whole Church is united with us in prayer. The whole Church has been
praying these days to “Bless graciously our Synod Fathers to elect a Major Archbishop filled with sanctity, wisdom and erudition who can lead our Church in perfect love and ardent faith”. This fervent prayer of the community is our strength and our consolation.

Venerable Fathers of our Church, through the events that have taken place in the recent history of our Church, by the intervention of divine providence, I, an unworthy servant of the Lord, happened to be the administrator of the Church. I take this occasion to thank each and every member of the synod for the love and co-operation given to me, in spite of my limitations, to carry out duties entrusted to me in this interim period. By attitude, word or deed, if I have caused pain to anyone, I humbly ask pardon for it.

May the Blessed Virgin Mother who was in prayer with the Apostles in the Upper Room, be also with us in these days of the outpouring of the Spirit upon our Church with the gift of a new Major Archbishop. Finally, with the blessings of the Lord and with your permission, I inaugurate the II Session of 19th Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Mount St. Thomas
24 May 2011
Administrator of the Syro-Malabar Church
REPORT OF THE ELECTION AND ENTHRONEMENT OF THE NEW MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal See of Ernakulam-Angamaly fell vacant from 1 April 2011 due to the demise of our beloved Major Archbishop, His Beatitude Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil. As per the provisions of CCEO cc. 151-153 and 63-76 and the provisions of the Particular Law of the Syro-Malabar Church, His Excellency Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Administrator of the Syro-Malabar Church convoked canonically the Synod of Election from 23 to 29 May 2011 for electing the New Major Archbishop. The Synod was held in the Synod Hall in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, Kochi. Of the forty-six members of the Synod, except two bishops emeriti who could not attend due to health reasons, forty-four Bishops were present for the Synodal Session.

After a day of prayer and recollection, the first sitting of the Synod began at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 24th May 2011. After verifying the quorum, the Synod was declared canonical. The Synod elected Archbishop George Valiamattam the president of the Synodal Session. The Synod elected three tellers from among the bishops Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Bishop Paul Alappatt, and Bishop Jose Chittooparampil and decided that the Chancellor, Fr. Antony Kollannur remain in the hall during the elections to help in the election process. The Chancellor took the oath of secrecy. After spending some time in prayer, the Synod proceeded with the election process.

In the balloting Bishop George Alencherry received the required number of votes for absolute majority. The President, Archbishop George Valiamattam, then, declared that Bishop George Alencherry (Bishop of Thuckalay) has been elected the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. Thereafter the President, Archbishop George
Valiamattam communicated officially the decision of the Synod to Bishop George Alencherry and requested his consent. The newly elected Major Archbishop accepted the election and gave his consent.

Immediately after that the communication regarding the election of the new Major Archbishop and its acceptance by him was drawn up and signed up by all the 44 Bishops participating in the Election Synod. The newly elected Major Archbishop wrote by his own hand his request to the Holy Father for confirmation of his election. These were faxed to the Apostolic Nunciature so that it could be communicated to the Holy Father through the offices of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. During the interval of waiting for the confirmation, the Synod remained in session keeping absolute secrecy about the election and discussed some current issues that needed the immediate attention of the Synod, however, not entering into any decision making process, since this was a Synod called only for the election of the Major Archbishop.

Then on 26 May at 10.30 a.m. the fax from the Apostolic Nunciature was received here informing that the Holy Father has confirmed the election of Bishop George Alencherry the New Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Synod then discussed about the modalities of the proclamation of the election. It was decided that the proclamation be held in the Auditorium of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at 3.30 p.m. simultaneously with the proclamation in the Vatican at 12.00 hrs Italian Time. The press was given intimation about the proclamation and consultors and Forane Vicars, pastoral council officials, etc. of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam were also intimated about the proclamation.

The Synod continued with its Sitting in the afternoon and at 3.00 p.m., the President, Archbishop George Valiamattam read out officially the confirmation fax from the Holy See. Thereafter the newly elected Major Archbishop made his profession of faith and the oath of office in front of the Synod and signed it accordingly. Archbishops Kuriakose Kunnacherry and Joseph Powathil signed the document as witnesses. Then the newly elected Major Archbishop spoke a few words thanking
the President and the Administrator for conducting the Election Synod successfully. At 3.25 p.m. the President declared the XIX Synod (2011), Session 2 closed.

Then the Bishops went to the Auditorium where already the media personnel and some representatives from the Archeparchy of Ernakulam, including some religious sisters were present. The Administrator Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Permanent Synod Members Archbishop George Valiamattam who was also the president of the election Synod, Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Andrews Thazhath, Joseph Perumthottam, and Mar Kuriakose Kunnacherry, Archbishop emeritus of Kottayam, the senior-most Bishop were seated on the Dais and the other bishops, including the newly elected Major Archbishop, down the dais, in front of the audience. After a hymn to the Holy Spirit, the Administrator welcomed those present in the Auditorium and invited Archbishop George Valiamattam to make the announcement of the election. His Grace Archbishop George Valiamattam then made the most eagerly awaited announcement: We have a new Major Archbishop in the person of the Mar George Alencherry, the Bishop of Thuckalay and the present Secretary of the Synod. The audience welcomed the news with a loud applause and the media persons encircled the newly elected for photographs and video. The Newly Elected Major Archbishop was then escorted to the Dais where he was garlanded by the Administrator, Bishop Bosco Puthur. Archbishop Kuriakose Kunnacherry, the senior-most Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, greeted the newly elected Major Archbishop with a bouquet of flowers. The newly elected Major Archbishop thanked God and everyone who worked hard to bring the election synod to a successful conclusion, especially the Administrator who convoked the Synod and prepared everything for the Synod, the President of the election synod who conducted the elections without any hitch and all other bishops and persons who were involved in this election process and maintaining its confidentiality until then. He also thanked the Holy Father, the Prefect of the Congregation of the Oriental Churches and the Apostolic Nuncio who made it possible to make the announcement of the election on that day itself by expediting the process of confirmation. He then spoke a few
words explaining his style of functioning which will be in communion with the entire brother Bishops of the Synod and announced that his motto will be "service in dialogue of truth and charity." Then all the Bishops exchanged the kiss of peace with the newly elected Major Archbishop, and then, those who were gathered in the hall for the announcement. The Announcement function was concluded with the *Te Deum*.

The news of the election of the new Major Archbishop was immediately flashed on all Television Channels and there was a flurry of VIPs and other dignitaries to the Curia to greet the Newly Elected Major Archbishop, including State Cabinet Ministers, political leaders and ecclesiastical dignitaries like the Catholicos Bava of the Malanakara Catholic Church, Baselios Cleemis. This was continued on both the days that followed the announcement.

On 29 May, the day of enthronement, the Newly Elected Major Archbishop reached the Major Archbishop's House in Ernakulam at 1.30 p.m. accompanied by the Apostolic Nuncio and other Bishops. At 2.40 p.m. started the procession to the St. Mary's Basilica in which hundreds of priests in liturgical vestments arrayed themselves to be followed by all the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and some Bishops from the Syro-Malankara Church and the Latin Church. Since all the Latin Bishops of Kerala were in Rome for their *ad limina* visit none of them could take part in the ceremony. However many of them had congratulated the newly elected Major Archbishop over the phone or by e-mail. Once the procession reached the Basilica, the Newly Elected Major Archbishop placed a bouquet of flowers at the tomb of the Late Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, thus paying respects to his predecessor. The Administrator Bishop Bosco Puthur then welcomed the guests, chief among them being His Eminence Telesphore Toppo, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI-Latin), His Beatitude Baselios Cleemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church and His Excellency Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio. There were also some State Cabinet Ministers, Political Leaders, Justices of the Supreme Court and High Courts of India, and a large gathering of the faithful. Then the Apostolic
Nuncio read out the message of the Holy Father and that of the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and felicitated the newly elected Major Archbishop. Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, read out the translation of the message of the Holy Father in Malayalam. Then the enthronement ceremony began with the Administrator as the main celebrant. The Newly Elected Major Archbishop made the profession of faith and Oath of Office and the liturgical function for the enthronement began. At the end of the ceremony, the Administrator adorned the Newly Elected Major Archbishop with the insignia of the Major Archbishop and led him to the throne of the Major Archbishop. After a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, the Major Archbishop blessed the congregation and the Administrator and all the Bishops paid their respects to the Major Archbishop. There on, the Holy Qurbana was continued with the Major Archbishop as the main celebrant.

After the Holy Qurbana, His Eminence Telesphore Cardinal Toppo, the President of CCBI, and His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church felicitated the Major Archbishop. Then the inmates of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and representatives from clergy, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly had the occasion to greet the new Major Archbishop. After enjoying the light refreshments provided, the participants dispersed.

Mount St. Thomas
29 May 2011

Administrator of the Syro-Malabar Church

+ Bosco Puthur
REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF
THE ELECTION OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

24 May 2011

His Holiness
Pope Benedict XVI
Vatican Palace
Vatican City

Most Holy Father,

The Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church convoked for
the election of the Major Archbishop, at the Major Archiepiscopal
Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, Kochi from 23-29 May 2011,
has elected me the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church on
24 May 2011.

Submitting myself to the Divine Providence, I, Bishop George
Alencherry, a humble servant of the Lord and of the Church, accept
the decision of the Synod as per CCEO c. 153§2 and request Your Ho-
liness to benevolently confirm the decision of the Synod of Bishops
of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Declaring my obedience and loyalty to the Apostolic See, I promise
to fulfill faithfully this ministry of being the Father and Head of the
Syro-Malabar Church in communion with the Synod of Bishops.

Trusting in the prayers of the Church and invoking Your Apostolic
blessings,

Your most devotedly in the Lord,

George Alencherry
Major Archbishop-Elect,
Presently Bishop of Thuckalay
CONFIRMATION BY THE HOLY FATHER OF THE ELECTION OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

To His Beatitude
Mar George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly

I have received the letter with which, according to canon 153 §2 of CCEO, you have petitioned the Roman Pontiff’s confirmation of your canonical election as Major Archbishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly.

I am pleased to grant the confirmation you have requested. At the same time, I would like to express to you my fraternal good wishes in Christ our Lord.

I pray that, after the example of your venerable predecessors, and particularly Cardinal Mar Varkey Vithayathil of blessed memory, you may offer a generous and fruitful pastoral ministry to the beloved Syro-Malabar Church, now entrusted to your paternal care.

In extending my fraternal greetings to the Brother Members of the Synod, to the priests, men and women religious, seminarians and candidates for consecrated life, and to the lay faithful who now receive from God the gift of a new Pastor, I invoke the intercession of the holy Mother of God and of Saint Thomas, Apostle of India. To you and to all those entrusted to your care, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, 26 May 2011
XIX Synod (2011)
Session 3
17 – 27 August 2011
My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

After having offered ourselves and the work of our Synod to Lord our God in the Holy Qurbana, we have now prayed for his abiding presence with us through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The recollection talk given by Bishop Paul Alappatt has put us in the right direction and I thank him for preparing us through his recollection talk with deep thoughts and inspiring reflections especially for a new thrust in evangelization and meaningful participation in this Synodal session.

At the very outset, let me very cordially welcome all of you to the Third Session of the XIX Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church. I am glad to note that except a few emeriti Bishops, all the Bishops of our Synod are present for this Synodal Session. Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Bishop Abraham Mattam and Bishop Mathew Vattackuzhy have informed me by letter of there inability to attend the Synodal Session.

As we begin this Synodal Session, the memory of Late Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil is very fresh and alive in our minds. Let us once again pay our respects to him and pray for his eternal rest in heaven. Let us also remember in our prayers Bishop John Perumattam, Bishop Emeritus of Ujjain who passed away on 18 June this year. I could be present for the last rites of this great missionary who built up the diocese of Ujjain as its first Bishop.

I do place on record my heartfelt thanks to Bishop Bosco Puthur, who was the Administrator of our Church after the demise of Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and who with remarkable efficiency managed the ad limina visit, the funeral service of the late Major Archbishop, the Synod for the election of the new Major Archbishop, and his installation.
The unique role played by Bishop Thomas Chakiath and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath for the conduct of the funeral service and installation ceremony with the support of the priests, religious and the laity of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly also is to be gratefully remembered. The last rites in honour of the late Major Archbishop will ever remain an unforgettable event in the history of our church.

As this is my first formal address to the Synod after having been elected Major Archbishop, let me express my sincere gratitude to all of you, my brother Archbishops and bishops for the trust you have placed in my humble self and the loving communion and wholehearted support you have expressed both as Synod and as individual bishops.

Our Church which is blessed with the canonization of St. Alphonsa, the beatification of Blessed Chavara Kuriakose, Blessed Mariam Thresia, Blessed Euphrasia, Blessed Kunjachan, is now blessed with the elevation of Servants of God Bishop Thomas Kurialacherry and Fr. Mathew Kadlikattil to the status of venerables. We shall thank God for this blessing to our Church and continue our prayers for the flowering of sanctity in our Church.

With sentiments of joy, I recall the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of three of our beloved bishops: Bishop James Pazhayattil, Bishop Paul Chittilapilly and Bishop George Punnakottil. Let me extend to them our heartfelt congratulations and assurance of prayers on this significant occasion in their lives. I also extend our joyful greetings to the Prelates, Priests, religious and Laity of the Archeparchy of Kottayam which is celebrating its centenary this month. The current year marks the Birth Centenary of Archbishop Joseph Parekkattil who is the first Prelate of our Church to be honoured with Cardinalate by the Holy Father. The Archdiocese of Tellicherry has already celebrated the Birth Centenary of Bishop Sebastian Valloppillly and I also was present for the celebrations. Let us remember these eminent Prelates of our Church in our prayers and apostolate of communion.

Within the span of two and a half months, I could visit the Archeparchies of Changanacherry, Trichur and Tellicherry and eparchies of
Palai, Kothamangalam, Kalyan, Ujjain and Thuckalay, my own former diocese. I am greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic welcome and promise of co-operation from all sections of the people of God in these eparchies.

I am fully conscious of the great work that have been accomplished by Archbishop Abraham Kattumana, the Pontifical Delegate, Cardinal Antony Padiyara, the first Major Archbishop and Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, thanks to which our Church has come to the present state of structural development and organic growth within the communion of the Universal Church. It is an undeniable fact that the Synodal structure and the functions of the commissions in the Synod have contributed greatly to the progress of our Church in its *sui iuris* status. Still we have to go ahead with strenuous efforts for getting our rights of evangelization and pastoral care recognized by the Holy See. It was a matter of great relief that the Commission for Evangelization could solve the problems in our Surat community to the satisfaction of all concerned. I thank in a very special way Bishop Jose Chittooparambil, CMI, who through his effective mediation could bring to reconciliation the rival factions and the ecclesiastical authorities of Baroda. I also look forward with earnest hope that one day perfect unity in the mode of liturgical worship will be accomplished by the generosity of minds and hearts under the inspirations of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Gratian Mundadan, CMI, the Apostolic Visitor has already presented his final report of the visitation to the Holy See in which he has strongly recommended the restoration of All India Jurisdiction for the Syro-Malabar Church. We hope to receive positive measures on a gradual basis from the Holy See through discussions and negotiations with the Latin Church in India and the concerned Dicasteries in Rome. Together with the Synod I thank most sincerely Bishop Gratian Mundadan for the laborious task he has accomplished facing successfully many challenges and obstacles that were involved in it.

The additional structure of the Curia building is getting completed. Ten rooms have already been fully furnished and all our bishops are
now accommodated in this curia building itself. I remember with thanks the special efforts taken by Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI and Bishop Bosco Puthur in accomplishing this venture.

We are at the dawn of the Mission Year officially inaugurated on August 15 by each one of us in our own cathedral churches. And during this synod we will have the joy to have a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Thomas at Kodungallore, for a concelebrated Holy Qurbana and veneration of the Holy relics of St. Thomas our Apostle at Azhikode. I request you to give a special impetus to the Mission Year programmes organized by the Synod under the aegis of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants in all our dioceses, diaspora communities and mission territories. We have to bear in mind that the ultimate goal of the Mission Year is to create a new vision of evangelization within the Church and ad gentes, exploring all the possibilities of mission work by our Church.

I am happy to inform you that in the Kerala context the forum of the KCBC has gained strength to speak for and take meaningful measures for the realization of the just rights of the Christian Community as regards self financing professional colleges.

I think it is high time that we owned Deepika as the cherished newspaper of our church and found ways and means for its acceptance in our community as such. I hope that those of us who are members of the Apex Body governing this newspaper will leave no stone unturned for the progress of this paper.

The Holy Father has invited me together with the accompanying bishops for audience with him on October 17, this year. I earnestly hope that this meeting with the Holy Father will have beneficial effects for the good of our Church.

Another planning which I visualize and place before the Synod is the assigning of Bishops or Exarchs for the diaspora communities in Canada, Australia, England-Ireland, Europe, Singapore-Malaysia and the Gulf Countries. If we could arrive at an effective line of action in this regard during this synod itself it will be a great step forward for the Pastoral care of our migrants.
In conclusion, I invoke God’s blessing upon all of us so that we may have a very fruitful session of our Synod. May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of our Apostle St. Thomas and St. Alphonsa, and all the blesseds of our Church, help us during these days. With these words I declare the third session of the XIX Synod 2011 open.

Mount St. Thomas                      + George Alencherry
17 August 2011          Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XIX Synod (2011), Session 3  
17 – 27 August 2011

REPORT

The XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 began with a recollection preached by Bishop Paul Alappatt at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer and a concelebrated Holy *Qurbana* of the Bishops at 11.30 a.m. for which the Major Archbishop George Alencherry was the main celebrant.

**The Formal Inauguration of the Synod:** The Major Archbishop in his inaugural address welcomed all the Bishops to the Synodal Session. He thanked Bishop Paul Alappatt for preparing the Bishops to enter the Synod with deep thoughts and inspiring reflections. He informed the Synod that Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Bishop Abraham Mattam and Bishop Mathew Vattakuzhy had communicated by letter their inability to participate in the Synod. He recalled the memory of Late Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and John Perumattam, Bishop emeritus of Ujjain who passed away on 18 June this year. He thanked Bishop Bosco Puthur who was the Administrator of our Church after the demise of Cardinal Vithayathil and for the management of the *ad limina* visit. He also thanked Bishop Thomas Chakiath and Bishop Sebastian Adayantrath for their unique service on the occasion of the funeral of Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and installation ceremonies of the New Major Archbishop. The Major Archbishop recalled the elevation of the Servants of God Bishop Thomas Kurialacherry and Fr. Mathew Kadalikkattil to the status of Venerables. He felicitated Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop James Pazhayattil and Bishop George Punnakkottil who celebrate their Golden Jubilee of priestly ordination this year. He expressed sentiments of joy at the centenary celebrations of the Archeparchy of Kottayam. He also reminded that the current year marks the birth centenary of Cardinal Joseph Parecattil and Bishop Sebastian Vallopilly. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod
that the Holy Father had invited him with accompanying Bishops for a Papal Audience on 17 October. Invoking God’s blessings and welcoming the Synodal Fathers, he formally declared the XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 open.

**Participants:** The following members were present for the current session of the Synod: Mar George Alencherry, (Major Archbishop), Mar George Valiamattam (Tellicherry), Mar Mathew Moolakkatt OSB (Kottayam), Mar Andrews Thazhath (Trichur), Mar Joseph Perumthottam (Changanacherry), Mar Joseph Powathil (Emeritus, Changanacherry), Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil (Emeritus, Palai), Mar Dominic Kokkat (Emeritus, Gorakhpur), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Mar Abraham Mattam VC (Emeritus, Satna), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar George Punnakottil (Kothamangalam), Mar James Pazhayattil (Emeritus, Irinjalakuda), Mar Paul Chittilapilly (Emeritus, Thamarassery), Mar Gregory Karotemprel, CMI (Emeritus, Rajkot), Mar Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI (Chanda), Mar Jacob Manathodath (Palghat), Mar Simon Stock Palathra CMI (Jagdalpur), Mar Thomas Elavanal MCBS (Kalyan), Mar Thomas Chakiath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Sebastian Vadakel MST (Ujjain), Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy (Belthangady), Mar Joseph Kunnath CMI (Adilabad), Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC (Satna), Mar Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally), Mar Jacob Angadiath (Chicago), Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath (Auxiliary, Ernakulam-Angamaly), Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil (Idukki), Mar Joseph Kallarangatt (Palai), Mar Jose Porunnedom (Mananthavady), Mar Anthony Chirayath (Sagar), Mar Thomas Thuruthimattam CST (Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pandarasseril (Auxiliary, Kottayam), Mar Joseph Arumachadath (Bhadrawathi), Mar John Vadakel, CMI (Bijnor), Mar Bosco Puthur (Major Archdiocesan Curia), Mar George Njaralakkatt (Mandya), Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamrassery), Mar Raphael Thattil (Auxiliary, Trichur), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar Pauly Kannoikadan (Irinjalakuda), and Mar Jose Chittooparambil (Rajkot).

**Tellers:** The Major Archbishop announced that Bishop Paul Alappatt, Bishop Pauly Kannoikadan and Bishop Jose
Chittooparampil, CMI would serve as Tellers for the elections during the current session.

**Election of the Secretary of the Synod:** Bishop Bosco Puthur was elected Secretary of the Synod in the place of Mar George Alencherry who was elected Major Archbishop.

**Moderators:** The Major Archbishop appointed Bishop Joseph Kunnath, CMI, Bishop Jose Arumachadath, MCBS and Bishop Paul Alappatt moderators of the sittings of the Synod.

**Committee for the Media:** The Major Archbishop appointed Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Bishop Mathew Arackal, and Bishop Raphael Thattil members of the committee for the media for this session of the Synod.

**Committee for the Pastoral Circular:** The Major Archbishop confirmed the Committee with Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam (Convener) and Bishop Joseph Kunnath, CMI, and Bishop Thomas Elavanal, MCBS (members), to prepare the pastoral circular of the present Synod.

**Liturgical Celebrations:** The Major Archbishop entrusted Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to see to the ordering of the liturgical celebrations during the Synod.

**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.

**Review of the Decisions of the Previous Synod:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod read out the decisions of the previous session of the Synod. The Synod reviewed their implementation.

**Finalising the Agenda:** At the request of Bishop Joseph Kunnath, CMI, the Moderator, the Bishops proposed a few more items to be included in the agenda. With these additional items, the Synod approved the following items of the agenda:
1. Statutes of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.


3. Presentation by the Laity Commission of the modified draft of the statutes of the Commission for the approval of the Synod.

4. Regulation of Devotional practices in our Church in accordance with the spirit of the Liturgical Year and the teachings of the Church.

5. The draft text of the Second Anaphora.

6. Discussion on the use of options in the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana with their meaning in the Oriental tradition of our Church.

7. Arrangements in the Sanctuary of the Syro-Malabar Church.

8. Clarification on the use of mitre and crozier during liturgical celebrations.

9. Guidelines regarding the Concelebration of Holy Qurbana and Holy Qurbana celebrated by a priest alone.

10. Discussion on the Guidelines for religious working in other sui iuris Churches.

11. Assessment of the project of the Syro-Malabar Church Internet Mission website together with its prospective development by the Bishop Members of the Governing Body in order to get a clear picture of the Project.

12. Objective Study and evaluation of the implementation of the II Vatican and post II Vatican teachings and directives with special reference to the Syro-Malabar Church.

14. Correction of the date of erection of the Vicariate of Trichur (the Present Archeparchy of Trichur) in the *Annuario Pontificio* – Study and Corrective measures to be taken.

15. Final approval of the calendar of the liturgical year and the readings based on *Supplementum Mysteriorum*.

16. Discussion on Migrant Centers

17. Mission Year Programs

18. Promotion of Projects of the Laity

19. Our Response in educational matters – needed mechanisms

20. National Coordinators for Pastoral Care and Coordination of the pastoral ministry of Syro-Malabar Priests working/studying abroad.


22. Syro-Malabar Migrant Communities and their relationship with the Major Archiepiscopal Curia by way of annual reports, annual contributions, etc.

23. Coordination of the visits of Bishops, Retreat Preachers, Priests and Religious to migrant communities.

24. Special status and powers of administration for the first Auxiliary of Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese.

25. Sharing of significant features and developments in the various eparchies

26. Reporting on the activities of the Curia.

27. Reporting on the construction work at the Curia

28. Reports of the Various Commissions, LRC and the Tribunal
29. Reports from the Major Seminaries

30. Budget and Financial Statement of Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia

31. Discussion on the *Lineamenta* for the XIII Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome.

32. Discussion/Information regarding the visit of the Major Archbishop and the Accompanying Delegation to the Holy Father and the Roman Dicasteries.

33. Buying the property in Rome for the residence of the Procurator.

34. Election of the Member and Substitute for the XIII Synod of Bishops in Rome.

35. Election of the Secretary of the Synod

36. Appointment of Commissions.

37. Conferring of Titles and Honours – Follow up.

**The Stand of the Syro-Malabar Church in Educational Matters:** During the finalization of the agenda, some Bishops drew the attention of the Synod to the fact that while discussing educational matters at the KCBC level, there was a lack of preparation on the part of the Syro-Malabar Church or those Syro-Malabar Members who take part in such discussions. In this context, the Major Archbishop proposed for the consideration of the Bishops the formation of some kind of mechanism like a Commission which could evolve our stand in educational matters and present it in the discussions at KCBC level and communicate back to us the result of the discussions. Some Bishops also proposed that the Syro-Malabar Bishops participating in the KCBC could meet at Mount St. Thomas on the eve of the KCBC so that we could participate in the discussions with a clear stand of our own. The discussion on this matter is to be continued.

**Conclusions of the Discussions of XIX Synod (2011) Session 2:** At the request of the Synod, the Chancellor, Fr. Antony Kollannur
read out the report of the discussions during the XIX Synod (2011), Session 2 which was specifically convoked for the election of the Major Archbishop. With regard to the conclusions of these discussions, the Secretary was requested to present on the following day those conclusions which need to be ratified as decisions. Accordingly the important deliberations of the Synod for the election of the Major Archbishop were read out by the Secretary for ratification by the Synod. They are the following:

1. To have the Sunday Collection for the Mission Year taken preferably on 4th September 2011.

2. To celebrate Holy _Qurbana_ at Kodungalloor as part of the inauguration of the Mission Year where all the Bishops will concelebrate on a Sunday during the Synodal Session in August and to authorise Bishop Pauly Kannookadan to organize the event.

3. To constitute a committee with Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST and Bishop Raphael Thattil (Members) to collect the responses from the eparchies, seminaries and religious houses on the _Lineamenta_ of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, and to present the findings in the following Synodal Session of our Church.

4. To designate Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt as the Delegate to participate in the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome along with the Major Archbishop.

5. To request Bishop Anthony Chirayath to make a study about Fr. Varghese Alengadan and his movement and to take necessary action and to report in the following session of the Synod.

The Synod ratified the above deliberations as its decisions, except the one regarding the delegate for the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, No. 4, as the Major Archbishop has received a fresh directive on this matter from the Vatican.
Pilgrimage to Kodungallore: Bishop Pauly Kannookadan briefed the Synod on the arrangements regarding the pilgrimage of the Bishops to Kodungallore on Sunday, 21 August 2011 as part of the Mission Year Celebration, including the reception at the Cheraman Perumal Mosque. He also informed the Bishops about the inauguration of a project of Rs. 50,000,00.00 for helping 80 poor families in the missions scheduled to be held on the same day.

Inauguration of the Mission Year at Kodungallore: The Major Archbishop expressed appreciation and gratitude of the Synod to Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda for the excellent organization of the inauguration of the Mission Year in the St. Thomas Square of the St. Mary’s Parish Church, Kodungallore. He recalled the wonderful experience of inter-religious understanding manifested through the visit to the Cheraman Perumal Masjid of Kodungallore. He also thanked Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, CMI, Prior General and Fr. Paul Achandy, CMI, the Provincial of the Devamatha Province of the CMI Congregation, for organizing the public veneration of the relic of St. Thomas, the Apostle, at the Pontifical Shrine, Azhikode with the participation of the Members of the Synod. He also expressed appreciation for the Missionary Gathering organized in connection with the centenary of the Archeparchy of Kottayam. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Convener of the Central Organizing Committee of the Mission Year Celebrations for the efficient organization of the programmes.

Concluding Celebrations of the Centenary of the Archdiocese of Kottayam: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt informed the Bishops of the various programmes envisaged for the conclusion of the Centenary celebrations of the Archdiocese of Kottayam and invited the Bishops for the same, especially for the concelebration on 29th August.

Promotion of the Projects of the Laity: Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission for Laity, briefed the Synod on the various projects undertaken by the Laity: 1. Cancer Palliative Care Centre in Trivandrum, 2. Old Age Home with 260 apartments in
Trivandrum, 3. Schools of International Standards mainly for the children of the NRI, and 4. Agricultural Migration to African Countries like Mozambique and Ethiopia, and Sindhudurg region in Maharashtra. It was made clear that these were mainly projects undertaken by the Laity which the Commission for Laity was only promoting. Bishop Mathew Arackal clarified the doubts of the members regarding these projects and the relation of the Commission for Laity with them.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Curia: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Convener, the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions, read out the draft of the Guidelines for the functioning of the Curia. Several members of the Synod suggested modifications to the text and the Synod approved the text of the Guidelines with the suggested modifications.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Laity: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, presented the draft text of the Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Laity prepared by the Committee constituted ad hoc by the Synod in January 2011. There was a detailed discussion about the various points arising from the draft. It was suggested that one of the important functions of the Commission for Laity was to impart ecclesial and faith formation to the Laity at various levels. There was a prolonged discussion regarding how to organize the youth of the Syro-Malabar Church. Although at the CBCI level, youth ministry is mainly left to the Churches sui iuris, in Kerala, members of the KCYM strongly feel that such an attempt will weaken the Youth Movement. The Major Archbishop sought the opinion of the Bishops regarding the formation of a Syro-Malabar Church Youth Organization for better ministry to our Youth. Some of the Bishops observed that both the Latin and the Malankara Churches were very much ahead in organizing their youth and it is only the Syro-Malabar Church which is lagging behind in this matter. Some others felt that at the diocesan level our youth ministry is well organized. The general opinion was that we have to evolve some mechanism to bring together the whole Syro-Malabar Youth under one umbrella. Finally Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Member of
the Commission for Laity in charge of the Youth, was asked to study
the matter and to present some guidelines on this matter in the follow-
ing Session of the Synod.

To the query of some, Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil clarified the
present status of the AKCC. He said that there was some confusion
and legal procedure regarding the elections in the organization. After
several sittings with the Bishops and the AKCC leadership an agree-
ment has been reached regarding the conduct of election and approval
of the statutes.

It was suggested that the Laity Commission has to take greater
care to bring the Laity into the ecclesial structures and different fora
for various professional groups are to be organized. There was a de-
tailed discussion on the Jesus Youth and their positive and negative
impact on the life of the Church. The general opinion of the Bishops
was that the Jesus Youth has to be brought in line with the ecclesial
traditions of our Church.

The Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Laity
was read out paragraph per paragraph and the House proposed a few
modifications and the relevant points were incorporated into the text.
Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, was requested to redraft the text
incorporating the suggested modifications and present it to the Major
Archbishop for approval.

**Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Fi-
nance:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, presented the draft text of
the Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Finance.
There was a detailed discussion about the various points arising from
the draft and some modifications were suggested. It was decided that
Bishop Vadakel presents the text to the Major Archbishop, incorpo-
rating the suggested modifications. Towards the end of the Sittings of
the Day, the Major Archbishop announced that he felt that it is better
that the Members of the Commission be elected by the Synod.

**Guidelines for Religious Working in Other sui iuris Churches:**
Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman, Commission for
Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants presented the Guidelines for Religious Working in Other *sui iuris* Churches. He also read out a response to the above document prepared by Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, Prior General of CMI, in consultation with the Major Superiors of Religious Congregations of our Church. In the discussion that followed, Bishops remarked that there are substantial theological and ecclesiological differences between the Guidelines and the response of the Religious. Concluding the discussion, the Major Archbishop shared with the House the concerns that the Religious have often expressed regarding the discrimination they experience in the field of vocation promotion and the misunderstanding in the pastoral cooperation in the eparchies. Finally the Synod decided that the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants and the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life dialogue with the representatives of SMRC and in the light of the findings present a modified draft in the following Session of the Synod. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, the Chairman for the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated life, shall be its Convener. However, the Members of the Synod are asked to study the text of the Guidelines and give their responses in the coming days.

**Deepika:** A reporting session on Deepika was arranged with the presence of the Managing Director and Chief-Editor. Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod welcomed Mr. P.P. Sunny, the Managing Director of Deepika and Fr. Alexander Paikada, CMI, the Chief Editor, who briefed the Synod about the present situation of Deepika. The Managing Director and Chief Editor clarified the questions asked by the Bishops. The Major Archbishop thanked Mr. P.P. Sunny and Fr. Alexander Paikada for their selfless service to Deepika. Because of their love towards Deepika they are rendering service with One Rupee per month salary. He said that at present what was important was that we consider Deepika as our own and strongly strive for it’s growth. The Major Archbishop also informed that the Apex Body of Deepika consists of the Major Archbishop (Chairman) and Archbishops of our Church, the Major Archbishop of the Malankara Church, Bishop George Punnakottil, Bishop Joseph
Kallarangatt, Bishop Remigiose Inchananyil, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, and the Prior General of CMI. Fr. Thomas Malekudy is the Chairman of the Deepika and it has 4 priests and one Lay person as Regional Managers. The Major Archbishop exhorted not to brand Deepika as a “Church News Paper”, but at the same time it should not succumb to political pressures. Towards the conclusion, Fr. Paikada invited the Bishops, at least the Members of the Apex Body, for a brain storming session with the Management Staff of Deepika and the Bishops accepted the invitation.

The Universal Solidarity Movement of Fr. Varghese Alengadan: As requested by the previous Synod, Bishop Anthony Chirayath briefed the Synod on the activities of the Universal Solidarity Movement of Fr. Varghese Alengadan. Bishop Chirayath informed the House that he had discussed the matter with Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal of Indore in whose diocese Fr. Varghese has his centre, and made him aware of the concern of the Synod regarding the teaching and activities of Fr. Alengadan. The Bishop of Indore spoke to Fr. Varghese regarding this matter and he answered that his centre was not a Catholic Organization and its President was a Hindu. Fr. Varghese was ready to face any commission or Synod to clarify his stand. The matter was discussed also in the Madhya Pradesh Regional Bishops Council and it asked Bishop Chirayath to write to the Bishop of Indore requesting him clarifications regarding the activities of Fr. Alengadan. The Synod asked Bishop Chirayath to report to the Major Archbishop the result of his findings on the matter, after getting the reply from Bishop Thottumarickal. There was an opinion that we have to seriously assess the whole issue before taking any action on it. However, it will be beneficial that we discourage the members of the Religious Congregations from participating in the programmes of the above movement.

Sponsorship of the Mission Eparchies: Bishop George Njaralakktt requested the Synod to review the present scheme of sponsoring the Mission Eparchies. The Synod accepted the suggestion and a new scheme was agreed upon as given below:
Migrant Centres: The Major Archbishop opened the discussion on the migrant centres. He, with reference to his inaugural address suggested that we try to get Exarchs appointed for our migrant communities in Canada, Australia, England-Ireland, Europe, Singapore-Malaysia and the Gulf Countries. If that is not possible, we can designate some Bishops in-charge of these regions. He also mentioned about the factional divisions existing in some of our migrant communities. The Major Archbishop recommended that the Bishops when visiting the migrant communities inform the Commission for the Migrants and the priest in-charge, of their visits. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, briefed the Synod about the present situation of the pastoral ministry in the migrant communities. There was elaborate discussion on the above matters and finally the Synod decided that the Major Archbishop takes initiative to get Exarchs appointed for the migrant communities. As a first step of this measure, he designates some Bishops in-charge of these regions in consultation with the respective Bishops Conferences.

Eucharistic Congress: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, informed the House the details regarding the 50th International Eucharistic Congress scheduled for 10-17 June 2012 in Dublin,
Ireland. He told that arrangements are being made for a delegation of the Syro-Malabar Church to take part in the Eucharistic Congress.

**Sharing on the Mission Year Programmes:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Convener, Central Organizing Committee for Syro-Malabar Mission Year, briefed the House of the various arrangements being made for the implementation of the Mission Year programmes. Thereafter each Eparchial Bishop shared the programmes and preparations in his eparchy in connection with the Mission Year Celebrations. Following programmes were of significance: Prayer for Mission Eparchies, Mission Awareness Programmes, Get-together of Missionaries, Parish Twinnage, House visits, Charitable activities, Mission to adivasi communities, Mission Directory, Mission retreats in parishes, Priest Co-ordinator in every eparchy, Adult Baptism, etc. The Major Archbishop thanked the Bishops for the enthusiastic beginning of the Mission Year and requested their co-operation in the successful implementation of the Mission Year programmes in the parishes. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, called the attention of the Bishops to the Children’s Meet at Bharananganam on 27th December 2011. The Bishops were reminded of the Sunday Collection on 4 September. The Synod decided to have one day programme for Bishops with recollection and mission sharing during the following Synodal Session for which the resource persons could be invited from outside.

**Canonical Questions for the Reflection of the Synod:** Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, the President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, who came to present certain canonical and pastoral questions for the reflection and deliberation of the Synod.

Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal presented the following questions:

1. For celebrating a marriage in a parish different from that of both the bride and bridegroom, whether there is the need of an authorization letter besides the “Kettu Kuri” (Form C). It was clarified that there was no need of such an authorization.
2. Whether an eparchial Bishop can refuse as a general principle, to grant dispensation from all the three banns. It was clarified that although he can refuse the dispensation in particular cases, he cannot refuse it in general.

3. Whether as an act of penance imposed, could an eparchial Bishop legislate that a determined period of time has to be elapsed before requesting for convalidation of marriage. It was clarified that we have to show more pastoral charity in such cases.

4. How to proceed in making corrections regarding the date of birth and name in the Baptismal Register? In no way correction is allowed in the Register deleting the earlier entry. However, in genuine cases, with sufficient reliable documentary evidence, competent authorities can permit the responsible persons to make corrections in the margin or in the remark column of the Register. The Synod decided that Fr. Mathew Kochupura prepares a directive in this regard and present it to Major Archbishop with the approval of Archbishops Mathew Moolakkatt and Andrews Thazhath.

5. In marriages involving a Jacobite/Orthodox Bride and a Syro-Malabar Bridegroom, whether the non-Catholic bride ought to first join the Syro-Malankara Church. Although it is a reasonable question, considering the Canon Law it is difficult to give a practical response. It was proposed that the Heads of the Churches involved discuss this matter and come to an understanding.

6. Whether to insist on obtaining the permission from the Bishops, in the case of mixed marriages between Catholics and Jacobites. It was clarified that we have to insist as per the agreement between the two Churches. But the Catholic parish priests have to make sure that the other party is Jacobite and not an Orthodox Christian.

7. Whether an eparchial Bishop can prohibit the publication of Banns of a marriage which had already been registered. The
Synod clarified that the banns should not be dispensed, if it is not a case of public scandal.

8. Whether a Church *sui iuris* or an eparchial bishop can enact a law permitting the administration of the sacraments of baptism and *chrismation* always separately. Archbishop Thazhath informed the Synod that there was an understanding that for pastoral reasons this can be done for a period of time.

**Participation of the Administrator of Thuckalay in the Synod:**
Bishop Jose Porunnedom drew the attention of the Synod regarding the absence of the Administrator of Thuckalay in the Synod. He further stated that in the past there was the custom of inviting the Eparchial Administrators to the Synod without voting power. The Major Archbishop informed the House that he will invite the Administrator of Thuckalay to participate in the Synod from Monday onwards. Accordingly the Administrator of Thuckalay, Fr. Philip Kodianthara was invited and the Major Archbishop welcomed him to the Synod. At the request of the Major Archbishop, he briefed the Synod on the present situation of the Eparchy of Thuckalay.

**The Second Anaphora (of Mar Theodore):** Bishop George Punnakottil, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy requested the consent of the Synod for inviting Fr. Jacob Vadakel, an expert on the Anaphora of Theodore when that Anaphora will be taken up for discussion and the Synod gave its consent. The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy and of the Central Liturgical Committee and Fr. Jacob Vadakel, from the Eparchy of Palai, an expert on the Anaphora of Mar Theodore. The Synod had a first reading of the text of the Anaphora and a discussion on matters in general. In this context the write up on the ‘History of the restoration and revision of the second anaphora of the Syro-Malabar Church’ was brought to the attention of the members. The Synod then proceeded to scrutinize in detail the text of the Anaphora and suggested points for the improvement of the Text. The Synod finally decided to approve the Text with the suggested modifi-
cations. It was also decided that the Commission for Liturgy organize a trial celebration (dry mass), inviting representatives from the Eparhies and the Religious and present the report in the following Session of the Synod. So also the Bishops shall report to the following Synod after having organized such trial celebrations in their Eparhies, after the trial celebration in the Curia. This trial celebration has to be done with proper introduction and catechesis. Thereafter, having deliberated upon the reports, the Major Archbishop shall send the Text to the Apostolic See for recognitio. Bishop Paul Chittilapilly requested Bishops to be invited for the trial celebration of the Second Anaphora of Mar Theodore organized by the Commission for Liturgy and the Synod agreed to the request. The Synod expressed gratitude to Fr. Pauly Maniyattu and Fr. Jacob Vadakel.

**Houthama of the Liturgy of Hours:** Some suggested it appropriate that the Major Archbishop prays the *Houthama* when he is present for Liturgy of the Hours. Several Bishops intervened in the ensuing discussion. Finally the Synod decided to entrust the matter to a one man committee under the Commission for Liturgy to study and report to the Synod whether the Major Archbishop or the Bishop Celebrant is to pray the *Houthama*.

**Directives for Concelebration:** Even though the Secretary presented the *directives for concelebration*, the Synod did not accept it as it was prepared in March 2009 and thereafter in August 2009 the Synod had already taken decision on the matter in the Synod.

**Use of Options on Qurbana:** The Secretary further presented the ‘Final Statements of CLC on the use of options on *Qurbana* and the arrangement of the sanctuary.’ The Synod discussed the use of the options in the *Qurbana*. There were several interventions on the matter. Towards the end the Major Archbishop said that for the time being we follow the already given directives in the *taksa* and the Synod shall take other details for discussion in future. As there was no time, the Synod could not take up the topic of the arrangement of the sanctuary.
Uniform Mode of Celebration of the Qurbana: Bishop Jacob Angadiath introduced the theme for discussion on the uniform mode of celebration of the Qurbana. He explained the need of our coming to an agreement to implement the uniform mode of celebrating the Qurbana and other sacraments. In the discussion, there was also reference to the use of options and certain abuses in the printing of the liturgical texts and in the liturgical celebrations. Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram, CMI, told the Bishops that if we can put into practice the previous decision of the Synod on the uniform mode of celebration of the Qurbana in this year dedicated for Mission, it will be a great achievement for our Church.

Caution against the Emperor Emmanuel Sect: Some of the Bishops brought to the attention of the Synod the danger that the Emperor Emmanuel Sect causes to the Catholic faithful. Many Bishops intervened in the discussion. Finally the Synod requested the Bishop Pauly Kannookadan of Irinjalakuda to publish a circular, after due investigation, cautioning the faithful of the dangers of the Emperor Emmanuel Sect and advising them to keep away from its influence and forward a copy to the Bishops.

Prayer for the Unity of the Churches of the St. Thomas Christian Tradition: The Bishops were reminded to exhort the faithful to pray for the unity of the Churches of the St. Thomas Christian Tradition.

Election of the representative from the Synod to the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome: The Synod elected by secret ballot Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt representative of the Synod to XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in October 2012 and Bishop Bosco Puthur, substitute.

Election of the Commission for Finance: The Synod elected by secret ballot Bishop Mathew Arackal (Chairman), and Bishop Bosco Puthur and Bishop Raphael Thattil (Members), of the Commission for Finance. The Major Archbishop nominated Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI, Member of the Commission for Finance.
Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: The Major Archbishop constituted a separate Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life with the following members: Bishop Jose Porunnedom (Chairman), Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy and Bishop Jose Chittooparambil, CMI (Members).

Mission Fund and Charitable Trust: There was a discussion on the nature of the Mission Fund and the Charitable Trust of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The Synod reiterated the already given directives regarding both.

Presentation of Report of the Major Seminaries: Bishop Bosco Puthur, Secretary of the Synod, welcomed Fr. Antony Nariculam, Rector, St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha, Aluva, Fr. Alex Tharamangalam, Rector, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kottayam and Fr. Thomas Anikuzhikattil, Rector, Good Shepherd Seminary, Kunnoth to the Synodal Sitting for the presentation of the annual report. Thereafter the Rectors briefly presented reports of the respective seminaries and the Statement of Accounts.

The Rector of Mangalapuzha expressed his satisfaction regarding the running of the seminary and the cooperation of the Staff. With the installation of a new water purification system, the problem of getting pure water was solved. Mangalapuzha campus being old, there is need for major maintenance work which will cost more than Rupees One Crore. Under the auspices of the Commission for Clergy, Mangalapuzha was the venue for an on-going formation course for formators which was greatly appreciated by the participants. He raised the question regarding the requirement of graduation for philosophy course against the background of the new document from the Congregation for Catholic Education which stipulates three year course of philosophy for B.Ph. Degree. He also requested that the Rectors of the Minor Seminaries to give a detailed report about the candidates who are promoted to the Major Seminary for Philosophy Course and a detailed report of Philosophy period and of the regency of those who are sent to a different seminary for Theology Course.
Fr. Alex Tharamangalam, the Rector of Vadavathoor expressed his satisfaction at the positive impact of the daily practice of *lectio divina* in which the whole seminary community participates in the Chapel before the classes begin. In the pastoral field the students in different groups visit the families in the neighbourhood of the seminary regardless of caste and creed once in about six weeks and talk, share, support and pray for and with them. Although in the recent past a lot of maintenance work has been done, the main building of the seminary still needs serious maintenance work.

Fr. Thomas Anikuzhikattil, the Rector of Kunnoth highlighted the importance given to the liturgical and human formation in the seminary. He also said that there is a very cordial relationship between the Staff and students. He appreciated the great effort undertaken by the members of the Staff to collect money for the seminary, visiting different parishes of the eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church. He expressed his gratitude to the Bishops and parish priests who supported the cause of Kunnoth seminary. Although the seminary could collect substantial amount of money through this drive, still the financial situation of the seminary is very precarious.

Bishop Jacob Manathodath, Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Mangalapuzha appreciated the effort taken by the Rector and his team and thanked them for their ministry. Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Vadavathoor, said that although there was a lot of change in the personnel of the Staff, generally the Rector and his team are doing commendable work in the field of formation. He invited the Bishops for the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Vadavathoor seminary which is scheduled for January 2012. In the absence of Archbishop George Valiamattam, the Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Kunnoth, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Jose Porunnedom expressed in one voice their appreciation for the excellent spiritual formation given to the students and the cordial rapport between the Staff and Students existing in Kunnoth Seminary. Bishop Porunnedom requested the Synod to take appropriate action to make the provisional statutes of the seminary definitive. The Synod requested Bishop Jose Porunne-
dom to make necessary modifications in the text and with the recommendation of the Seminary Commission to present it to the Major Archbishop for final approval.

The Synod discussed several matters arising from the reports especially the question of study of Philosophy against the background of the Roman document. Towards the end of the discussion the Major Archbishop expressed his view that there is no need of reviewing our decision to make graduation as a requirement for admission to Philosophy. Regarding the duration of the study of Philosophy he requested the Rectors and Presidents of our seminaries and faculties to discuss the Roman document and its implications and give in writing their proposal on the issue. He promised the Synod that during his visit to Rome in October he will make it a point to discuss the matter with the officials of the Congregation for the Catholic Education. And thereafter we shall take appropriate decision on the matter. Another issue which was raised by the Seminary Rectors was to collect contributions from the students in order to overcome the deficit in running the seminary. The Synod asked the Rectors to discuss the matter with the students before we take any decision on it. The Synod requested Bishop Jacob Manathodath to oversee the follow up of these two consultations and to present the results to the Major Archbishop and to the Synod.

It was suggested that the Report on the seminarians need to be more complete, giving clear indications of the character assessment of the student. Regarding the Syllabus, Method of grading in the exams, Time table and other disciplinary matters the Synod asked the Rectors to try to come to a common agreement among our seminaries.

The Major Archbishop expressed his appreciation in the running of the seminaries and thanked the Members of the Seminary Commission, the Rectors and the Staff. He advised the Rectors that this year being the Mission Year, the students of our seminaries should actively participate in the Mission Year Programmes of our Church. They should be brought to the awareness of the Mission Policy of our Church and the contents of the Catechism Text Books. The Major Archbishop
requested the Bishops to give greater care in the selection of appropriate persons for Staff of the Seminaries for which we need to evolve some practical mechanism. He also observed that as the on-going formation course conducted for the Staff of the Seminary was attended only by a few, the Seminary Commission has to advise other members of the Staff to take part in this course.

**Report of the Consultation of the Professors of the Sacred Scripture:** As requested by Bishop Jacob Manathodath, the Bishop in-Charge of the Consultation of the Professors of the Sacred Scripture, Fr. Antony Nariculam, the Convener, presented the Report of the consultation which took place on 2 December 2010. The background of the consultation was the following: Although the Professors were imparting knowledge about the Bible in the classes, it seems that it is not effectively reflected in the homilies preached by the priests and in their personal lives. The Report is of opinion that something needs to be done to overcome the present difficulties. They also proposed 1. There is need of a revision of the lectionary system, 2. Homilies may be preached also by seminarians with *karoya* and *hevpadyakna*.

The first proposal will be taken up when the liturgical matters will be discussed. The Synod did not approve the second point because it goes against the Common Law. It was observed that there are several instances of *ultra vires* liturgical practices by the seminarians, beyond what is permitted by their respective clerical order like the preaching homily by clerics in Minor Orders. It was proposed by the Synod as an effective measure to check this abuse, that the Major Archbishop may write a letter addressed to the formation houses and to the parish priests, delineating the functions of each clerical order and advising the seminarians, both the diocesan and religious to strictly observe them. The parish priests also have to be advised not to ask the seminarians to perform functions beyond their clerical status. Regarding the formation of the candidates to priesthood in the Syro-Malabar Church, the Major Archbishop expressed his opinion that what is needed is a radical and integral vision. The various Commissions together should strive to bring before the Synod a common vision of formation of our Church. Only that can create a conducive at-
mosphere for integral priestly formation in all the formation houses of our Church. The Synod decided to form an apex body for this purpose with Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Curia Bishop as its Convener and the Commissions of the three seminaries, Clergy Commission and the Commission for Institutes Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life as Members. This body had to formulate its recommendations taking into consideration the directives of the *Charter for Priestly Formation in the Syro-Malabar Church* and after due consultation with people responsible for other formation houses and seminaries.

**Presentation of the Report of the Activities of the Curia:** Fr. Antony Kollannur, Chancellor of the Curia, presented in Power Point the activities of the Curia from January to August 2011.

**Report of the Commission for Liturgy:** Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, the Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy presented its report. The report described various meetings and activities of the Central Liturgical Committee. He said that sub-committees are formed for the preparation of the liturgy of the hours, the Anaphora of Nestorius, sacramentals, rites of feast days, rites of blessings, and rites for the dead. CLC is also busy with the revision of the liturgical calendar and the preparation of the lectionary. Two sets of lectionaries are being prepared: One following the *supplimentum mysteriorum*, and the other a new lectionary according to the East Syrian Liturgical Year. Bishop George Punnakottill, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy clarified that the Central Liturgical Committee is preparing two sets of readings, the second one of which is being prepared with the help of Biblical Scholars so that we can include readings from more Biblical Books.

**Report of the Commission for Catechesis:** The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. George Danavelil, the Secretary of the Commission for Catechesis to present the report. He, presenting the report, highlighted the efforts taken by the Commission for preparing text books and its translations. He also said that the guidelines for the parents and Mission Year booklet are in preparation and will be soon published. The Commission is organizing scholarship exams for the
catechism students. Bishop Jacob Manathodath, the Chairman of the Commission, thanked Major Archbishop George Alencherry the former Chairman of the Commission, for his exemplary leadership. He also thanked the new Secretary and expressed his hope that soon the Secretary can reside in the Curia as Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, his eparchial Bishop, has agreed to the proposal. Bishop Jacob Manathodath also mentioned that the Commission is planning to launch its own website. He requested the Seminary Commissions to take initiative to familiarize the seminarians with the content and orientation of the catechism text books. The Major Archbishop congratulated the Commission for its efficient functioning and especially mentioned the fact that the Bishop Members always took active part in all the activities of the Commission.

**Report of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt, MST, the Secretary of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. He presented before the Synod the list of priests working as chaplains and also names of those proposed for ministry, in various Countries for the Syro-Malabar migrants. He informed the Synod that through the mediation of Bishop Jose Chittooparambil, CMI, the two Syro-Malabar groups in Surat have been reconciled and Bishop Godfrey of Baroda has blessed the chapel at Pandessara built by the community.

The report presented various activities in connection with the Mission Year celebrations. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, briefed the Synod on the difficulties encountered by the various migrant communities. And he said that nothing less than an Exarchate can solve the problems of our migrants in the Gulf Countries. The Cultural Associations in different Countries often create problems and divisions in our communities. There was some reference regarding the misunderstanding between the Associations of the Knanites and non-Knanites. He assured the Synod that the Commission is doing its best for helping the migrants.

The Major Archbishop expressed the gratitude of the Synod towards the Commission. The Major Archbishop brought to the
attention of the Synod the following observations: 1. There is a conflict of attitudes, specially in the Gulf, between the Orientals and the Latin Bishops regarding the pastoral ministry, 2. We have to take into consideration the nature of our migrant communities and try to solve amicably the conflicts often arising there, 3. Dialogue is the best means to solve the problems, even though we may sometimes fail in it, 4. We should accept the reality of the Knanaya Community as part and parcel of the Syro-Malabar Church. We should always try to foster their aspirations and if problems come, we shall be ready to solve them dialoguing with the Knanaya Bishops. 5. We may have to entrust the pastoral care of the various migrant communities in different Countries to Bishops according to their contacts with those communities, 6. We may have to bifurcate the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants.

**Report of the Commission for Clergy:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary welcomed Fr. Jimmy Poochakkatt, the Secretary of the Commission for Clergy and invited him to present the report. It was reported, among other things, that the on-going Formation Course conducted for the Major Seminary Formators was well-received. He mentioned also about the on-going Formation Course for the priests of the third year after ordination being planned by the Commission and invited suggestions from the Bishops. Bishop Thomas Chakiath, the Chairman of the Commission complemented the report explaining the various activities planned by the Commission. After the discussion, the Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its excellent performance.

**Report of the Commission for Doctrine:** The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Siby Pulickal, the Secretary of the Commission for Doctrine to present its report. He said that under the leadership of Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, the Chairman, the Commission is trying to address the doctrinal issues in our Church. He mentioned that there is an increasing activity of the Free Masons in Kerala. He requested the Bishops to constitute vigilance cells in every eparchy to guard against the doctrinal deviations and report to the authorities. At the
initiative of the Commission, the Seminarians of Aluva had visited 500 houses interviewing people who joined the sects.

He mentioned about the dialogues with Tom Zachariah for which the Commission had delegated Fr. Mathew Vellanickal, Fr. Joseph Pamplany, Fr. Mathew Illathuparambil and Fr. Siby Pulickal. Although Tom Zachariah seemed to be ready to accept our proposals, the directive given by the Commission was not fully accepted by the Spirit in Jesus Movement. Hence the Commission came to the conclusion that we cannot in general give recognition to the Spirit in Jesus Movement to be Orthodox. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, the Chairman of the Commission told the Bishops that it is only by fully involved effort from the part of the pastors that the Church can resist the incursions of the sects. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its efforts and told the Synod that the attitude of the Church is not that of condemnation, but accompaniment with strictness and if needed correction. We have to correct deviations in our pastoral style. Sometimes priests prefer to do pastoral governance instead of pastoral ministry. He invited the Commission for Ecumenism and Commission for Doctrine to work hand in hand.

**Report of the Commission for Laity:** The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Adv. V.C. Sebastian, the Secretary of the Commission for Laity to present its report in the Synod. The Secretary presented an elaborate report about the activities of the Commission at the national and international level. He described the experience of the Commission among the migrant communities and the warm welcome it received from them. One of the innovative initiatives of the Commission was the E-magazine, *Laity Voice* which is being sent to more than one and a half Lakh addresses. Bishop Mathew Arackal, the Chairman of the Commission informed the Synod that the Laity Commission is launching a project of ‘sponsoring a seminarian’ and the fund will be entrusted with the Major Archbishop who can distribute it at his discretion. He also mentioned that a sum of Euro 15,000,00 was received from the Pontifical Council for Laity and was distributed to 20 Young people from various eparchies of our Church to participate in the World Youth Day in Madrid. Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil,
Member of the Commission in charge of the Women Section and AKCC, informed the Synod that he was trying to solve the organizational and legal problems of AKCC. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Member of the Commission in-charge of Dalits and Youth, informed that he was trying to dialogue with the KCYM to reorganize it at the Syro-Malabar level without causing problems to the existing system.

The Major Archbishop appreciated the Commission for its programmes at the global level and for its excellent use of the Media. However, he advised the Commission to strive for more integration towards ecclesial unity and unified actions with other Commissions like the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. The Major Archbishop said that it will be good to organize a convention of the laity at global level here in the Curia with the participation of the Bishops.

**Report of the Commission for Ecumenism:** Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism presented the report. He said that a lot of ecumenical activities are taking place outside the realm of the Commission. The unity octave prayer is being prepared with the necessary adaptations by the Commission. In future the Commission will try to do its activities in collaboration with KCBC Commission for Ecumenism. He said that the Commission is planning an Ecumenical Directory and a Pastoral Guide. He asked the opinion of the Synod regarding an ecumenical convention with the participation also of our Bishops in the Year 2012, close to the Synod in January and the Synod decided in its favour. He requested the Bishops to entrust one priest in charge of ecumenism in every eparchy, to create interest for ecumenical gatherings in the parishes and to make more effective ecumenical formation of the seminarians.

The Major Archbishop said that the Commission is striving hard to promote ecumenical spirit in the Church. He requested the Commission to forward the draft of the unity octave prayer to the Bishops requesting their suggestions for improvements so that it becomes more acceptable to all. He also said that during his visit to the Vatican in October he will speak with the officials of the dicastery concerned
regarding the official participation of our Church with the ecumenical programmes of the Universal Church.

**Report of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal:** The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, to present the report of the Tribunal. Fr. Kochupurackal presented a brief report about the visit of the President/Vice-President to the Eparchial Tribunals in the proper territory of our Church. In general, the activities of the various tribunals are very satisfactory. However, in some of the tribunals there is want of competent personnel. He remarked that the number of cases of annulment has doubled. He requested the Bishops to give greater care to the running of the eparchial tribunals. Thereafter, he presented the report of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal. He informed the Synod that a new list of Advocates has been published in which sisters also are included. In the report he mentioned that there was a meeting of all the Judicial Vicars of the tribunals of the Syro-Malabar Church within the proper territory convened by the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal at Mount St. Thomas. There was also a seminar for tribunal personnel. Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, the General Moderator, informed the Synod that the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal is functioning well thanks to the efficient leadership of Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal and the cooperation given to him by the officials of the Tribunal and that the *Signatura Apostolica* has highly appreciated its functioning. The Major Archbishop thanked the General Moderator and the President of the Tribunal for their efficient management of the Tribunal.

**Report of the Liturgical Research Centre:** The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Sebastian Naduthadam, the Executive Director of LRC to present its report. Fr. Naduthadam reported various activities of LRC, especially the seminars in Rome and in Mumbai which were well appreciated. The Major Archbishop George Alencherry inaugurated the seminar in Mumbai and was present throughout and Cardinal Oswald Gracias delivered the homily in one of the Eucharistic celebrations of the seminar. The Executive Director thanked the eparchy of Kalyan for taking up the organization of the seminar in
Mumbai and sponsoring it. One of the highlights of the Mumbai seminar is the Award given to Fr. Mathew Vellanickal. The Secretary thanked Fr. Vellanickal for donating the cash award back to LRC for its activities. The Executive Director informed the Synod of the recent innovations of the St. Thomas Christian Museum. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the Synod of the suggestion of the Seminar to appoint a Committee consisting of Church Historians and Secular Historians to do research at important centres of North India where traces of ancient Christian presence are found. The Major Archbishop thanked the Board of Directors of LRC for its activities especially for the seminar in Mumbai which was a fine example of the collaboration between LRC, the eparchy of Kalyan and the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants.

**Report of the Public Affairs Committee:** Archbishop Joseph Powathil, Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, presented its report in which he highlighted four important threats for the Kerala society: 1. Increasing violence, 2. Sex revolution, 3. Wrong influence of the Media, and 4. Rampant corruption. To counter these evils, Archbishop Powathil suggested that the Major Archbishop issues pastoral letters on each of them. He also advised pastors to use the mini media (parish bulletins, leaflets, posters, etc.) to explain our position on various issues and to give more importance for imparting faith formation to our Youth. The Synod had a detailed discussion on these issues and agreed that these are very serious issues to be dealt with. Some also suggested the crisis of the family as another important issue which the Synod should take serious note of. Finally, the Synod decided to take these four themes also with reference to Family as matter for a serious study, reflection, prayer and action and requested the Public Affairs Committee in collaboration with the Commission for Doctrine to prepare a draft study document in English and Malayalam, to be circulated by e-mail among the Bishops inviting their suggestions and to present the final draft in the following Synod, incorporating relevant suggestions. The Synod shall publish a document as a result of the study. The Major Archbishop thanked Archbishop Powathil for his untiring vigilance over the public affairs.
Report of the Internet Mission (SMCIM): The Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Jose Palakeel, MST, the Executive Director of the Internet Mission. Bishop Jose Porunnedom presented a report explaining the history of the Syro-Malabar Church Internet Mission. In spite of the shortcomings and financial difficulties, he expressed his confidence that this is a very important and challenging mission for our Church which in future will benefit us very much. He requested the Synod to approve the new Governing Body of the internet mission consisting of Bishop Bosco Puthur (Chairman), Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI, Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Dr. Antony Kollannur (Curia Chancellor), Fr Mathew Pulimoottil (Finance Officer of the Curia), Dr James Athikkalam, Director General of MST and Dr Jose Palakeel MST (Executive Director) and the Synod gave its approval. Fr. Jose Palakeel complemented what Bishop Porunnedom had said and explained to the Synod the developments of the mission since he took charge a few months ago. He informed the Synod about the shifting of the office of the mission from Mount St. Thomas to a building in Mavelipuram, Kakkanad. The Synod thanked the members of the Governing Body for their effort.

Budget and Financial Statement of Accounts of the Major Archepiscopal Curia: Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod welcomed Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer of the Curia to present the Budget and Financial Statement of Accounts of the Major Archepiscopal Curia. The Finance Officer also presented a report about the progress of the construction of the Curia Building. As per the Budget, there is still substantial deficit for which money has to be somehow raised. In the face of dwindling funds, he proposed raising of the Sabhadinam Collection from Rs. 1 per head to Rs. 1.50 per head. Since the eparchies had to contribute quite substantially for general needs of the Church recently, the Bishops felt that it could be considered later. The Members of the Finance Council requested the Synod to consider the above proposal at least in the coming year. The Finance Officer was requested to contact the Shrines and Institutions of our Church through the Local Bishops for
their contributions. There was a suggestion regarding the construction of a convention center in the property of the Curia as a means of permanent income for the Curia. The Synod entrusted the Commission for Finance to present a detailed proposal in the following Synod. During the discussion, the decreasing circulation of the Synodal News was brought to the attention of the Bishops. The Bishops were reminded of the decision of a previous Synod requesting the eparchies to make the parishes subscribe to the Synodal News regularly. The Major Archbishop and the Chairman of the Commission for Finance thanked the Curia Bishop and the Finance Officer for the progress of the Construction of the Curia Building and the efficient running of the finances of the Curia.

**Circular Introducing the Mission Fund:** Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI, Director of the Mission Fund, requested Major Archbishop to issue a circular introducing the Mission Fund. The Synod discussed the feasibility of this request and finally the Major Archbishop announced that he would issue a circular to introduce the Mission Fund.

**Pastoral Letters:** The Major Archbishop suggested that it is up to the KCBC to formulate a policy safeguarding the common interest of the three *sui iuris* Churches and the individual Bishops at their discretion can issue pastoral letters on relevant matters. The Synod was of opinion that the Major Archbishop publishes pastoral letters only on matters of great importance.

**Circular After the Synod:** The Major Archbishop suggested that instead of a circular, it was better that we publish in the diocesan bulletins a letter of information on the events in the Synod, requesting the parish priests to inform the faithful about the content of the letter.

**The Letter of Cardinal Oswald Gracias to the Major Archbishop:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he had received a letter from Cardinal Oswald Gracias, President of CBCI whom he had visited in Mumbai. In this letter Cardinal Gracias had expressed his readiness to agree with the suggestion of the Major Archbishop for setting up a Committee consisting of the two
Cardinals of the Latin Church, the Two Major Archbishops and one representative each of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and that of the Evangelization of Peoples, for taking decisions on the restoration of All India Jurisdiction and on establishing canonical structures for pastoral care of the faithful of the Oriental Churches in India. The Synod gave the consent to the Major Archbishop to proceed on this matter in these lines.

**Buying the Property for the *Procura* in Rome:** The Major Archbishop introduced the topic of buying the property for the *procura* of our Church in Rome. He told that Fr. Stephen Chirappanath, the Procurator in Rome has identified a very suitable property and house for this purpose. It was a seminary built by the Basilean Fathers, now under the custody of a Roman diocesan congregation called *Missionarii della Fede*. Bishop Anthony Chirayath who visited the house informed the Synod that it is a God-given chance for our Church and that by all means we should buy it. It is well located, not far from the Vatican and it has got sufficient amenities and the price is reasonable. He also said that we can get 80% of the amount as loan from Banks and we need to pay now only 20% (Euro 5 Lakhs = Rs. 3 Crores). Continuing the discussion, the Major Archbishop endorsed the idea of buying the property and explained the procedure for raising the money: 1. Bishops contribute their share, 2. Giving residence to the priests studying in Rome with scholarships, 3. One month allowance of the priests working abroad, 4. Approaching the different funding agencies, 5. Requesting contributions from our migrant communities, 6. Contribution of the Religious. Regarding the Contribution from the Religious, the Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life will solicit the cooperation of the Major Superiors.

The Bishops spontaneously agreed to contribute and they also agreed to request their priests working abroad to donate one month salary for this purpose. The Commission for Finance is entrusted with preparing a slab system regarding the contributions of the Bishops towards this purpose.
Finally the Synod decided the following:

1. To buy the proposed property for the procura of our Church in Rome.

2. To authorize Fr. Stephen Chirappanath, the Procurator of the Major Archbishop at the Apostolic See, for further negotiations for buying the proposed property for the procura.

3. To ask the priests working abroad to contribute one month’s allowance for the project of the procura.

4. To entrust the Commission for Finance with the raising of the Funds and the management of the purchase of the Procura, with the cooperation of Bishop Anthony Chirayath.

Proposals Regarding the Fundraising for the Procura: The Synod had requested the Commission for Finance to prepare a slab system of the contribution of the Bishops. Accordingly Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission for Finance, presented the proposal of the Commission for Finance of the fundraising for the purchase of the Procura: 1. The eparchies shall contribute at the rate of One and Half Rupees per persons, with a minimum contribution of at least Rs. 50,000.00. The eparchies of Badravathi, Mandya and Ramanathapuram shall contribute whatever they can. The Commission expects to collect Rs. Fifty Lakhs. 2. From the contribution of the Religious, Fifty Lakhs, 3. Contributions from the International Religious Congregations in Rome, for which the Major Archbishop approaches them, 4. Contributions from the German Bishops, 5. Priests working abroad donating their one month’s allowance and those receiving Government remuneration, their one month’s salary, 6. Contributions from various Funding Agencies, 7. Contributions from the Syro-Malabar migrant communities, and 8. Contributions from generous benefactors from India. The Synod approved the above proposals. In the discussion that followed there was a suggestion to prepare a brochure, either through website or hard copy, giving sufficient information about the purchase of the Procura. Before buying
the property we have to make sure that it is fool-proof from the legal point of view. The Procura has to be recognized as a juridic person by the Italian Civil Authorities.

**Year Plan of the Commissions:** There was a suggestion that the Commissions prepare their year plan with the schedule of important programmes and present its consolidated form in the Synod.

**Memoranda on Mullaperiyar Dam:** Bishop Joseph Arumachadath, MCBS, brought to the attention of the Synod the danger posed by Mullaperiyar Dam and requested the Synod to send memoranda to the Prime Minister, and to the Chief Minister of Kerala. Accordingly Bishop Mathew Arackal read out the memoranda addressed to the Prime Minister and to the Chief Minister of Kerala on the danger posed by Mullaperiyar Dam and requesting their immediate intervention on the matter.

**Titles and Honours:** There was a query with regard to the mechanism for conferring the Titles and Honours in the Syro-Malabar Church. There followed some discussion on the matter. It was explained that in the guidelines there is sufficient explanation regarding the procedures. The Major Archbishop informed that the Bishops can propose persons whom they consider worthy of special honour by the Church and the Synod will decide on it.

**Devotional Practices:** Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam requested the Synod to make a serious study on the devotional practices at present existing in our Church and evaluate them from the point of view of the genius of our liturgy. This was followed by a discussion on the topic in which several Bishops intervened. Some of them said that we have to take into consideration the positive effect of the popular devotions to our community. It was remarked that LRC had already conducted a seminar on the Popular Devotions and the papers will be soon published. The Synod was of opinion that this needs serious study and reflection before any decision is taken on the matter.
Implementation of the Teachings of the Second Vatican Council: Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam requested the Synod to make an objective study on the implementation of the documents of the Second Vatican Council and post-conciliar documents. For this he requested to appoint a team of experts. Accordingly the Synod appointed a Committee consisting of Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Chairman of LRC (Convener), Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Chairman of the Commission for Doctrine, and Bishop Jacob Manathodath, Co-ordinator of the Seminary Commissions.

The Date of Erection of the Archeparchy of Trichur: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath brought to the attention of the Synod that in the Annuario Pontificio the date of erection of the Archeparchy of Trichur was indicated as 1887 up to 1997 and from that year onwards, it was changed to 1896. Hence he requested the Synod to take necessary action to rectify this error regarding the historical fact. There was a discussion on the topic. The Archbishop of Changanacherry told the Synod that this same mistake has happened in the case of his Archeparchy too. At the end of the discussion, the Synod decided to constitute a Committee to study the canonical and historical facts on the dates of the erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur, Changanacherry and Ernakulam-Angamaly with Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Convener, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy Members. The Committee shall present its findings in the following Synodal Session.

Presentation of the Response of the Syro-Malabar Church to the Lineamenta of the Synod of Bishops in Rome: Bishop Bosco Puthur presented the response of the Syro-Malabar Church to the Lineamenta of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, collated from the responses received from the eparchies, religious congregations and theological institutes. The Bishops shall send their suggestions for the improvement of the response before the end of September. The
Synod authorized the Committee consisting of Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Bishop Raphael Thattil (Members) to prepare the final draft of the response, incorporating the suggestions of the Bishops and to present it to the Major Archbishop.

**Schedule of the Synodal Sessions in 2012:** The Synod decided to hold two Sessions of the Synod, one from 9 (10.00 a.m.) to 13 (6.00 p.m.), January 2012 and the other from 20 August (10.00 a.m.) to 1 September 2012 (both Saturdays, the sittings up to 12.30 p.m.). In this connection the Synod came to the understanding that January 9 will be the Mission Prayer day for the Bishops with recollection in the morning and mission sharing in the afternoon. During the Synod in August it was agreed to have an ecumenical gathering for which the dates shall be fixed after a consultation with the Bishops of the other denominations by Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam.

**Press Release:** Bishop Bosco Puthur read out the draft of the Press Release. A few modifications were suggested.

**Scrutiny of the Decisions of the XIX Synod (2011), Session 3:** The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 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 of the Synod and gave the concluding address. The Major Archbishop thanked Almighty God for the particular graces He has showered upon the Bishops all through the Synodal Session. He reminded that the Spirit of the Lord has strengthened the Bishops in communion and collegial action and hoped that in areas where there is divergence of ideas and practices the Synod can arrive at positive lines of action through further discussions in future. He highlighted the solemn inauguration of the Mission Year with great enthusiasm and support from all
sections of the People of God. He recalled a few important decisions of the Synod such as the formation of a special committee to propose methods of renewal in the programme of formation of our seminaries, to constitute a new Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life aimed at creating effective participation of the consecrated persons both men and women in ecclesial life and mission, to acquire a property for the *Procura* in Rome. He expressed his hope that during the forthcoming visit to Rome, we may be able to come to some concrete results regarding the pastoral care of our migrants both in India and abroad. He thanked the Bishops and the Staff of the Curia for the effective conduct of the Synodal Session. And with the permission of the Synod the Major Archbishop declared the XIX Synod (2011), Session 3 closed.

Mount St. Thomas  
27 August 2011  
+ Bosco Puthur,  
Secretary,  
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur,  
Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Curia
1. To request Bishop Sebastian Adyanthrath to study the possibility of a Syro-Malabar Church Youth Organization and to present some guidelines on this matter in the following Session of the Synod.

2. To request Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, to redraft the Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Laity, incorporating the modifications suggested by the Synod and to present it to the Major Archbishop for approval.

3. To ratify the following deliberations of the Synod convoked for the Election of the Major Archbishop:

   a. To have the Sunday Collection for the Mission Year taken preferably on 4th September 2011.

   b. To celebrate Holy Qurbana at Kodungalloor as part of the inauguration of the Mission Year where all the Bishops will concelebrate on a Sunday during the Synodal Session in August and to authorise Bishop Pauly Kannoookadan to organize the event.

   c. To constitute a committee with Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST and Bishop Raphael Thattil (Members) to collect the responses from the eparchies, seminaries and religious houses on the Lineamenta of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, and to present the findings in the following Synodal Session of our Church.

4. To request Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, to present the text of the Guidelines for the Functioning of the Commission for Finance to the Major Archbishop, incorporating the suggested modifications, for approval.
5. To reorganize the scheme of sponsoring the Mission Eparchies as given below:

Mandya  Mananthavady  
Bhadravathi  Thamarassery  
Bijnor & Adilabad  Tellicherry  
Chanda  Kanjirapally  
Gorakhpur  Ernakulam  
Jagdalpur  Changanacherry  
Ramanathapuram & Sagar  Trichur  
Rajkot  Kottayam  
Satna  Kothamangalam  
Ujjain, Thuckalay  Palai

6. To have one day programme for Bishops with recollection and mission sharing during the following Synodal Session for which the resource persons could be invited from outside.

7. To request Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal to prepare a directive on the modality of correction in the baptismal register and present it to Major Archbishop with the approval of Archbishops Mathew Moolakkatt and Andrews Thazhath.

8. To form an apex body for formulating an integral common vision of formation with Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Curia Bishop as its Convener and the Commissions of the three seminaries, Clergy Commission and the Commission for Institutes Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life as Members, to formulate its recommendations taking into consideration the directives of the *Charter for Priestly Formation in the Syro-Malabar Church* and with due consultation with people responsible for other formation houses and seminaries.

9. To request the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants and the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life to dialogue
with the representatives of SMRC and in the light of the findings to present a modified draft of the "Guidelines for the Religious working in other sui iuris Churches," in the following Synod. Bishop Jose Porunndedom shall be its Convener.

10. To approve the Text of the Second Anaphora (of Mar Theodore) with the suggested modifications.

11. To request the Commission for Liturgy to organize a trial celebration (dry mass) of the Second Anaphora, inviting representatives from the Eparchies and the Religious and present the report in the following Session of the Synod.

12. To request the Eparchial Bishops to organize a trial celebration (dry mass) of the Second Anaphora in their respective eparchies after the trial celebration in the Curia, with proper introduction and catechesis and present their reports in the following Session of the Synod.

13. To agree to the proposal of the Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism to organize an ecumenical convention with the participation also of our Bishops in the Year 2012.

14. To take four themes (1. Increasing violence, 2. Sex revolution, 3. Wrong influence of the Media, and 4. Rampant corruption), also with reference to Family, as matter for a serious study, reflection, prayer and action and to request the Public Affairs Committee in collaboration with the Commission for Doctrine to prepare a draft study document in English and Malayalam, to be circulated by e-mail among the Bishops inviting their suggestions and to present the final draft in the following Synod, incorporating relevant suggestions.

15. To buy the proposed property for the procura of our Church in Rome.

16. To authorize Fr. Stephen Chirappanath, the Procurator of the Major Archbishop at the Apostolic See, for further negotiations for buying the proposed property for the procura.
17. To entrust the Commission for Finance with the raising of the Funds and the management of the purchase of the Procura, with the cooperation of Bishop Anthony Chirayath.

18. To approve the following proposals for fund raising for the purchase of the Procura: 1. The eparchies shall contribute at the rate of One and Half Rupees per persons, with a minimum contribution of at least Rs. 50,000.00. The eparchies of Badravathi, Mandya and Ramanathapuram shall contribute whatever they can. The Commission expects to collect Rs. Fifty Lakhs. 2. From the contribution of the Religious, Fifty Lakhs, 3. Contributions from the International Religious Congregations in Rome, for which the Major Archbishop approaches them, 4. Contributions from the German Bishops, 5. Priests working abroad donating their one month’s allowance and those receiving Government remuneration, their one month’s salary, 6. Contributions from various Funding Agencies, 7. Contributions from the Syro-Malabar migrant communities, and 8. Contributions from generous benefactors from India.

19. To approve the text of the Guidelines for the Functioning of the Curia with the modifications suggested.

20. To send memoranda to the Prime Minister, and to the Chief Minister of Kerala regarding the danger posed by Mullappperiyar Dam.

21. To constitute a Committee to study the canonical and historical facts on the dates of the erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur, Changanacherry and Ernakulam-Angamaly with Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST, Convener, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy Members. The Committee shall present its findings in the following Synodal Session.

22. To authorize the Committee for the Lineamenta to prepare the response of the Syro-Malabar Church to the Lineamenta incorporating the modifications suggested by the Bishops.
23. To constitute a Committee with Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Chairman of LRC (Convener), Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman of the Commission for Ecumenism, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Chairman of the Commission for Doctrine, and Bishop Jacob Manathodath, Co-ordinator of the Seminary Commissions (Members) to study how far the documents of the Second Vatican Council and Post Vatican Council documents have been implemented in the Syro-Malabar Church.

24. To hold two Sessions of the Synod, one from 9 (10.00 a.m.) to 13 (6.00 p.m.), January 2012 and the other from 20 August (10.00 a.m.) to 1 September 2012 (both Saturdays, the sittings up to 12.30 p.m.)

Mount St.Thomas  
27 August 2011  

+ Bosco Puthur,  
Secretary,  
Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur,  
Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Praise be to Jesus Christ!

My dear brother Archbishops and Bishops,

As the XIX Synod Session 3 comes to its conclusion, let us turn our hearts to Almighty God for the particular graces He has showered upon us all through the Synodal Session. The Spirit of the Lord has strengthened us in our communion and collegial action. In areas where we have divergence of ideas and practices we hope to hold further discussions in future and arrive at positive lines of action.

We have begun the Mission Year with great enthusiasm and support from all sections of the People of God. This successful start is thanks to the meaningful and meticulous planning of the Mission Year programmes by the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants and the wholehearted support of all the Bishops and Major Superiors of the Institutes of Consecrated Life. We have to proceed with the schedule of programmes of the Mission Year and create great missionary awareness for our work of evangelization in the years to come. Let us hope that the Mission Fund and the Charity Fund recently instituted also will attain their declared results in course of time.

We have seriously considered the challenges in priestly formation and formed a special committee to tackle the issues and to propose methods of renewal in the programme of formation of our seminaries. The decision to constitute a new Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life is aimed at creating effective participation of the consecrated persons both men and women in ecclesial life and mission. Evangelization *ad gentes* and the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful both in India and abroad still remain matters of great concern for us and we have to find solutions to problems in this field by establishing suitable ecclesiastical structures. For this purpose we have
to continue the interaction with the dicasteries in Rome and other authorities of the Church in various places of the diaspora communities. The constant and painstaking efforts of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants deserve our gratitude and continued support. Let us also hope that the Mission of the Apostolic Visitor will have its positive effects.

I do place on record my great appreciation and thanks to those Bishops who are following faithfully the Synodal decision regarding the mode of celebration of the Holy Qurbana. It is gratifying to know that other Bishops are taking positive steps for uniform celebration of the Liturgy with the aim of realizing perfect unity in the Church. I earnestly hope that our united efforts will bring the Church in perfect communion and unity and let us all pray ardently for the realization of this goal. Let us look forward to the day when, together with Isaiah, we will be able to “Sing praises to the Lord for his glorious achievements” (Is. 12, 5) through us.

The decision to acquire a property for the Procura in Rome is an adventurous step and we have to tap all the possible financial resources to materialize our plan.

The functioning of our Commissions has gained over the years greater efficiency and the mode of related Commissions functioning in collaboration is a praiseworthy development. The Laity Commission has done much work and we have devised certain ways by which it can function with much more cohesion and integration. The social issues of great concerns like increasing violence, sex revolution, wrong influence of the media, and rampant corruption have been well brought to the attention of the Synod by the Committee for Public Affairs and we have planned for further action to face these challenges. The Deepika needs wider support from the Church and I appeal to all the Bishops to cooperate wholeheartedly to surmount its present financial difficulties.

The Archbishops and Bishops emeriti, in spite of the liabilities of their advanced age are taking active interest in the functioning of the Synod and I thank them all most sincerely.
At the end of these Ten days of intense activity I would like to express my gratitude in a special way to all those who helped us in the conduct of the Synod, Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Curia Bishop who has assumed also the office of the Secretary of the Synod, the Moderators Bishop Joseph Kunnath, CMI, Bishop Joseph Arumachadath, MCBS, and Bishop Paul Alappatt who have wisely guided the proceedings of this Session of our Synod, Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, Fr. James Kallumkal, the Vice-Chancellor, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer, the resident and non-resident Secretaries of the Commissions, other Fathers, Holy Family Sisters and other members of the Staff and their helpers who serve at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

The next Synod is scheduled for 9 (10.00 a.m.) to 13 (6.00 p.m.), January 2012. May Our Lord Jesus Christ, through the prayers of His Mother Mary, St. Thomas our Apostle, St. Alphonsa, the first saint of our Church, and the Blessed of our Church shower His blessings on us so that the work of this session of the Synod bear abundant fruits. With these words I formally declare the Third Session of the XIX Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

Kakkanad
27 August 2011

+ George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
প্রতিযোগিতা
নারকেলিকোটি - মাথাচার

Prot. No.636/2011

নারকেলিকোটিকে অভ্যন্তরে ক্ষেত্রের অবস্থার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে না করতে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে পারে না।

নারকেলিকোটি অন্তর্ভুক্ত করতে হবে না।

নারকেলিকোটির জন্য সাতিনাটা মূল্যায়নকারীর যুগান্তকারী সংক্ষেপ করতে হবে।

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കുലാൽക്കര പിലാണം മലയോ കേരളം വാഴ്ചയിലെ നിന്നും മുന്നില്‍പ്പെട്ട പ്രവര്‍ത്തനങ്ങള്‍ 1962-ന് മുതലായിരുന്നതിനേയും തെങ്ങ് അവതരിച്ചത് 23-ആം ദിവസത്തോടെയൊക്കെ കിഴക്കുംകാര്യങ്ങളില്‍. അതിന്റെ വിശ്വാസത്തെ പിന്തുടരുന്നത് ചരിത്ര വേനലില്‍ വരിക്കുന്നു കൊള്ളുന്ന എല്ലാ കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികളില്‍. ഇതിനാലും അനുബന്ധത്തോടെ എല്ലാവരും മാനുവാൻ വേണം. മാനുവാന്‍ കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിയുടെയും ക്യാമ്പസ് പ്രവാര്‍ത്തകര്‍ക്ക് പ്രതി. എന്നാണ് കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിയുടെ പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം അവതരിക്കുന്നത് (പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം). കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രഭാവത്തില്‍ ആത്മാംതെയെത്തുന്ന കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രഭാവത്തില്‍ പെട്ടവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു കിഴക്കും കാര്യങ്ങള്‍. കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രഭാവത്തില്‍ പെട്ടവര്‍ക്ക് അവതരിച്ച കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാർക്ക് പ്രകടനത്തോടെ കൂടുതല്‍ അണി നാല്‍ കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രഭാവത്തില്‍ പെട്ടവര്‍ക്ക് അവതരിച്ച കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാര്‍ക്ക് പ്രദാനം ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. ഇതിനാല്‍കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ പ്രഭാവര്‍ക്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന പേര്‍ക്ക് പ്രമാണം നല്‍കുന്നവര്‍. 2011 മുതൽ 2012 വരെ പുതിയക്കണക്ക് അല്ല് എല്ലാവരും കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു (പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം - Prot. No: 40/2011).

(പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം) ഒരു പ്രവര്‍ത്തകർ പ്രവര്‍ത്തിച്ച പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രവര്‍ത്തനങ്ങള്‍ (പ്രവര്‍ത്തനങ്ങള്‍) എല്ലാവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍. കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ പ്രകടനത്തോടെ പെട്ടവര്‍ക്ക് അവതരിച്ച കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാർക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു. കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാര്‍ക്ക് പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം ചെയ്ത് പ്രകടനങ്ങള്‍ എല്ലാവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു. കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാര്‍ക്ക് പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം ചെയ്ത് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നവര്‍ എല്ലാവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു.

(പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം) ഒരു പ്രവര്‍ത്തകർ പ്രവര്‍ത്തിച്ച പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍ക്കുള്ള പ്രവര്‍ത്തനങ്ങള്‍ (പ്രവര്‍ത്തനങ്ങള്‍) എല്ലാവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു കോമ്യൂണിറ്റികള്‍. കോമ്യൂണിറ്റിമാര്‍ക്ക് പ്രവര്‍ത്തനം ചെയ്ത് ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നവര്‍ എല്ലാവര്‍ക്ക് പ്രാപ്തമായിരുന്നു. 1831-ന് പ്രവര്‍ത്തകർ പ്രവര്‍ത്തിച്ച പ്രവര്‍ത്തം
121

കൊട്ടാരയുടെ ദ്വീപ്പിൽ ഉയർന്നു വന്ന കോട്ടയുടെ ഇന്നുനാളിൽ. 1887 ഏക്ക് 20-ആം നാലു പ്രായത്തിൽ കൊട്ടാരം കൊട്ടയുടെ ഇന്നുനാളിൽ പെടുത്തിയ കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു. 125-ആം വള്ളിയുടെ കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരം കൊട്ടയുടെ കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു. 1923-ൽ കൊട്ടാരം ദ്വീപിൽനിന്ന് വെച്ചയാൾ കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു. 1935-ൽ കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു. 1950-ൽ കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു. 1970-ൽ കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായിരുന്നു.

കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരം കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി കൊട്ടാരത്തിന്റെ പൊതുപാതയിലും ഏതാണ്ട് കൊട്ടാരമായി 

നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു 

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നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു 

നിരീക്കി
ലെസ്റ്റ നേതാവിന്റെ അറിയിപ്പ്. വരുകയാത്രികാർ നമ്മുടെ സ്ഥാപനത്തെ മാത്രമേ നൽകുന്നതാണ്. മുൻ കാലത്ത് ഒരു തരം സ്ഥാപനമായി മാത്രമേ നിരീക്ഷിക്കുന്നതാണ് മാത്രമേ കടക്കുക തന്നെ നിരീക്ഷിക്കുക എന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. 


പരിശീലനം യൂഷണം ജ്ഞാനാവകാശം മാത്രമേ ഫോക്കസ് ചെയ്യാൻ എളുപ്പവഴിയുള്ളതാണ്. ആലോചനക്കാരന്റെ വിഷയം ജ്ഞാനാവകാശത്തിന്റെ ആലോചനക്കാരനന്റെ ആശയം. മാത്രമേ കൃയാശക്തി അനുബന്ധിച്ചാണ് കുട്ടികൾക്ക് സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുക. സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നതിനു കുട്ടികൾക്ക് സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുക. സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നതിന് കുട്ടികൾ സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുക. സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നതിന് കുട്ടികൾ സ്വാധീനം ലഭ്യമാകുക. 

ലെസ്റ്റരായി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം തന്നെയാണ് ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം. അവിടെയാണ് എല്ലാവരും ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ശ്രമിക്കുന്നു.
123

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ആറ്റായ ഉപദേഷ്ടകത്തിന്റെ പ്രഖ്യാപനത്തിന്‌ അനുഭവപ്പെടുന്ന തന്ത്രാശീല സംഭവം
അവയുടെയും നാട്ടിന്റെയും നിർമ്മാണപ്രവൃത്തിയുടെ തലമുറയിൽ
ആശംസയുടെ പ്രകടനം 
കൃശ്യന്റെ അനുഭവ പ്രതിഭാവം 

don't know
കാണം 30 മുതൽ പരിശീലനക്കാരയായി കൂട്ടായ കൂടിയെടുത്ത് വിദ്യാലയത്തിലെ കുടിഷ്ട നടത്തുന്നു. (പ്ലാന്റർമൈക്കാര) സ്ഥിരതയ്ക്കായി വിദ്യാലയത്തിലെ എല്ലാം പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് കണ്ണാടി ക്യാൻവാസ് ടെലീജൻഡ് എന്നിവ പരിശീലനത്തിനായി ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. എല്ലാവരും ശാരീരിക പ്രായീക പരിശീലനക്കാരയായി പരിശീലനത്തിൽനിന്നറിയപ്പെടുന്നു എങ്കിലും പരിശീലനത്തിനു അനുയോജ്യമായ ഉപേക്ഷയേടുന്നു. (പ്ലാന്റർമൈക്കാര) സ്ഥിരതയ്ക്കായി വിദ്യാലയത്തിലെ എല്ലാം പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് കണ്ണാടി ക്യാൻവാസ് ടെലീജൻഡ് എന്നിവ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. അതിനായും കാണം 30 മുതൽ പരിശീലനക്കാരയായി വിദ്യാലയത്തിലെ എല്ലാം പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് കണ്ണാടി ക്യാൻവാസ് ടെലീജൻഡ് എന്നിവ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്നു. 

കാണം 2011-ൽ കൊടുത്ത പരിശീലനക്കാരന്റെ സ്ഥാനം 10-മത്തെ പെട്ടെന്ന്,

+ മേഖലാ അക്കൈകളുടെ

ബിരുത്തും ശേഖരാവ് കൊടയും അനുബന്ധിച്ചു.
Pastoral Letter
Mission Year - *Sabhadinam*

Prot. No. 636/2011

GEORGE 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, blessings and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

On 3 July, we commemorate the *Dukrana* of St. Thomas, our Father in faith. *Dukrana* is the commemoration of the martyrdom of St. Thomas who, through his words “My Lord, My God” proclaimed his faith in Jesus and in the salvation he brought to us. Through his martyrdom, St. Thomas laid the foundation for the Church in India. Therefore we celebrate *Dukrana* as the *Sabhadinam* of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Church by her very nature is missionary, sent to impart the message of life. As an individual Church, the Syro-Malabar Church also has the same nature and mission.

Whenever Pope Benedict XVI meets the Bishops of our Church, his first words are often regarding the missionary zeal of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Syro-Malabar Church is very much ahead of many Oriental Churches in the missionary zeal. The Eparchy of Thuckalay which was established for those who came to faith by the missionary work launched by the Archdiocese of Changanacherry is a fine example of the missionary enterprise of the Syro-Malabar Church. In modern times, it was with the decree of Pope John XXIII of happy memory in 1962 that the missionary activities of the Syro-Malabar Church got extended to North India. Chanda was the first mission territory that the Holy See entrusted the Syro-Malabar
Church. It was the CMI congregation, the first local religious congregation of our Church that took up this mission. In 2012 fifty years will be completed since the beginning of the undivided Chanda mission. During the Synodal discussion as to the mode of celebrating this golden jubilee, the Bishops felt that it should be viewed not merely as the celebration of the golden jubilee of an individual mission eparchy, but as an occasion to make a profound reflection of the missionary vocation of the Syro-Malabar Church and to embrace that vocation with rejuvenated enthusiasm. Accordingly, as is known to you by now, it has been decided to celebrate the golden jubilee of Chanda mission as the ‘Mission Year’ of the whole Syro-Malabar Church (decree-Prot. No: 40/2011) from 15th August 2011 to 15th August 2012.

In the context of the Mission Year, I would like to share with you some significant thoughts on the vocation and mission of the Syro-Malabar Church. It is a great providence of God that we could receive the light of faith through the ministry of St. Thomas the Apostle during the same period when the Church had its beginning in Rome and Antioch. It is the firm resolve of St. Thomas “to go and die with him” that led him to India. It is the same missionary zeal of our Father in faith that should guide us in the present age.

The growth of our Church faced several adversities due to foreign domination. The divisions among the St. Thomas Christians and the confinement of her territory to Kerala have affected her growth and missionary activity adversely. It was mainly due to these reasons that our Church could not contribute much in the mission field till the 18th century. The founding of the CMI congregation in 1831 was a milestone in the missionary endeavors of the Syro-Malabar Church. It is quite significant that the 125th anniversary of the beginning of the ecclesial autonomy that the Syro-Malabar Church got on 2nd May 1887 and the centenary of the establishment of the eparchy of Kottayam coincide with the celebration of the mission year. With the establishment of the Syro-Malabar Hierarchy in 1923, the growth and progress of our Church became rapid. How significant is the spread of the Syro-Malabar Church into Malabar, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka can be assessed from the presence of Nine Syro-Malabar Eparchies
in these regions, such as the Archeparchy of Tellicherry, Eparichies of Mananthavady, Thamarassery, Palghat, Thuckalay, Belthangady, Bhadravathy, Mandya, and Ramanathapuram.

After the establishment of the Chanda Mission, mission eparchies such as Sagar (1968), Ujjain (1968), Satna 1968), Jagdalpur (1977), Bijnor (1977), Rajkot (1977), Gorakhpur (1984) and Adilabad (1999) flourished in missionary activity under the leadership of religious congregations such as CMI, Vincentian, and CST, and the apostolic society of MST. The establishment of the eparchies of Kalyan (1988) and Chicago (2001) for the migrants of the Syro-Malabar Church also points to the consistent growth of the Syro-Malabar Church.

The contributions of the religious congregations that arose in the Syro-Malabar Church and of missionary societies such as the St. Thomas Missionary Society strengthened the missionary activities of our Church. The history of our Church today reveals how sincerely the Syro-Malabar Church accepted the saying of the Pope Leo XIII, "Oh, India your redemption lies in your own children." How great is the ministry of the lay movements such as the Cherupushpa Mission League in motivating mission work in India and abroad! Today the Syro-Malabar Church has become the fountain of missionary vocations for the Church in India and the Universal Church.

It is not only through the Syro-Malabar Church that the sons and daughters of our Church render mission work. Many of her children toil tirelessly in the Latin and Malankara Churches in India for evangelization. Besides, the members of our Church are fully active in the mission fields of Asia, Europe, South and North Americas, Africa, and Australia. The celebration of the Mission Year is an occasion prepared by God Himself so that we may thank Him for these gifts.

Mission work is not set apart for some priests and religious alone. Every Christian who is united to the Church through the sacrament of baptism is a missionary just like the disciples of Jesus (Jn 3:16, Mk 3:14-16, Mk 16:15, Mt 28:19, Lk 26: 46-49, Jn 20:21, Acts 1:8). That is why it is said that the Church is missionary by its very nature (LG 17, AG 2, 9, 23). The Church is called to be sent out. A disciple
of Christ who does not carry out his missionary duty is like a fig tree that does not bear fruits. Let us bear in mind that it is only those who build up the Church who are real Christians.

It is primarily by making one's life a witness to the Gospel that Christians should become missionary. Our life should be like a lamp placed on a lamp-stand. Authentic proclamation of the Gospel means witnessing to Christ in the given situations of life according to one's own state of life. Every family has to become a field of powerful missionary advance. Each family is a domestic church. Parents have the obligation to nurture their children with values of faith, ecclesial traditions, and love for the Church. When they fulfill this obligation, there will be an orientation towards mission work and an environment conducive for missionary vocations in the families.

The present era is an era when the mission work encounters various challenges. The most crucial challenge is the decreasing number of missionary vocations. The degeneration of faith in families, lack of prayer-life, paucity of children, negative criticisms regarding priests and religious, and the tendency to step back fearing obstacles faced by the missionaries, etc., are the factors that cause this situation. The future of mission work depends on how effectively we can deal with all these concerns.

We should be able to receive and encourage with great respect and pride the missionaries who labour in the mission fields as the representatives of the Church. When missionaries come for their holidays, we should try to create occasions to welcome and honour them in our parishes, institutions and families and to share their mission experiences with us. The encouragement that we give them will inspire the new generation to follow the path of the missionaries. The Syro-Malabar Eparchies in Kerala, as the Mother Church, have to help the missions with personnel and finances. Individuals, families, parishes, and institutions in our Church should come forward to adopt mission areas outside Kerala and to encourage them with prayer, sacrifices and financial contributions. It is good to conduct mission visits from parishes and institutions to regions where our missionaries work.
Having a direct experience of the mission work and knowing their needs and necessities would certainly be an incentive to encourage the missionaries. So also inviting people from the mission areas to our own houses and parishes will provide them with an opportunity to have some direct contact with the faith-experience of the Mother Church and to deepen their own faith.

Let me also brief you with some of the programmes of the Mission Year. The inauguration of the ‘Mission Year’ is to be conducted in the respective eparchies on 15th August 2011, with a solemn celebration of the Holy *Qurbana* in the cathedrals presided over by the bishops. On that occasion a ‘Mission Year lamp’ is to be lighted in every cathedral. The eparchial authorities could give the necessary directives for a meaningful inauguration of the ‘Mission Year’ in parishes and institutions.

On 21st August 2011 all the bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church will concelebrate the Holy *Qurbana* at St. Thomas pilgrims’ centre at Azheekodu in Kodungalloor – a place blessed with the arrival of St. Thomas the apostle, our Father in faith. The eparchy of Irinjalakuda will make all the arrangements for this event. It is good and appropriate that some representatives are sent from all the eparchies to participate in that event.

The Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants has been entrusted with the responsibility of envisaging and implementing programs in connection with the ‘Mission Year’. A central committee, consisting of the three bishops of the Commission, two bishops elected by the Synod, and the representatives of all the eparchies and religious communities, takes charge to make plans and to execute them in the ‘Mission Year’. Only when all of us accept and implement the programmes and proposals of this committee, we can make the ‘Mission Year’ a success. Efforts should be made to organize at the parish and eparchial levels get-togethers of missionaries, sharing of their experiences, study classes on mission work, mission retreats, seminars, mission quiz, discussions, essay competitions, fund-raising programmes for supporting mission
works, etc., as part of the Mission Year celebrations. All these programmes should ultimately aim at the spiritual renewal of the Church, re-awakening her missionary character.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Jesus is the greatest missionary. He was a missionary sent to make us know the love of the Father and to invite us to that love (Jn 3:16). Jesus called his apostles to co-operate in his mission and to continue it (Mk 3: 14-16). The most fundamental responsibility that Jesus entrusted his apostles was to proclaim the Good News (Mk 16:15) and to constitute the Church with those who would believe in the gospel (Mt 28:19, Lk 26: 46-49, Jn 20:21, Acts 1:8). Mission work is our effort to continue this responsibility in our own times and circumstances. It has to spring from our loyalty and gratitude to our faith. Let us thank God in this 'Mission Year' by recalling all the missionary activities that the Syro-Malabar Church has been doing in various mission fields. May this 'Mission Year' be a cause for the commencement of a new Pentecost in our Church! Let us rededicate ourselves to encourage and support all missionary activities through our prayer, life witness and funds. At the same time, I earnestly solicit the generous cooperation of every member of the Syro-Malabar Church in our attempt on the occasion of Sabhadinam to raise the funds needed for the various ministries of the Church. I extend to all of you the greetings of Dukrana. Let all of us be filled with the missionary spirit of St. Thomas through the celebration of the Mission Year. Invoking the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Thomas, the Apostle and St. Alphonsa, I bless all of you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Given on 10 June 2011, from the office of the Major Archbishop at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad.

+George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
Prot. No. 370/2011

നിരക്കുന്ന സമയത്തിലെ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം പ്രവൃത്തി, സാമൂഹിക അനുയോജ്യമായ നിയമപാലനത്തിനു അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളുടെ നിയന്ത്രണത്തിനു മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ.

ഇക്കൂട്ടായി നടപടികൾ നിർക്കുന്ന സമയത്തിലെ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം പ്രവൃത്തി, സാമൂഹിക അനുയോജ്യമായ നിയമപാലനത്തിനു അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള നിയമങ്ങളുടെ വിവരണം നിയന്ത്രണത്തിനു മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ.

നിരക്കുന്ന സമയത്തിലെ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിൽ അന്താരാഷ്ട്രം പ്രവൃത്തി, സാമൂഹിക അനുയോജ്യമായ നിയമപാലനത്തിനു അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള നിയമങ്ങളുടെ വിവരണം നിയന്ത്രണത്തിനു മേൽപ്പറഞ്ഞ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ.
കൊല്ലിയിലെ ഏകദേശം രണ്ട് വരണ്ട പാർക്കേജ് മേൽക്കു കൊൺറം ഏലാമുത്താൻ തുടരുന്നു. പക്ഷേ, കൊടും പാർക്കേജ് ദോഷിക്കൊഴികുന്നത്തെ തുടർച്ചയായി പ്രയാണമില്ലാത്തതിനാൽ പ്രധാനമായ കാരണം കൊടും പാർക്കേജ് പരിപാലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രസ്താവിത്തിനാൽ തലച്ചോരി അനിവാര്യമാണ്‌. 

യഥാസമ്മേളനത്തില്‍ കുതുളത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും കുതിളിക്കുറിച്ചും അവതരിപ്പിച്ച് ഓരോ വൃത്തി പെട്ട് വിശ്വസിച്ച് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. എന്നാണ്‌ യഥാസമ്മേളനത്തില്‍ യഥാസമ്മേളനത്തില്‍ കുതുളത്തെക്കുറിച്ചും കുതിളിക്കുറിച്ചും അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. യഥാസമ്മേളനം വിശ്വസിച്ച് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. യഥാസമ്മേളനം വിശ്വസിച്ച് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു. 3, 3 നോക്കിയെത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട് എങ്ങനെ അശാന്തി സാധിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ്‌ യഥാസമ്മേളനത്തില്‍ കൊടും പാർക്കേജ് പരിപാലനത്തിന്റെ പ്രസ്താവിത്തിനാൽ തലച്ചോരി.
ജോലി നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെടാനുള്ള പദ്ധതിയുടെ പ്രോജക്റ്റ് സേവനം ആവശ്യമെന്ന് പ്രതിപാദിയ്ക്കുന്നു. പ്രവർത്തക നിയോഗിപ്പിക്കാൻ അനുവാദം ലഭിക്കണം. സേവനം നിയോഗിപ്പിക്കാൻ പ്രതിപാദിയ്ക്കുന്നു. പിന്റെ പിന്റെ സേവനം നിയോഗിക്കപ്പെടാനുള്ള പദ്ധതിയുടെ പ്രോജക്റ്റ് സേവനം ആവശ്യപ്പെടാതായി കരുതുന്നു.

െല്ലാം പൂർണ്ണമായി അനുമതിയ്ക്കുന്നു. 02 ജുല്ലൈ 2011-ന് പ്രവർത്തക നിയോഗിപ്പിക്കുന്നു.
നിവേഡനവൃത്തം

നന്നായി വൈദ്യുതികയോഗത്തിനു പുതനാട്ടിയായി എല്ലാവരും വിധിക്കുന്നു.

Prot. No.422/2011

നിന്നുറെയെ പിരയ് പരാമർശത്തില്ലാതെ,

ഒരു കാര്യത്തിൽ താമസ്കരമുള്ള വിവിധതത്വങ്ങളിലെ സമൂഹത്തിനു കൊണ്ട് കണ്ടുപിടിപ്പിച്ച് സമാധാനം പ്രാപ്തി നിർക്കുന്ന വികാരങ്ങൾ പലത്തെയും സമാധാനത്തിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്ന പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടത്താനും എന്ന് വിവരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നത് പ്രതിജ്ഞയാതെ നമുക്കു നിവേഡനവൃത്തം നിലനിൽക്കുന്നതിനു കുറയ്ക്കുന്നതാണ്.

നിവേഡനവൃത്തം ന്യൂനീയുൾപ്പെടെ ഇതേസമയം പൂർണ്ണവും എല്ലാവരും പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ച കണ്ടുപിടിപ്പുകളുടെ പ്രായപ്രായമായ പ്രവൃത്തികളും സമാധാനത്തില്ലാതെ നിൽക്കുന്നു.

നിവേഡനവൃത്തം ന്യൂനീയുൾപ്പെടെ ഇതേസമയം പൂർണ്ണവും എല്ലാവരും പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ച കണ്ടുപിടിപ്പുകളുടെ പ്രായപ്രായമായ പ്രവൃത്തികളും സമാധാനത്തില്ലാതെ നിൽക്കുന്നു.

നിവേഡനവൃത്തം ന്യൂനീയുൾപ്പെടെ ഇതേസമയം പൂർണ്ണവും എല്ലാവരും പ്രവൃത്തികൾ നടന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ച കണ്ടുപിടിപ്പുകളുടെ പ്രായപ്രായമായ പ്രവൃത്തികളും സമാധാനത്തില്ലാതെ നിൽക്കുന്നു.
136

(ബിഷപ്പ്-സബ്രിന്റെക്സ്-അന്റാരയാണ്ട്) കുഞ്ഞൻ
പോൾ അബോസ്റ്റ്യൂസ് സാക്ഷിയായി, നടുവിൽ കടിച്ചശേഷം
അവർക്ക് മരണാണെന്നു പറ്റിപ്പറ്റി വിവാഹം നടത്താൻ രാത്രിയാവുകയും
അവിശ്വാസങ്ങൾ പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു സാക്ഷിയായ്
താഴെയുള്ള അവരുടെ തച്ചക്കുള്ളും തീരെക്കുള്ളും ചില പരിശ്രമം
പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന മാരംഭാന്തരം വിദേശസഹകരണ കുഴിക്കാൻ
അവർക്ക് അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള സഹൃദയമെന്നു അവർ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന
തോറെ തന്ത്രേന്നതും ഏറെ പുഴുക്കുന്ന
പുരുഷസ്ഥമായാണ് പോൾ അബോസ്റ്റ്യൂസിനെ 2000-2001
അന്താരയാന്ത്രിക കുഴിപ്പുകളുടെ തലത്തിൽ.

(പെട്ടെന്റ്) തെയ്യാഴക്കാന്താൻ നിർദ്ദേശം
അവന്റെ മകന്റെ താൻ കുഞ്ഞൻ പോൾ ആണ്
സാക്ഷിയായി വിവാഹം നടത്താൻ രാത്രിയാവുക
അവിശ്വാസങ്ങൾ പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു സാക്ഷിയായി
അവരുടെ തച്ചക്കുള്ളും തീരെക്കുള്ളും ചില
മാരംഭാന്തരം വിദേശസഹകരണ കുഴിക്കാൻ
അവർക്ക് അനുസരിച്ചുള്ള സഹൃദയമെന്നു
അവർ അംഗീകരിക്കുന്ന
തോറെ തന്ത്രേന്നതും ഏറെ

Pold (Fictional)
137

കൊടുങ്ങുന്ന വിവരങ്ങൾ തമ്മിലൂടെ പ്രകടനം നടത്തുന്ന സാധ്യതയുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ എന്ത് പ്രകടമാകുന്നുവെന്ന് കണ്ടെത്താൻ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നു. മൂന്നില്ലാത്ത വിവരങ്ങൾ പ്രകടനം നടത്താൻ കഴിയുന്നതാണ്. 23-ആം വിവരം നേടിയതിന് എന്ത് 29 മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. എന്നിരുന്നാൽ ഒരു പദ്ധതി പഠിക്കുന്നു എന്ന് അംഗീകരിക്കുന്നു എന്നാണ് പ്രകടനം നടത്തുന്നത്. 1-ാമത് വിവരം പ്രകടനം നടത്തുന്നത്. 22-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 28-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 31-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 35-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 38-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 40-ാമത് മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 44-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 47-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 51-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 55-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 58-ാമത് മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 61-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 65-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 68-ാമത് മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 71-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 75-ാമത് മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 78-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം. 81-ആം മാസം പ്രകടനം നടത്താം.

18 ഗോബിനിൽ 2011

+ എത്തുന്നു പ്രസ്താവനത്തില്ല

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നായന്റെ നിഷേധിതത സമൂഹാധികാരികൾ നിരീക്ഷണം

നിഷേധിതാധാരം അനുവദനീച്ചം, നിഷേധിതാധാരം പൂര്‌ണ്ണമായി തീരെക്കുള്ള പ്രകടനത്തെ കാർഖാനം തയ്യാറാക്കിത്തേന്നു. പ്രകടനത്തെ പ്രകടത്താനിക്കായി നിഷേധിതം പ്രാരംഭിച്ചു കിടക്കുകയുടെ ഇതിഹാസം. പ്രകടനത്തെ പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വിവരം കാരണം ഇതിഹാസമായ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. പ്രകടനത്തെ കാർഖാനം പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന വിവരം എത്രയും പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത് നിഷേധിതയുടെ കാരണം.
പരിപിറവെയ്ക്കാപെ. മർമ്മത്തിക്കമിതിയിലെ ഭൂമിശാസ്ത്രപരമായ പരി
പ്രമാണിക ഒഡം ജീവിതവിദ്യാഭ്യാസികൾ അന്റല്ലും, കമ്പോ
യൂസ് പിരമിഡിലെ പരിപിറവത്തിക്കരുതി കാരണ നോക്കാൻ എത്താൻ
അനുവാദമില്ലാത്ത നോക്കാന് പരിപിറവായിരിക്കണം (പൊതുജാതികുടി). നിങ്ങൾ പിരമിഡിൽ
പുലർത്തും പരിപിറവത്തിക്കയുടെ നാടായുടെ.
CIRCULAR - AFTER THE FUNERAL OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

Prot. No. 422/2011

My dear sisters and brothers in Jesus Christ,

We are not yet relieved of the grief caused by the demise of our beloved Head and Father of the Church, the Major Archbishop Mar Varkey Vithayathil. As you know, the departure of our beloved Major Archbishop happened when the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church were assembled in Rome for their ad limina visit. Just as our Major Archbishop surrendered himself totally to the will of God so we shall accept his passing away as God’s will regarding him. It was after taking part in the Holy Qurbana and receiving the Holy Eucharist and with the satisfaction of having fulfilled his mission that our Major Archbishop left for his Heavenly Father. As the head of the Syro-Malabar Church for more than 14 years, he led her through a path of reconciliation and communion, while maintaining absolute fidelity to the ecclesiastical authorities and their teachings, at the same time standing firm for the legitimate rights of the Syro-Malabar Church. Let us bow our heads in commemoration of the departed soul of our beloved Major Archbishop Varkey Vithayathil who passed away as a person loved by everyone and who made every effort to encompass everyone with due respect; let us pray for our venerable Father.

The last rites of His Beatitude were very conspicuous by the participation of a mammoth gathering of mourners. The presence of a great number of spiritual leaders of the Catholic Church, the other Christian Churches and religions, the leaders from the political and social arena, and Union and State Cabinet Ministers and the whole hearted cooperation of the Civil Administration, the Police Department and the Media are indeed noteworthy. As the administrator of the Syro-Malabar Church and that of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, I extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked hard for honoring our beloved Father with a worthy farewell in an at-
mosphere of prayer, maintaining perfect discipline and coordination. My thanks are due in a special manner to all the Bishops, priests, the religious and lay faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church, to all those who organized the funeral rites well, such as the Auxiliary Bishops of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the inmates of Mount St. Thomas, the members of the Archdiocesan Curia, members of the various committees, the authorities of Lissie Hospital, Ernakulam and the Little Flower Hospital, Angamaly. We could offer a befitting and loving homage to our beloved Major Archbishop by the concerted efforts of persons from all walks of life. I extend my sincere thanks to everyone. Many have joined in our sorrow through their assurance of prayers and messages of condolence. To them also my special thanks.

As part of the commemorative services for His Beatitude Mar Varkey Vithayathil, there will be a special liturgical celebration on Wednesday, 11 May 2011, at 10.30 a.m. in St. Mary’s Basilica, Ernakulam, with the participation of representatives from the different spheres of our Church. May I request that as far as possible, Holy Qurbana and special prayer services be offered for the departed Major Archbishop on that day in all our churches and institutions.

When the Major Archiepiscopal See falls vacant, the Canon Law and the Particular Law of our Church stipulate that the Administrator convoke the Synod and make all the necessary preparations for the election of the new Major Archbishop within two months’ time. Accordingly, the Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church for the election of the new Major Archbishop will be held from 23 to 29 May 2011. These days should be for us days of intense prayer. All of us shall be praying earnestly for the powerful intervention of the Holy Spirit so that the most apt person for leading our Church forward is elected Major Archbishop. A special prayer to be recited in all our churches and institutions from 1 May till the closing of the Synod is sent herewith. I request all the members of our Church to join in the process of electing a new Major Archbishop for our Church by reciting this prayer.
In the firm belief that Mar Varkey Vithayathil is a powerful intercessor in heaven for our Church and paying my respects before the holy memories of our beloved Major Archbishop and once again thanking everyone, let me conclude.

Mount St. Thomas 18 April 2011
+ Bosco Puthur Administrator of the Syro-Malabar Church

PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

Lord God, we thank you for your providence by which you have been pouring Your grace into our Church, founded by the preaching of the Gospel by St. Thomas. Bless benevolently the Syro-Malabar Church as She is preparing herself for the election of her Head and Father, the Major Archbishop. Bless compassionately our Synod Fathers to elect a Major Archbishop filled with sanctity, wisdom and erudition who can lead our Church in perfect love and deep faith. O Lord, who poured out your Holy Spirit on the Apostles and strengthened them on the day of Pentecost, we beseech you to shower the Grace of the Holy Spirit in abundance upon our Synod Fathers. O Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit for ever! Amen.

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Prot. No. 1367/2011
30-09-2011

നാശം- മാതാവാണ്

ആണനായുള്ള ദേവന്തിയുടെ കാലത്തിന് നേരെ ആദ്യകാലത്ത്
എന്തെന്നെന്ന് അറിയാൻ

ഒരു പിന്നില്‍ പിന്നില്‍ ആന്തരിക്കുന്ന തടാകം നിക്കുന്നു
ലോകപരിമേളനം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നു നാശം

ഒരു വാക്ക് എഴുതാന്‍ പരമാധ്യമമാണ് ആന്തരിക്കുന്നത്

ജനകാരികൾക്ക് കാരണം പ്രത്യേകം കാരണം പ്രത്യേകം

‘നേരിയുള്ള കലോട്ടവീണിക്കുന്ന മാതാവാഴ്ചയുടെ സൃഷ്ടിഹത്തേ’
(21.8) പ്രാരംഭമായിരുന്നു നിലനിന്നു മുമ്പ്, 29 വര്ഷങ്ങളിലെ കലോട്ടവീണിക്കുന്ന പ്രാരംഭത്തില്‍ ആന്തരിക്കുന്ന വാക്ക്
തീര്‍ച്ചയായി നിര്‍ണയിക്കുന്നു. സ്വന്താധ്യാപിതപ്പെടുന്നക്കെന്ന് പ്രവര്‍ത്തിക്കുന്ന
സമുദായത്തില്‍ പെരിണ്‍ഡില്‍ എന്നിവ ഒന്നിക്കൂട്ട് കലോട്ടവീണിക്കുന്ന

‘ഒരു വാക്ക് എഴുതാന്‍ പരമാധ്യമമാണ് ആന്തരിക്കുന്നത്

ജനകാരികളുടെ വാക്ക് ആധ്യാത്മികല്‍പനയുടെ സൃഷ്ടികരമാരുള്ള
ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങളില്‍ എല്ലാവരും സൃഷ്ടികരമാണ്, എല്ലാവരും സൃഷ്ടി

ക്ഷേത്രം എന്നാണ് പരിമേളനം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നു നാശം

ആരംഭിച്ച മാതാവാഴ്ച സൃഷ്ടികരമാണ് കലോട്ടവീണിക്കുന്ന

ഒരു വാക്ക് എഴുതാന്‍ പരമാധ്യമമാണ് ആന്തരിക്കുന്നത്

ജനകാരികളുടെ വാക്ക് ആധ്യാത്മികല്‍പനയുടെ സൃഷ്ടികരമാരുള്ള
ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങളില്‍ എല്ലാവരും സൃഷ്ടികരമാണ്, എല്ലാവരും സൃഷ്ടി
നി. ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് കാലവുംപാത്രമായ കാലവും പ്രവൃത്തിയും സാമൂഹ്യപരീക്ഷണത്തിലെ രീതികോളം ആണ് സാമൂഹ്യാതിസ്ഥാനം നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നത് എന്ന പ്രസ്താവനയാണ് ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്. ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം പ്രസ്താവനയുടെ (Preferential Love for the poor) സാഹിത്യാൽ മൂലമാണ് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്. ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്ന് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത് മറുതെക്കുള്ള നിർദ്ദേശത്തിന് പകരം ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്ന് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്. ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്ന് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത് ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്നതാണ് പ്രസ്താവനയുടെ മൂലമാണ് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്. ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്ന് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത് ലോകോഫാസിക്ക് പ്രസ്താവിച്ച നിർദ്ദേശം എന്നാണ് പ്രസ്താവനയുടെ മൂലമാണ് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്. (GS 1) എന്നാണ് പ്രസ്താവിച്ചത്.

നേരീ നിബിദ്ധമാക്കാൻ വിധേയമാക്കാം

+ ഒരുയരുകൾ ലഭ്യമാണ്

വിദ്രേഷം മുന്നുള്ള ബോധമാണ് നമ്മുടെ മൂലം.
Circular Letter
Syro-Malabar Mission Fund

Prot. No. 1367/2011 30-09-2011

GEORGE 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, Praise be to Jesus Christ!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

The Syro-Malabar Church that is ever obliged “to witness Christ unto the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8), is active in her ministry of building up of the Church. It is a flourishing Individual Church with 29 eparchies in India and abroad. The Syro-Malabar Church that is deeply rooted in the soil of Kerala, thanks to the evangelization of St. Thomas, has spread extensively in the whole of India and also to the continents of Australia, America, Africa, Asia and Europe. As you are aware, there are 10 mission eparchies outside the proper territory, such as Chanda, Ujjain, Satna, Bijnor, Rajkot, Ghorakhpur, Jagdalpur, Adilabad, Sagar and Kalyan.

It is the fundamental responsibility of the Mother Church to help the mission eparchies spiritually and financially. Keeping this goal in mind, the Syro-Malabar Synod has formed an association titled ‘The Association of Supporters of the Syro-Malabar Mission’ (A. S. S. M), for those who desire to support the mission eparchies spiritually and financially. Through this, the Synod hopes to bring all the families of the Syro Malabar Church into constant contact and communion with the Mother Church.
The primary goal of this association is to create missionary awareness in the hearts of the Syro-Malabar faithful. The association will publish a News Bulletin in 3 volumes annually. I request the sincere co-operation of all the priests, religious, families and institutions for the success of this mission endeavour. The association offers an opportunity for all families and Institutes of Consecrated Life to take part in the activities of the association spiritually and financially. Therefore, I earnestly request that every family may contribute a sum of Rs. 200, and each Religious Congregation and other Institutions Rs. 500 annually for the realization of the goals of this association.

In order to give efficient leadership to the diverse activities of the association, I hereby appoint, with the consent of the Synod, Mar Gregory Karotemprel CMI, the Bishop Emeritus of the Eparchy of Rajkot and former Chairman of the Commission for the Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, as the Director of the association. There will be a lay representative from each eparchy for the effective functioning of the association. The governing body consisting of the Director and lay representatives will take decisions for the association. The details regarding the fund received and the areas where it is distributed will be circulated in the news bulletin.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, helping the communities that are economically backward has been a holy tradition of the Church down the ages, from the time of first Christian communities. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans whole heartedly congratulated those communities in Macedonia and Achaia that shared their resources with the poor among the saints in Jerusalem (Rom 15, 26). How noble is the ecclesial vision of St. Paul: “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it”! (1Cor 12, 27). “If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness” (1Cor 12, 26). Let us therefore, develop an ecclesial spirituality that will wipe away the tears of those who weep, help the downtrodden and relieve the pain of those in distress. This association is to be viewed as the external realization of the incessant inner call of the Church for the preferential love for the poor. May we be enabled to respond with our lives to the exhortation
of St. Paul, "you should always remember the poor" (Gal 2,10). The world will then realize that "the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well (GS 1).

Lovingly in Christ Jesus,

+George Alencherry
The Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
19-ഒ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തു അധ്യാത്മവൈദ്യമായിരിക്കും എന്ന് മോനലൂർ

Protn. No. 1432/2011
14 October 2011

മുമ്പത്തെ കൊട്ട് ഒരു കുട്ടിയും കുട്ടിയും ഐക്യം സ്ഥാ�ിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടതും ഒരു കുട്ടിയും ഐക്യം സ്ഥാപിക്കാൻ വേണ്ടതും എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലാണ് അവിഭാജ്യതകൾ കെട്ടിയാടേണ്ടതും. അങ്ങിനെ സാഹിത്യമും, സാംസ്കാരിക വിദ്യാഭ്യാസമും സംസ്കാരമും തങ്ങളുടെ സാമൂഹ്യത്തിൽ ഇടയിലാണ് നടത്താൻ നിവാരണമാണ് പ്രൊട്ടിന്. തങ്ങളുടെ സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വെച്ച് സജീവമായ രീതിയിൽ വരും ഏറ്റവും സമൃദ്ധമായ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം തടയാനാണ് പ്രഷ്ണത്തോടെ നിൽക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിനായി വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരാനും അവതരിപ്പിക്കാനും സിദ്ധിയുടെ നിലമെന്നതാണ് മോനലൂർ സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരാൻ 

പ്രതിവാരാദയം, ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്തു കോശികയാണ് പ്രവർത്തനവും നടത്താനുള്ള വിശകലനത്തില്‍ ഒരു വേദിക്കായി വെച്ച് സാമൂഹ്യകലാര്‍ത്ഥമാരുടെ സാംസ്കാരിക പരിചെവ്രാതികള്‍ കെട്ടിയാടുന്നതാണ്. എല്ലാ വേദിക്കായി കോശികയുടെ പരിശോധനയില്‍ വേദിക്കായി സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരാനുമാണ് പ്രവര്‍ത്തിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. എല്ലാ വേദിക്കായി സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരിക എന്ന് പ്രവര്‍ത്തിക്കുന്നത് പാലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. 

എന്നിവയുടെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടും ആളുകളുടെ പ്രതിവാരാദയവും വേദിക്കായി പ്രവര്‍ത്തിക്കുന്നത് പാലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇതിനു പക്ഷേ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരാനുമാണ് പ്രവര്‍ത്തിക്കുന്നത്. എന്നാല്‍ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സാമൂഹ്യാതിലേക്ക് വരാനും പാലിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.
നിരൂപണം. മേഖലക്കാരികേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ എത്തുത്തു വിദേശസംബന്ധികളിൽ കാര്യാലയത്തിൽ കുറിച്ച് സന്ദർശനവും സേവനവും നടത്തിയെങ്കിലും.

യുദ്ധപരാറക്കേതാനായാണ് കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇത്തരം വിധാനങ്ങൾ കൈകാര്യം പോലും ഇതിന്റെ വിവിധാംശങ്ങൾക്ക് ധ്രുവകും പ്രകാരമുള്ള സൂചനകൾ സിദ്ധാന്തത്തിന്റെ പ്രമുഖ പഠനത്തിൽ പ്രളയപ്പെട്ട് വിവരിക്കുന്നു. വിദേശസംബന്ധികളുടെ മേഖലയ്ക്ക് സമ്മതിയും അതിന്റെ അപകടപ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ നടത്തിയ വിദേശസംബന്ധികളുടെ അനുഭൂതികളും സമരും അനുയോജ്യങ്ങളും അതീവമായി. വിദേശസംബന്ധികളുടെ മേഖലയ്ക്ക് സമ്മതിയും അതിന്റെ അപകടപ്രശ്നങ്ങളും നടത്തിയ വിദേശസംബന്ധികളുടെ അനുഭൂതികളും അതീവമായി.
ശ്രീമധൂര്‍ കല്യാണികൃഷ്ണനെ. എല്ലാവരും അവര്‍ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്ന വാഴ്ച മാത്രമേ (മനോഹരമായി എഴുതിയിരിക്കണം) മാനുഷ്യന്റെ കാലാനിപ്പിലെ സ്വത്ബടുത്തുള്ളതാണ്. അതിനു പുരാതനമായ സിഖവാദത്തില്‍ നിന്നും, ഇവിടെ മാത്രമേ പറയുന്നുണ്ട്, യഥാര്‍ത്ഥാവധിവാദികള്‍ ജ്ഞാനരീതികള്‍, ഉദ്ദേശീയ കൃതികളുടെ സംഖ്യ, സാമൂഹിക വികാസാവധികള്‍ എന്നിവ വിവരേച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. പ്രകതിഭാവം കൈയെടുക്കാനുള്ള നിലനില്‍വും, അവന്റെ പ്രാണവും, അവന്റെ മുപ്പുകള്‍, യഥാര്‍ത്ഥാവധിവാദികള്‍ എന്നിവയോട് അതിപുരാതന ജ്ഞാനരീതികള്‍ കൂടാതെ നിലനില്‍ കാണപ്പെടുന്നു. 

കുറിപ്പുകള്‍

1. നിലനില്‍ പ്രകതിഭാവം നിലനില്‍ പ്രവര്‍ത്തനരീതി
2. ജ്ഞാനരീതിയുടെ പ്രവര്‍ത്തനക്ക് പ്രതിപാദം
3. എല്ലാവരും പ്രതിപാദം

മനേശകൃഷ്ണനെ.

2012 ൽ ആണ് കുറിപ്പുകള്‍ സൂക്ഷ്‌മമാക്കുന്നത്.
ദേശം റാഷ്ട്രാന്തികാന്തം

റിപ്പിവർ കേന്ദ്രം പ്രാഥമികാന്തങ്ങളുടെ പുറപ്പെട്ട വിവരങ്ങളിൽ പ്രധാനമായും കാണാറുണ്ട്. രാഷ്ട്രാന്തികാന്തത്തിന്റെ പ്രത്യേകതകളിൽ പ്രധാനമായും അഭിപ്രായം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന പ്രാധാന്യം സംബന്ധിച്ചതാണ്. കേന്ദ്രമായി ഉപയോഗീയായ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന അതിനാൽ മറ്റു വിഭാഗങ്ങളുമായി പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. കീഴിൽ നിന്ന് പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്ന ക്രമം കെട്ടിയാടിവരെ കേന്ദ്രം അനുസരിച്ചും പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്റെ വിഭാഗങ്ങളും പ്രാധാന്യങ്ങളും അതിനാലും പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. കേന്ദ്രം പ്രാധാന്യമായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നതിനാൽ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. കേന്ദ്രം പ്രാധാന്യമായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നതിനാൽ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അതിനാൽ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്. കേന്ദ്രം പ്രാധാന്യമായി നിലകൊള്ളുന്നതിനാൽ പ്രാധാന്യം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുന്നതാണ്.
അജ്ഞാനത്തെ നിർമ്മിക്കുന്ന ഫാബ്രിക്കിൽ അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു. അജ്ഞാന പ്രതിപാടിയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയുമായി അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

ആറായ്കല്ലിക്ക്

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.

പ്രോക്കറാ (Procura) ഉള്ള അലങ്കാരം

ശ്രദ്ധയും പിന്നീട് പ്രതിപാടിയും അനാഥമാക്കാനെയും കാരുവെത്തിയ ഉത്തരവാസ്തവ പ്രതിപാദിക്കുന്നതിനെയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിനെയും തമ്മിൽ പിന്നീട് ശ്രദ്ധയും നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നു.
നാര്‍ പട്ടണത്തെ കേന്ദ്രത്തിനും കാഴ്ചങ്ങളിലും. തന്റെ മാതൃകോപഹരണത്തിനും നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തിനും പങ്കിടുന്ന അനുഗൃഹീകരണുകളില്‍. കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്റെ ഭാഗമായ ഭക്ഷ്യം പൊന്നായിരുന്നു എന്നാണ് വ്യക്തികളുടെ മടക്കത്തില്‍ കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്റെ കാഴ്ച്ചക്കൃത്ത് ശില്പികള്‍. കേന്ദ്രത്തിന്‍റെ വാതില്‍ നിറവേളിക്കാവുന്നതാണ് അതിന്റെ വാസ്തവം.

കുടിയേറ്റത്തിന്റെ വിശേഷവിശ്വാസ

താഴെ രേഖകൾ എന്നിവയിൽ അനാഥയുടെ (എന്നാല്‍ അരംഭനായ) ബേരിനടെ തെളിയിച്ച മുട്ടയിട്ട് കോപഹരണത്തിന് സ്വരൂപിതമായ പ്രാണം പ്രതികൂലമാക്കുന്ന വാതില്‍ നാര്‍ പട്ടണത്തില്‍ ആണ് നിലയേറുന്നത്.

വ്യവസായത്തിന്റെ പ്രവ്യാനതകം

താഴെ രേഖകളിലെ കുടിയേറ്റത്തിന്റെ വിശേഷവിശ്വാസ നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തിന് പ്രതികൂലമാക്കുന്ന വാതില്‍ പാടില്‍ കടക്കുന്നു. അത് നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തില്‍ കുടിയേറ്റത്തിന്റെ പ്രവ്യാനതകം അത് കേന്ദ്രത്തിന് അനാഥമാകുന്നതിന് തോതുകള്‍ കടക്കുന്നു.

നാര്‍ പട്ടണത്തില്‍

2012-ല്‍ നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തില്‍ നിര്‍മ്മാണക്കെട്ട് പാതില്‍ നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തില്‍ നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തിന് പുനരുപയോഗിക്കാന്‍ ശേഖരണം നില്‍ക്കുന്നതാണ് ഉരുള്‍ക്കുന്നത്. ഇതു നാര്‍ പട്ടണത്തിന് നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തിന് പുനരുപയോഗിക്കാന്‍ തുടരുന്നു. കുടിയേറ്റത്തിന്റെ വ്യവസായത്തിന് വിജയമാക്കാന്‍ വേണം ഇതേതു അവസാന്താകാലത്തിന് ആണ് നിര്‍മ്മാണത്തിന് പ്രതികൂലമായുണ്ടാക്കുന്നത്.
നിരക്കൊന്നായിരുന്നു മുൻമുക്ക് താലൂക്കായി താഴെയിരിക്കുന്നു

ആശാരൂപകോവിലായിരുന്നു ബാളങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യത്തിന്റെ വഴി വന്ന പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികളിൽ അത്യുപയോഗം ആണ്‌ നിര്‌മിതിയായിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഈ ശതാരൂപത്തിൽ കിട്ടുന്നത് വിവിധമായ മാറ്റങ്ങളിലും പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ ആണ്‌ നിർവാഹിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. അവിശ്വാസിക്കുന്നത് പൊതുവായായിരിക്കുന്നു കുറച്ചുകൊണ്ടും പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികളെ താഴെയിരിക്കുന്നത്. ഇതിൽ നിന്നും ലഭ്യമായ തന്നെ സമ്പര്ക്കരൂപാവിന്റെ പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ (പ്രായപ്രതിപാദിയായി അതിനെ മാറ്റിയാണ്‌

പ്രായപ്രതിപാദി

പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ മുമ്പുള്ള പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ പഠി

മാറ്റപ്പടിയായിരുന്നു പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ. അതേപ്രകാരം മുമ്പുള്ള പ്രായപ്രതിപാദി

മാറ്റപ്പടികളിന്റെ പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ കാണാൻ വേണ്ടത് എന്നു വിദര്ശനരേഖ കാരണം

പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികളിൽ മാറ്റപ്പടിയായിരുന്നു.

കൊച്ചി എന്താണ്‌ കൃതികാരാധനസ്ഥാപികാവളങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉത്തരം എന്ന് (ബാന്ധിപ്പി

തിരുനൂറ്റകാലാവശിഷ്ടം പൊലെകുള്ള (പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ) പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ കൊച്ചി

പ്രത്യേകമായി കാരണം. 27-ോ വിധത്തിൽ മുമ്പുള്ളതിൽ നിലനിന്നു എന്നതാണ്‌

നിലനിന്നു പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ. പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികളിൽ ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോലായി

കുറിപ്പിക്കുന്നു പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ പ്രായപ്രതിപാദികൾ പ്രായപ്രത്യേക

നിലനിന്നു എന്നതാണ്‌.
CIRCULAR AFTER XIX SYNOD
SESSION - 3

Prot. No. 1432/2011

14 October 2011

My dear priests, religious and lay faithful,

After my election and installation as Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church by the Providence of God, the major event that took place in our Church is the Synod of Bishops held at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas from 17 to 27 August 2011. It was the third session of the XIX Synod. Through this letter I would like to communicate to you some general information about this synod. Let me at the very outset, thank you most sincerely for your love and valuable prayers.

As usual, on the first day of the Synod till noon, we devoted ourselves in preparing spiritually in prayer and recollection and a concelebrated Holy Qurbana. The formal inauguration of the Synod took place in the afternoon. Except two or three Bishops emeriti, all Bishops participated in the Synod.

After the First Session of the XIX Synod, our beloved Major Archbishop Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, left for his eternal abode plunging all of us in great sorrow. Similarly Bishop emeritus John Perumattam, who served the eparchy of Ujjain as its first Bishop for many years, also departed. Let us remember them in our prayers.

I do recall with joy and gratitude the leadership given by Bishop Bosco Puthur as the Administrator of our Church after the demise of Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil to manage well all affairs of the Church during the interim period till the installation of the New Major Archbishop. Let me inform you that he has been elected Secretary of the Synod of Bishops.
Let us thank God for the elevation of the Servants of God Bishop Thomas Kurialacherry and Fr. Mathew Kadalikkattil to the status of Venerables. Let us remember in our prayers Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop James Pazhayattil and Bishop George Punnakottil who celebrate this year the Golden Jubilee of their priestly ordination. The current year marks the birth centenary of Mar Joseph Parecattil, the first Cardinal of our Church, and of Mar Sebastian Vallolpillly, the father of immigrant population of Malabar. We shall keep them in our prayers gratefully remembering their valuable services to our Church.

Mission Eparchies

At present there are 13 Mission Eparchies in the Syro-Malabar Church. The Syro-Malabar Eparchies in Kerala sponsor these Mission Eparchies and assist them in various ways and promote their growth. Prayer, financial assistance, service of priests and the religious, promotion of missionary vocations, mutual visits, etc. are the means by which the Eparchies in the Mother Church try to enhance the growth of the Mission Eparchies. I earnestly exhort all to deepen the cordial relationship with the Mission Eparchies and to support them by strengthening these ways of cooperation further in this Mission year.

Mission Year Celebrations

Some definite directions were already given regarding the Mission Year celebrations. Besides, the leaflet explaining the various programmes of the Mission Year celebrations prepared by the Central Organizing Committee for Syro-Malabar Mission Year has also been published. I request that following these directions, suitable programmes are planned and implemented in every eparchy. The following programmes are to be given more priority: Prayer for Mission Eparchies, Mission Awareness Programmes, Get-together of Missionaries, Sponsoring of Mission Parishes, Visiting Houses in the Missions, Social Welfare Activities, Mission to adivasi communities, Mission Directory, Mission retreats in parishes, etc. The official Church-level inauguration of the Mission Year was conducted on 21 August 2011 in Kodungallore with a concelebrated Holy Qurbana
with the Participation of all Bishops, together with the representatives of priests, religious and laity. It was followed by the veneration of the relic of St. Thomas, the Apostle, preserved at the Pontifical Shrine, Azhikode. I am very glad to inform you that the inaugural functions organized under the auspices of the eparchy of Irinjalakuda were well accomplished.

Pastoral Care of the Migrant Faithful

The Pastoral care of the migrant Syro-Malabar faithful living in many foreign Countries is a concern that we have been experiencing for a long time. We could address this issue to some extent. In some places we could appoint our priests as chaplains. Still we need to get many more things done. The Commission concerned seriously studies them and makes every effort to solve the problems. At this juncture I request your earnest prayers for the success of these efforts.

International Eucharistic Congress

You might have known by this time about the 50th International Eucharistic Congress scheduled for 10-17 June 2012 in Ireland. Arrangements are being made for a delegation of the Syro-Malabar Church to take part in it. I request you to pray for the whole world to be blessed through this International Eucharistic Congress.

Major Seminaries

The Synod evaluated in particular the activities of the Major Seminaries of Aluva, Vadavathoor and Kunnoth which are under governance of the Synod and the formation of clerics in general. The Rectors of the seminaries reported that the formation of clerics was satisfactory and that there were increasing financial difficulties. The support given by some selected parishes from different eparchies for helping Kunnoth Seminary which experiences greater financial crunch is gratefully remembered. The participants of the first ongoing formation course for formators of the seminaries conducted at Mangalapuzha greatly appreciated it. The Synod has decided that all formators of the seminarians should participate in the on-going formation courses. Considering the importance of seminary forma-
tion, the Synod has made arrangements for the preparation of a comprehensive action plan having studied the various aspects of formation. The Synod reiterated its decision making graduation necessary for promoting seminarians to the Major seminaries. It is brought to the attention of the seminarians that they are requested to actively participate in the Mission Year Programmes of our Church and that they should know well the Mission Policy of our Church and the contents of the Catechism Text Books.

The Synod felt that although more importance is given to the study of the Bible in the seminaries, the preaching of homilies by the priests were still to be improved. The Synod is of opinion that a comprehensive renewal is needed and that effective steps are to be taken in this regard. The Synod observed that there was some confusion regarding the various liturgical ministries exercised by the seminarians. They are to perform only those liturgical functions proper to the order they have received. I will inform the details about it to the persons concerned.

Canonical Questions

The Synod discussed some canonical ambiguities on certain functions of pastoral care such as the blessing of marriages and issued clear directives, the details of which will be communicated to you later.

The Second Anaphora (of Mar Theodore)

There are three Anaphorae for the Order of the Holy Qurbara in our Church. Of these, the first one, that is the Anaphora of the apostles Addai and Mari is the one we use in our Qurbara. The second one is known as the Anaphora of Mar Theodore. The Central Liturgical Committee under the auspices of the Commission for Liturgy prepared the Text of this Anaphora and made necessary corrections considering the suggestions and proposals from the eparchies. The Synod after thorough study and discussion has approved this Anaphora with some modifications. The Synod has also decided that a report be presented in the following Synod, evaluating the trial
celebration of this Anaphora (dry mass), using this text with a selected community in each eparchy under the supervision of the Eparchial Bishop. This trial celebration has to be done after proper catechesis and making the text familiar. Thereafter, having examined the reports adequately, the Text of the Anaphora will be submitted to the Apostolic See for recognitio.

Commissions

The various activities of the Synod are conducted through different Commissions and Committees. Their reports were presented in the Synod and the Synod having assessed these reports, gave the required directives for future action.

Procurae in Rome

We still do not have a house of our own in Rome suitable to meet our need to be constantly in touch with the Vatican dicasteries for the affairs of our Church. Now we have identified a very suitable dwelling place for this purpose. The Synod has decided to purchase it. The funds for this purpose are to be found. I request all sections of our Church to cooperate with this project. Details of this project will be communicated to you later.

Functioning of the Curia

The Synod discussed and approved the Guidelines for the functioning of the Curia. The Synod also discussed items like the running of the News Paper Deepika, the socio-political situation in Kerala and the construction works yet to be completed in the Curia, etc.

Devotional Practices

The Synod discussed the devotional practices in our Church. The general opinion of the Synod was that we should take decisions on them after further study.

The Teachings of the Second Vatican Council

The Synod decided to make an objective study on the implementation in our Church of the documents of the Second Vatican Coun-
cil and post-conciliar documents, on the occasion of the forthcoming golden jubilee of the Second Vatican Council. The Synod entrusted this task to a committee.

**Roman Synod**

The Synod discussed the responses and suggestions received from the eparchies on New Evangelization, the topic of the Synod of Bishops in Rome in the Year 2012. The response of our Church on this topic is to be sent to Rome. This shall be done in due time with the help of a Committee.

**The Visit of the Major Archbishop to the Pope**

The first visit of the Major Archbishop to the Holy Father, after having been elected as the new Head of the Syro-Malabar Church, is considered to be an important event. Accordingly arrangements are made for the visit to the Holy Father on 17 October. The Members of the Permanent Synod, the Curia Bishop and the first Auxiliary of Ernakulam-Angamaly also will accompany me on this visit. Besides the Holy Father, we will visit also the different Dicasteries of the Roman Curia. I request your earnest prayers so that this visit may be greatly fruitful to our Church.

**New Commission**

I am happy to inform you that a new Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life is formed with the aim of ensuring the active participation of the religious in the life and mission of the Church.

I cordially thank everyone who prayed and worked for the success of the first Synod conducted after my election as Major Archbishop. The XIX Synod Session 3 was officially concluded on August 27, at 6.00 pm. Let us praise and thank God for the graces we have received through this Synod.

+ George Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
Guidelines for the Functioning of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia

1. These guidelines are meant for the orderly and effective functioning of the various persons and institutions attached to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

2. In the wider sense of the term, "the Curia" includes Permanent Synod, the Bishop(s) of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, the Major Archiepiscopal Finance Officer, the Chancellor, the Assistant Chancellor, the Major Archiepiscopal Commissions, the Liturgical Research Center, the Ordinary Tribunal of the Major Archiepiscopal Church and other institutions that may be attached to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia (CCEO c. 114§1)

3. In the restricted sense of the term 'the Major Archiepiscopal Curia' consists of the Bishops of the Curia, the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellor, the Finance Officer and the Notaries, if any.

4. The Permanent Synod, the Ordinary Tribunal, Various Commissions and other institutions shall have their own approved Statutes or Guidelines by which they are to be regulated.

5. 'The Guidelines for the Functioning of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia' primarily regulates the life and the functioning of the Curia in the restricted sense of the terms, unless specified otherwise in the articles.

Curia Bishop

6. As per the provisions of Common Law the Curia Bishop(s) are elected by the Synod, but are given canonical provision and delegated certain definite authority by the Major Archbishop (CCEO cc. 87, 86§ 1, 127).
7. When the Major Archiepiscopal See becomes vacant, the Curial Bishop(s) (senior most by the Episcopal Ordination) becomes Administrator of the Major Archiepiscopal Church as well as of the Major Archiepiscopal See (CCEO cc. 127, 129).

8. The Curia Bishop cannot be constituted a vicar for the entire Major Archiepiscopal Church, or be delegated the power of the Major Archbishop for all cases (CCEO c. 78 §1).

9. The Curia Bishop has that authority that is delegated to him by the Major Archbishop in writing and he shall exercise his authority in accordance with CCEO cc. 988-992 concerning delegation in general.

10. The Curia Bishop may be constituted moderator of the Curia in the wider sense.

Chancellor, Vice Chancellor & Notaries

11. The Major Archbishop appoints a priest or a deacon ‘above all reproach’ as Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor.

12. The Chancellor “presides” over the chancery and the archives of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia (CCEO c. 123 §1).

13. Besides the Chancellor, the Major Archbishop may appoint another priest or deacon Vice Chancellor to assist the Chancellor and to substitute him in his absence. (CCEO c. 123 § 2).

14. In addition to the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor, who are notaries’ ex-officio, the Major Archbishop may appoint other notaries as per need. These can be freely removed by the Major Archbishop from the office (CCEO c. 123 § 2).

15. The principal obligation of the Chancellor, unless established otherwise by law, is to see that, the acts of the curia are drawn up and dispatched, and that they are conserved in the archives of the curia (CCEO c. 252 §1), and to ensure their safe custody (CCEO c. 256 §2).
16. The signature of the notaries authenticate public documents, whether in respect to all acts alone or only for acts of certain issue or business (CCEO c. 253§1).

17. Notaries are to be of unblemished reputation. In cases that could involve the reputation of a cleric the notary must be a cleric (CCEO c. 253§2).

18. The Chancellor of the curia may be appointed as assistant secretary of the Synod and the vice-chancellor as additional assistant secretary.

19. The Chancellor is the ex-officio secretary of the meetings of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. He shall inform the persons concerned the time, place and agenda of the meeting on time, prepare the minutes reports and other documents of the meetings.

**Finance Officer**

20. The Major Archiepiscopal Finance Officer is a Christian faithful expert in financial matters, outstanding for honesty and appointed by the Major Archbishop with the consent of the Permanent Synod for the administration of the goods of the Major Archiepiscopal Church (CCEO c. 122§1).

21. The Finance Officer is the ex-officio Secretary of the Commission for Finance as well as of the Finance Council, the bodies constituted to help him in the administration of the temporal goods of the Church.

22. He shall administer the temporal goods of the Church guided by the Common Law and the Particular Law of the Church (cf. CCEO cc. 122, 1007-1054. PL Statutes of the Synod of Bishops Arts. 7, 201-209).

23. The Finance Officer is appointed for a period of five years and is accountable to the Permanent Synod and to the Synod of Bishops as per the provisions of Common and Particular Law (cf. CCEO cc. 122, 3, 4, 125, Statutes of the Permanent Synod of Bishops. Art. 14).
24. The same person shall not hold the office of the Finance Officer for more than two consecutive terms (P L Art. 6).

25. The Finance Officer shall take care to get the annual contribution for the functioning of the Curia from the juridical and physical persons who are obliged to do so.

26. He is to ensure the proper and timely maintenance and custody of the curial buildings and any other buildings situated either within the campus of the Curia or outside. He shall also take particular care of all movable and immovable properties of the Curia.

27. In the alienation of the temporal goods of the Major Archiepiscopal Church the Common and Particular Laws of the Church must be followed (cf. CCEO cc. 1037 – 1039, Particular Law of Permanent Synod Arts. 16:8, 17:28).

28. For undertaking any major financial transaction or construction work he requires to consult the Commission for Finance, Finance Council and get the consent of the Major Archbishop.

29. The Finance Officer shall present the matters of importance in the regular meetings of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and seek the opinion of the other members of the Curia.

**General Norms**

30. All the officials of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia are appointed by the Chairman of the concerned Commission/Institute, with the prior approval of the Major Archbishop without prejudice to the statutes.

31. All who are admitted to an office in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia shall make a promise to carry out the office faithfully in the manner determined by the law or by the Major Archbishop (cf. CCEO c. 244§1).

32. They must observe secrecy within the limits of and according to the manner determined by the law or by the Major Archbishop (CCEO c. 244§2, 2°).
33. The remuneration of the members of the Curia shall be made from the funds of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia by the Finance Officer.

**Amendments, Interpretation**

34. Any amendment or addition to these Guidelines shall be made solely by the Major Archbishop in consultation with the Permanent Synod.

35. The authentic interpretation of these Guidelines is the competence of the Major Archbishop.

36. All other laws and regulations that are not in conformity with these Guidelines and CCEO shall deem to be repealed by these Guidelines, without however, any retrospective effect.
Guidelines for the Functioning of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Finance

1. The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Finance is a body of the Syro-Malabar Bishops constituted to assist the Major Archbishop in the administration of the temporal goods of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, as per the provisions of common and particular law.

2. One of the bishop members shall be appointed the Chairman of the Commission and the Major Archiepiscopal Finance Officer shall be the ‘ex officio’ Secretary of the Commission.

3. Besides helping in the budgeting, planning and evaluation of the financial administration of the Curia, the Commission will have the following responsibilities and areas of competence:
   
   a. To evaluate and give its considered comments to the Permanent Synod and the Synod of Bishops on the financial report of the Curia and of the Commissions / Institutes.

   b. To give its opinion, if asked for by the Major Archbishop, on application for alienation of the ecclesiastical goods whose nature is such that it requires his consent.

   c. To consider ways and means of raising funds for the extension of the Church activities to new areas.

   d. To present a detailed annual report of its activities in the ordinary annual session of the Synod of Bishops.

4. The term of office of the Commission shall be five years. However it will continue to function until a new Commission is constituted.
Meetings

5. The Commission shall be convened at least twice a year and whenever needed.

Finance Council

6. The Finance Council is a body of priests, religious and lay faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church experts in financial matters that functions “Under the guidance of the Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Finance to do financial planning and budgeting of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia and to find out the methods to raise funds for the needs of the Curia.

7. It is a consultative body constituted by Chairman in consultation with the other members of the Commission and with the prior consent of the Major Archbishop. Its membership, which shall be fixed by the Commission, with the prior approval of the Major Archbishop, shall be such that it represents and is enriched with experts in financial matters from among priests, religious and lay faithful of the Church.

8. The Major Archiepiscopal Finance Officer is the ex-officio Secretary of the Finance Council.

9. The Curia Bishop/s, the Chancellor and the Commission Secretaries residing in the Curia shall be the ‘ex-officio’ members of the Council.

10. Its term of office shall be five years. However, until a new council assumes charge the previous one continues in office.

11. As per the direction of Chairman, the Secretary of the Commission for Finance convenes the meeting of the Council and the Chairman presides over it. Other members of the Commission may also attend the meetings of the council. However, if there is to be a voting, only the Council members
and not the Commission members shall vote. All ex-officio members may be invited to the meetings.

12. The proposals and the conclusions of the Finance Council shall be submitted to the Commission for Finance, which shall consider them and if found relevant, shall present them to the Major Archbishop for necessary follow-up and action in due consultation with the Permanent Synod or the Synod of Bishops when necessary. (cf. Decree.)
Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, Commission for Laity

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Laity

Prologue

The apostolate of the laity derives from their Christian vocation and the Church can never be without it. Sacred Scripture clearly shows how spontaneous and fruitful such activity was at the very beginning of the Church (cf. Acts 11:19-21; 18:26; Rom. 16:1-16; Phil. 4:3). Our own times require of the laity no less zeal: in fact, modern conditions demand that their apostolate be broadened and intensified. With a constantly increasing population, continual progress in science and technology, and closer interpersonal relationships, the areas for the lay apostolate have been immensely widened particularly in fields that have been for the most part open to the laity alone. These factors have also occasioned new problems which demand their expert attention and study. This apostolate becomes more imperative in view of the fact that many areas of human life have become increasingly autonomous. This is as it should be, but it sometimes involves a degree of departure from the ethical and religious order and a serious danger to Christian life. Besides, in many places where priests are very few or, in some instances, deprived of due freedom for priestly work, the Church could scarcely exist and function without the activity of the laity.

An indication of this manifold and pressing need is the unmistakable work being done today by the Holy Spirit in making the laity ever more conscious of their own responsibility and encouraging them to serve Christ and the Church in all circumstances. (Vatican II, APOSTOLICAM
ACTUOSITATEM no. 1)

Historical Introduction

The Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in its session held in August 2008 decided to establish a Commission for Laity. As per the request of the Synod, the Major Archbishop established the Commission on 12th August 2008 with Bishop Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally) as chairman and Bishops Mathew Anikkuzhikkattil (Idukki) and Sebastian Adyanthrah (Ernakulam-Angamaly: Auxiliary) as members of the proposed Commission. The Commission was given also the mandate to formulate its guidelines and present them to the Synod for its approval and promulgation by the Major Archbishop. The Commission was also authorized to co-opt consultors if needed.

Guidelines for the Functioning of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Laity

Nature

1. The Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Laity is a body of three bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church constituted by the Major Archbishop as per CCEO 124. It has the function to assist the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church in fulfilling his responsibilities towards the lay faithful of the Church.

2. Lay Faithful are "the Christian faithful whose proper and specific quality is secularity and who, living in the world, participate in the mission of the Church, but are not in Sacred Orders nor ascribed in the religious orders" (CCEO. 399)

The ‘laity’ here means men and women, young and old, who are lay members of the Syro-Malabar Church. Hence, the Commission may have separate sections for family and laity,
lay men, women, the youth, children, Dalits, labours and so on, as per the need.

3. The main sphere of operation of the Commission is the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal level. However, it may also advise, assist, collaborate and co-operate, as and when required by the competent authorities, at the other levels such as eparchial and metropolitan, either directly or through specially constituted bodies which may or may not be units of the Central Committee at Major Archiepiscopal level.

4. These ‘Guidelines’ approved and promulgated by Major Archbishop are meant to guide and regulate the functions of the Commission in favour of the Syro-Malabar laity, the Commissions’ relationship to other Major Archiepiscopal and Synodal Commissions, to the Synod of Bishops, to the Syro-Malabar eparchies and eparchial bishops, to the organized Syro-Malabar communities for the Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar Migrants in India and aboard, to the Syro-Malabar Catholic Associations for the laity, to the Pontifical as well as other international, national and regional ecclesial councils and commissions in favour of the Laity.

Scope

5. The Major Archiepiscopal Commission for the Laity has the following scope;
   a) To co-ordinate the activities of the laity in the Syro-Malabar Church.
   b) To animate, form, and equip the lay faithful to play their proper role in the Church and in the world.
   c) To provide appropriate forum for addressing the common issues that affect the Syro-Malabar Church all over the world especially in the social and secular fields.
   d) To open up new opportunities for the laity to share
their knowledge, experience and expertise at various spheres of activity in the Church and outside.

e) To ensure the ecclesial and faith formation of the laity so that they are equipped to play their proper role as Christian faithful especially in the Secular field.

f) To enlighten the laity about the teachings and policies of the Church.

g) To co-ordinate the activities of the various lay associations functioning in the eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church and to make them more effective.

h) To equip and form the Central Committee to function as the sector, the public face of the Syro-Malabar Church, especially before the civil authorities and the public at large, respecting the role and functions assigned to other persons and bodies like the Public Relations Office of the Syro-Malabar Church.

Office

6. The office of the Commission shall be at the Major Archiepiscopcal Curia, Mount St Thomas, PB No. 3110, Kakkanad P.O., Kochi, Kerala 682 031.

Area of Competence

7. The geographical area of competence of the Commission shall be the same as that of the Syro-Malabar Church and of the Major Archbishop as per the provisions of the Canon Law. The Commission shall function, respecting the jurisdiction of the local Hierarchs. The Commission shall also respect the competence of other Commissions and Major Archiepiscopcal organs, and work in close collaboration with them.

8. Where there is no Syro-Malabar hierarchy, the Commission shall function respecting the authority of the local Ordinary, the Syro-Malabar co-ordinator, parish priest or chaplain and in consultation with the Major Archiepiscopcal Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants.
Members of the Commission

9. The Commission shall have a Chairman and two members appointed by the Major Archbishop from among the members of the Synod of the Bishops, for a period of five years.

Secretary

10. The Secretary of the Committee shall be a Syro-Malabar lay faithful.

11. The Chairman, in consultation with other members of the Commission and with the prior consent of the Major Archbishop in writing, shall appoint the Secretary.

12. His term of office shall be three years. But he shall continue in office until a new secretary takes charge.

13. In the same manner the Chairman may appoint other joint secretaries as per need, especially for the various sections of the Commission.

14. The main duties of the Secretary are the following:
   i. To keep the minutes of the Commission meetings and the records and archives of the Commission in order.
   ii. To make the required communications as per the direction of the Chairman.
   iii. To get ready the annual report and other interim reports to be presented to the Synod as well as to the Pontifical, International, national and regional Episcopal bodies.
   iv. To help in organizing various meetings seminars and gatherings of the Commission.
Finance Officer

15. It will be the duty of the Finance officer to draw up and present the annual budget before the Commission and get its approval. Similarly, the secretary shall present the annual financial statement to the Commission, as well as to the Finance Officer of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

16. All payments and major financial transactions shall be made only with the consent of the Chairman. Only dealings with such consent will be valid.

17. The Commission shall have an account jointly operated by the Chairman and the Finance officer or Secretary as designated by the Commission in a reputed scheduled bank to keep the money that it may get.

The Central Committee

18. The Commission shall be assisted in its functioning by a Central Committee constituted at the Major Archiepiscopal level and by the corresponding committee at the Eparchial level. Similar units may be set up at the organized Syro-Malabar Migrant Communities in India and abroad.

19. The Central Committee is constituted of the ex-officio as well as the elected members. The bishop chairman shall be the president of the committee and the other Episcopal members shall also be members of this Committee.

20. The following are the other ex-officio members of the Committee:
- The Secretary of the Commission
- The lay secretaries of the Eparchial pastoral councils
- The Eparchial presidents of the approved catholic lay associations in the eparchies / migrant communities
The Secretaries of the Syro-Malabar Lay Committees at the eparchial level

21. The Elected members shall be the following:
   ➢ Two lay representatives, a man and woman, elected by the eparchial pastoral council in such a way that one of them is a youth below 25.

22. Nominated members:
   ➢ The chairman of the Commission for Laity in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants may nominate up to 15 lay representatives from the Syro-Malabar migrant communities in India or aboard.
   ➢ The Chairman, in consultation with the concerned local Hierarchs may nominate another 15 Syro-Malabar faithful experts in various fields, such as education, health care, finance, law, politics, social welfare and charitable activities. They must be practicing Syro-Malabar Catholics, with a proven track record in their faith life as well as in the field of activity.

The Duration of the Central Committee

23. The term of office of the Central Committee shall be three years. However, they shall continue in office until the new committee is constituted by the Chairman through a formal decree to the effect.

Meetings

24. The committee shall be convened by the Secretary in consultation with the Commission Chairman at least once in a calendar year. It may be convened at other times in consultation with other members of the Commission and the Executive Committee.
25. The meetings of the Central Committee are convened to deliberate upon important matters that affect the Church.

26. One third of the total members of the Central Committee shall be the quorum of the meetings.

27. To convene the ordinary meetings, the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman of the Commission shall send out, at least one month in advance, the invitation letters in which the place, date and time as well as the agenda of the meeting are clearly stated.

28. It is recommended that all resolutions and recommendations of the Central Committee are passed by a consensus. The relevant matter may be brought to the Synod of Bishops by the Chairman in consultation with other members of the Commission.

Executive Committee

29. There shall be a 13 member ‘Executive Committee’ of laity constituted by the Chairman in consultation with the other members of the Commission within two months of formation of the Central Committee.

30. The ex-official members for the Executive Committee shall be the Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission for Laity.

31. The following shall be the elected members of the Executive Committee:
   - Two vice presidents, a male and a female.
   - Two joint secretaries, a male and a female.
   - Two youth representatives, a male and a female
   - Two dalit Christian representatives, a male and a female
32. The Chairman of the Commission, in consultation with the other members of the Commission, the Secretary and two Vice Presidents, may nominate 3 members to the Executive Committee from among those sections of the lay faithful not properly represented.

33. The Executive Committee shall hold regular meetings to evaluate the situation and to conduct the day to day affairs. It should meet at least 4 times in a calendar year. Normally the meetings shall be presided over by the Chairman of the Commission or in his absence by one of the members of the Commission authorized by him.

Sub Committees and Sections

34. The Chairman, in consultation with the other members of the Commission and the Central Committee, may constitute various sub committees and appoint members to attend to various sections of the lay faithful like, women, children, dalit Christians, youth and labours. The details shall be worked by the Executive committee.

At the Eparchial Level

35. At the eparchial level too there shall be Laiity Committees under the supervision and guidance of the eparchial bishop to exercise at the eparchial level the functions mentioned above.

Interpretation

36. The authentic interpretation of any clause contained in these ‘Guidelines’ is the competence of the Major Archbishop. However, the Chairman, in consultation with other members of the Commission shall give the practical interpretation or explanation of specific clauses.
Amendments

37. Any amendments or modifications, additions or deletement of any clause in the ‘Guidelines’ become effective as and when approved and promulgated by the Major Archbishop.

38. Only the members of the Synod and the Committee shall have the competence to propose amendments to any of articles in these Guidelines. Proposals for the amendments shall be sent to the Chairman of the Commission at least one month in advance of the annual meeting of the Commission and the Central Committee. The Secretary of the Commission, in consultation with the Chairman shall circulate them among the members of the Commission and the Central Committee at least two weeks in advance of the beginning of the annual Joint Meeting.

39. Any proposal for amendment to be considered as passed shall have the two third majority of those present and voting in the joint meeting of the Commission and the Committee.

40. The passed proposals for amendments shall be forwarded to the Major Archbishop by the Secretary with the consent of the chairman as soon as they are passed in the joint meeting.

41. Amendments in order to take effect must be approved and promulgated by the Major Archbishop, in consultation with the Permanent Synod.

Transitory Norms

42. There shall be a period of two months of vacatio legis from the date of promulgation of these Statutes.
DECREE PROMULGATING MISSION YEAR

Prot. No. 40/2011

DECREE

The erection of the Chanda Mission on 15 August 1962 was the beginning of a spring time for the mission ad gentes of the Syro-Malabar Church. Now we are at the threshold of the Golden Jubilee of this epoch making event and it is to be celebrated in a befitting manner. This jubilee celebration should be viewed as the celebration of the first evangelization drive of the Syro-Malabar Church in the virgin land, i.e., spreading the Gospel among the non-Christians, in the past century that began with the erection of Chanda as Missio sui iuris with the later Bishop Januarius Palathurthy, CMI, as Mission Superior. It is hoped that the celebration would give the opportunity to create more mission awareness in all the sections of our own Church.

Therefore, in accordance with the decision of the XIX Synod (2011), Session I, the undersigned Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby declares the Year starting from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012 as the Mission Year and decrees that it be celebrated throughout the Syro-Malabar Church with programmes and functions aimed at enhancing the mission awareness and missionary zeal of our faithful, envisaged by
the Central Organizing Committee approved by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given this at Kakkanad, from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the SyroMalabar Church on 14 January 2011.

+Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Curia
APPOINTMENT LETTER OF THE PROCURATOR OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP AT THE APOSTOLIC SEE

Prot. No. 353/2011

APPOINTMENT ORDER

In accordance with CCEO c.61 and having obtained the prior
assent of the Holy Father, POPE BENEDICT XVI (Cfr. The Letter of
the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Prot. N. 216/94, dated 29
March 2011), I, Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil, the Major Archbishop
of the Syro-Malabar Church, with the consent of his bishop, appoint
VERY REV. FR. STEPHEN CHIRAPPANATH, belonging to the
eparchy of Irinjalakuda, PROCURATOR of the Major Archbishop
at the Apostolic See, with effect from 1 April 2011, for a period of
three years. He is to take charge of his office as quickly as possible
presenting this letter of appointment to the Cardinal Prefect of
the congregation for the Oriental Churches. The residence of the
Procurator will be at the Cistercian Priory at San Bernardo alle Terme
in Rome. As Procurator he is to represent me at the various dicasteries
of the Apostolic See in Rome and strive earnestly to promote the good
of the entire Syro-Malabar Church.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given at Kakkanad, from the Syro-Malabar Major
Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas on 29 March 2011.

Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Curia
APPOINTMENT LETTER OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE EPARCHY OF THUCKALAY

Prot. No. 585/2011

Greetings and blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ

To

FR. PHILIP KODIANTHARA

a priest of the eparchy of Thuckalay, until now Proto Syncellus.

In order that the people of God of every eparchy may grow and progress in faith and that they may not be left without a pastor of their own in the event of a vacant See, the norms of law prescribe that the Major Archbishop should appoint administrators to such eparchies within the stipulated time. After mature reflection and lawful consultations, I have found you the most fitting person to be the administrator of the eparchy of Thuckalay, now vacant because of the transfer of its legitimate pastor.

Therefore, taking into consideration your personal virtues and having consulted the curia Bishop, I, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, in conformity with CCEO c. 220§§2&3 and c. 226, appoint you

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE EPARCHY OF THUCKALAY

with all the rights and obligations attached thereto.

This appointment becomes effective on 4 June 2011. However, the powers of the administrator should be exercised only after making the profession of faith in the presence of the Major Archbishop and
taking possession of the office by showing this letter of appointment to the college of consultors of the said eparchy (CCEO c. 220 §4). You are further advised to make known this appointment to the entire people of God of Thuckalay and to observe strictly the norms of law, particularly, CCEO cc. 228 §§ 1&2 and c. 229.

I wish and pray that the Spirit of the Lord guide and lead you in discharging the duties of your new office.

Given at Kakkanad from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church at Mount St. Thomas on 3rd day of the month of June of the year two thousand and eleven, the feast of Ascension of our Lord.

+ George Alencherry

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur

Chancellor, Major Archiepiscopal Curia
REPORT

Prot. No. 492/2011

14 May 2011

A Report

on the Death and the Funeral of

His Beatitude Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil,

Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

A very sad day in the history of the Syro-Malabar Church as to-
day, 1 April 2011, our beloved Major Archbishop Varkey Cardinal
Vithayathil was called to his eternal rest. At 12.00 noon the Major
Archbishop took part in the Holy Mass celebrated by the secretary Fr.
Sebastian Pottolickal, in the chapel adjacent to his room in the Major
Archbishop’s House, Ernakulam. As he was not feeling very well,
he was participating in the Mass, reclining on his couch. At 12.30
p.m. he received communion from Fr. Sebastian Pottolickal. After
a while he showed some signs of discomfort and pain. Mr. Cherian,
his driver and who was attending to him, called the fathers of the
Major Archbishop’s house and they all rushed to his room – among
them were Fr. Jose Puthenveetttil, the Pro-Vicar General, Fr. Vargh-
ese Pottackal, the Chancellor of Ernakulam Archdiocese, Fr. Mathew
Manavalan, the Procurator, Fr. Joshi Vezhaprampil, the Assistant
Procurator and Fr. Sony Manjaly who was his personal secretary and
now serving as the office secretary. While they tried to give some as-
sistance, he collapsed and seemed lifeless. Within minutes his Cardi-
ologist Doctor Rony and other staff members from the Lisie Hospital
reached the spot with emergency medical aid in an ambulance. The
Doctor advised rushing him to the hospital which was not far. There
the expert doctors tried everything within their means to revive him,
but failed. Finally he was declared dead by the doctors at 2.00 p.m.
As the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church were in Rome for their
ad limina visit, the news of the demise of the Major Archbishop was
communicated to them by the Chancellor of the Curia of Ernakulam.
The Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Fr. Antony Kollannur and the Finance Officer of the Curia, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, upon receiving the news of the serious condition of the Major Archbishop, had rushed to the hospital, but by that time they reached, he was in the Intensive Care Unit. At 3.00 p.m. there was a press conference held in Lisie Hospital in which the Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Spokesperson, Fr. Paul Thelakatt, the Pro-Vicar General, Fr. Jose Puthenveettill and Chancellor of Ernakulam, Fr. Varghese Pottackal took part. It was in this press conference, the news of the demise of the Major Archbishop was officially made public.

The last days of Cardinal Varkey seemed to be spent in intense preparation for his heavenly journey. Although he looked very tired and affected by the illness, he seemed to be lost in prayer. On the preceding days he made many references to his passing away and made some visits as though bidding farewell to those places. One such visit was to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas on Tuesday, 29th March. It was a sudden decision and he spent only around 45 minutes there. After signing the documents in connection with the appointment of his Procurator in Rome, Fr. Stephen Chirappanath, when the Chancellor suggested to him that next year possibly he will be able to make use of the lift which was being installed in the Curia, he said that he was going up, meaning heaven, through the lift. The next day the Procurator and the Chancellor visited him and the procurator took the oath of office and secrecy before him in the presence of the Chancellor and the Major Archbishop signed the document, the last document he signed as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. He then blessed the Procurator and wished him well in his new assignment. The next day passed without any major incidents. On 1st April, after the Mass he did not want to take meals immediately, as though he had already his heavenly meal (the Eucharist) which has satisfied his hunger on his heavenly journey.

Immediately after hearing the demise of the Major Archbishop, on 1 April, the Bishops who were in Rome, assembled to decide upon date of the funeral and other related matters with Bishop Bosco Putur,
the Curial Bishop in the chair, who took over as the Administrator of
the Syro-Malabar Church and that of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-
Angamaly as per the provisions of CCEO c. 127. A special prayer
service conducted in this meeting by Bishop Gregory Karotemprel,
CMI and Archbishop Joseph Powathil gave the condolence message.
The fact of the demise of the Major Archbishop was informed to the
Holy Father, Secretariat of State and the Congregation for the Orien-
tal Churches and the other dicasteries of the Holy See. In the meeting
it was decided to conduct the funeral of the Major Archbishop on
10th April, which will give the bishops time to complete their audi-
ence with the Holy Father on 7th April and return to India to take
part in the funeral. It was also decided to embalm the Body of the
Major Archbishop and be placed in the mortuary of the Little Flower
Hospital, Angamaly, as the mortuary in the Lisie Hospital was not
operational due to the construction work going on there. The Admin-
istrator, Bishop Bosco Puthur, issued a circular in which he expressed
his condolence at the demise of the Major Archbishop Varkey Car-
dinal Vithayathil. He recalled the words of the Major Archbishop
who had compared himself to a migratory bird. He also informed the
public of his taking over as the Administrator of the Syro-Malabar
Church and the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly and requested
their prayers for fulfilling this office. He declared ten days’ mourning
for the demise of the Major Archbishop till the funeral services were
completed and requested that Holy Qurbana and special prayers and
the tolling of church bells for the Major Archbishop be arranged in
all the Churches and Institutions of the Syro-Malabar Church all over
the world. He also informed the public of the details of the funeral
service which will be on 10 April at 2.30 p.m. at St. Mary’s Basilica.

At about 4.00 p.m. on 1 April, the body was brought to the Lisie
hospital chapel where political leaders and ecclesiastical dignitar-
ies, and a big congregation of priests, sisters, and lay people from
all walks of life flocked to the small chapel. His Excellency Mar
Paul Chittilapilly, His Grace Archbishop Francis Kallarackal, His
Grace Archbishop Cornelius Elanjickal, the Archbishop Emeritus
of Verapoly and Mor Youhanan from the Orthodox Church were
among those who prayed the office of the dead. There were many
who placed wreaths on the body among whom were also Sri. Prakash Karat, the National Secretary of the Communist Marxist Party, State Cabinet Minister Sri S. Sharma and leaders from many political parties and members of the staff of civil administration. The body was then taken to Little Flower Hospital, Angamaly where Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy, the Archbishop Emeritus of Trichur, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselius Clemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankar Church, etc., made special prayers. The Opposition Leader of the State Legislature Mr. Oommen Chandy and many other political leaders also were at the Little Flower Hospital to offer their condolences. At about 6.00 p.m., the body was interned in the mortuary there where it remained till 9th when the body would be brought to the St. George Basilica, Mount St. Thomas and finally to St. Mary’s Basilica.

On 2nd April, a requiem mass with the participation of all the Syro-Malabar Bishops who were in Rome for their ad limina and the priests, sisters and lay faithful in Rome, was celebrated at St. Peter’s Basilica, presided over by Archbishop George Valiamattam during which the Apostolic Administrator Bishop Bosco gave the introductory message on the Major Archbishop and Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, the homily.

On 4th Bishop Thomas Chakiath and Bishop Sebastian Adyanthrath returned from Rome and visited the Little Flower Hospital Morgue and offered prayers at the mortal remains of the Major Archbishop. Different committees were formed to organize the funeral ceremony under the leadership of a core committee headed by Fr. Jose Puthenveettil, the Pro-Vicar General of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the participation of Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor of the Major Archbishopiscopal Curia. The flow of visitors to the mortuary of the Little Flower Hospital continued without any break till 9th when the body was taken for the burial. This included the Union Cabinet Ministers like Mr. A.K. Antony, Mr. Vayalar Ravi, Mr. K.V. Thomas, the Chief Minister of Kerala Mr. V.S. Achuthanandan, and many other political leaders from all the political parties in Kerala and leaders of different Christian denominations and other religions.
The mortal remains of the Late Major Archbishop was taken out from the mortuary in the Little Flower Hospital in a decorated open vehicle in the presence of Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanathrath and a great number of priests, sisters and lay faithful. The body was taken to the Redemptorist Provincial House at Mattoor where it was placed for half an hour for the members of the house to pay their last respects to the Major Archbishop who was a member of their own congregation. At 7.00 a.m. the Body was taken to the St. George Basilica in a procession where the body was laid in state for the public to pay their last respects. There was a huge congregation who wanted to have a glimpse of their beloved Major Archbishop. The time however was very short and the body had to be taken out at 9.00 a.m. The people then formed two lines and the body was taken out through the middle so that everyone could see their beloved Major Archbishop for the last time. The procession left the Basilica for the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas through the National High Way NH 47, with the escort of hundreds of vehicles and the police who diverted the traffic so that the procession could pass without any problem. The Auxiliary Bishops from Ernakulam also accompanied the body till it reached the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at 10.30 a.m.

At the Curia, hundreds had already gathered to receive the mortal remains of the Major Archbishop at his Head Quarters. A temporary hall was arranged to seat around 500 persons. But there were well over 1500 persons who were assembled at the curia, including fathers and sisters who have worked in the Curia over the past years. The Body was received by the Chancellor, Procurator, the President of the Tribunal and other priests working as the secretaries of the various Major Archiepiscopal Commissions. The body was then laid in state in the Chapel and people had the opportunity to pass by the mobile mortuary containing the body of the Major Archbishop and pay their last respects to him. At 11.00 am started the memorial Qurbana presided over by His Grace Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Archbishop emeritus of Trichur, with Bishop Pastor Neelankavil, CMI, Emeritus, Sagar and Bishop James Pazhayattil, Bishop Emeritus of Irinjalaku-
da as con-celebrants. Bishop James Pazhayattil gave the homily in which he remembered the Late Major Archbishop as a person who firmly stood for the realization of the legitimate rights of the Syro-Malabar Church without in anyway minimizing the respect and obedience due to the Apostolic See. More than twenty Bishops from the Syro-Malabar Church who could return from Rome in time and a few \textit{emeriti} including Archbishop Kuriakose Kunnacherry of Kottayam could participate in the Holy \textit{Qurbana}. At 12.45 p.m. the first part of the funeral service was conducted with Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil presiding over the ceremony and Bishops Gratian Mundadan, CMI, the Apostolic Visitor and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI, Emeritus, Rajkot, assisting.

At the conclusion of the first part of the funeral service, the body was again taken to the decorated vehicle carried by the priests of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The funeral procession then continued its way to the Major Archbishop’s House in Ernakulam accompanied by hundreds of vehicles. The Chancellor, Fr. Antony Kollannur, with a few other people sat next to the body of the Major Archbishop in the decorated vehicle on its way to Ernakulam. The Administrator Mar Bosco Puthur also accompanied the body. At 2.15 p.m. the procession reached the Major Archbishop’s House where the body was received by Their Excellencies Mar Thomas Chakiath and Sebastian Adayanthath, the Auxiliaries of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Anthamaly, and the inmates of the Major Archbishop’s House and was placed in the hall on the ground floor. The community of the Major Archbishop’s House was gathered together in prayer around their Head and Father. Bishop Thomas Chakiath led the prayers in the presence of Bishop Bosco, the Administrator and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthath, the Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam. Then the Body was taken to the St. Mary’s Basilica to be received by the hundreds who had congregated in the Church and the premises to have a final glimpse of their father. The Body was laid in state in the Basilica. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthath, the Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam, conducted the second part of the burial and then it was open for the public to pay their last respects to this great leader of our Church.
Time slots were allocated to the different religious congregations of the Archdiocese and so there was an unbroken chain of prayers in the church for the Major Archbishop.

The Funeral Mass began at 2.30 p.m. on 10 April. Before that there was a long chain of VIPs and VVIPs from all walks of life and from many departments of the Central and State Government, Civil Administration, Religious and Social groups, political parties, besides a great throng of priests, sisters and lay faithful who visited the mortal remains of the Major Archbishop and prayed for him. Wreaths were laid in the name of the President of India and the Prime Minister of India and Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, the President of the Indian National Congress. Mr. Nidhin Gadhavi, the National President of the Bharathiya Janatha Party, Mr. Deva Gowda, the President of the Janatha Party and Former Prime Minister of India, also visited the Basilica and personally laid wreaths.

At 2.00 p.m. hundreds of priest and Bishops in their liturgical vestments began the procession from the Major Archbishop’s House to the St. Mary’s Basilica where the funeral mass was to be held. It was quite solemn with the presence of 77 Bishops from all the three rites of the Catholic Church present in India. Conspicuous among the dignitaries present for the funeral Mass was the Special Envoy of the Vatican, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Clemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, the President of the Coference of Catholic Bishops of India (Latin), His Excellency Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Soosa Pakiam, the President of the Latin Catholic Bishops Council of Kerala, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, the President of Kerala Catholic Bishops Council, Archbishop Francis Kallarakal of Verapoly, Archbishop Malayappan Chinnappa, President of the Tamil Nadu Bishops Council, Archbishop Albert D’Souza, Secretary General of CBCI, Archbishop Bernard Moras of Bangalore, etc.
At the beginning of the Liturgy, Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Administrator welcomed all the dignitaries and the other participants. This was followed by the reading of the Message of the Holy Father by Bishop George Alencherry, the Secretary of the Syro-Malabar Bishops’ Synod. He also referred to the messages from the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, Cardinal Ivan Dias, Cardinal Simon Lourdu Samy, Presidents of the Pontifical Commissions for Social Communication and that of the Pontifical Council for Culture. The Administrator Bishop Bosco Puthur was the main celebrant of the Holy Qurbana and His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Clemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church, Archbishop George Valiamattam of Tellicherry, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath of Trichur, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB of Kottayam, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam of Changanacherry, and Bishop Chakiath and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthath, the Auxiliary Bishops of Ernakulam-Angamaly were the chief co-celebrants. The Special Envoy of the Vatican, Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the Secretary of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Oswald Gracias, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, the President of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (Latin), and His Excellency Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio were given special place of honour during the liturgical service. Cardinal Oswald Gracias gave the homily during the Holy Qurbana. Both the wings of the Basilica and the temporary hall with the capacity of 3000 persons were filled to capacity and thousands had to stand outside the gates of the Basilica as entry for paying the homage was not allowed during the liturgy. However, there were arrangements made for them to watch the proceedings through closed circuit television network and big L.E.D. monitors, besides the live telecast on important channels and live web streaming by the Syro-Malabar and the Archdiocesan websites. After the Gospel reading, during the Qurbana, Archbishop George Valiamattam, the senior most Archbishop brought the Gospel to the Major
Archbishop for the final kiss. Bishop Thomas Chakiath, the auxiliary bishop of Ernakulam gave the vote of thanks at the conclusion of the Holy Qurbana.

After the Holy Qurbana, the third part of the funeral service was conducted with Bishop Bosco as the main celebrant who adorned the Major Archbishop with a crown of flowers at the end of the service. Then the body of the Major Archbishop was taken in a procession through the Marine Drive lasting more than an hour. The Body was placed in a specially decorated open vehicle and Archbishop Cyril Vasil, Bishop Bosco Puthur, Archbishop George Valiamattam, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam and Bishop Thomas Chakiath, besides the two brothers of the Major Archbishop sat near the Body in the open vehicle. Elaborate preparations were made for this procession. In the forefront were lined up persons holding the processional cross and candles followed by the members of the Darshana Sabha. This was followed by hundreds of golden and silver decorated crosses and umbrellas. After this, thousands of Religious Sisters, Representatives of Women’s Organizations such as the Legion of Mary, Women Welfare Associations, Mathru Sangam, etc., a big number of lay faithful, numerous priests and 150 altar boys and girls clad in white angelic dress arrayed themselves in front of the vehicle carrying the body of the Major Archbishop. Right behind the vehicle stood the Chevaliers and Bishops. The procession was the biggest any religious leader might have received in the city of Ernakulam.

Once the procession arrived at the Basilica, the Major Archbishop was accorded State Honours by the Police Department of the Government of Kerala. After this the Body was taken inside the Basilica and the concluding prayers were said and the grave was blessed by the Administrator, Bishop Bosco Puthur in the presence of Archbishops and Bishops and the large gathering of priests, sisters and lay faithful. Then the body was again laid in state for the people to offer their last respects. There was a non-stop flow of people to have a last glimpse of their Father and Head, the Major Archbishop. Light refreshments were provided to over 15,000 persons who attended the funeral service.
At 6.00 p.m. began the condolence meeting in the adjoining temporary hall with the presence of a big audience among whom were many dignitaries from the ecclesiastical and socio-political field. Archbishop Cyril Vasil, the special envoy from the Vatican, read out the message of His Eminence Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio read out the message of the Holy Father and that of the Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. Major Archbishop Moran Mor Baselios Clemis, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church, Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, the President, CCBI, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, the President, KCBC, Archbishop Francis Kallarackal of Verapoly, Hon. Justice Cyriac Joseph of the Supreme Court of India, and Hon. Union Cabinet Minister Shri Vayalar Ravi also spoke on the occasion expressing their condolences at the demise of the Major Archbishop. On the Dais was seated also Cardinal Oswald Gracias who had expressed his condolences while delivering the homily and Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Administrator. Also present were the Hon. Union Cabinet Minister Shri K.V. Thomas, former Union Cabinet Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes, State Cabinet Minister Shri S. Sharma and many Archbishops and Bishops. The meeting came to a close at about 8.00 p.m.

While the condolence meeting was going on, many hundreds more were visiting the Basilica to pay their last respects to the Major Archbishop. When the meeting was over, the liturgical rites for the interment of the body in the specially prepared grave on the main sanctuary of the Basilica were conducted by the Administrator Bishop Bosco Puthur, assisted by the two auxiliaries of Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese and in the presence of some bishops and many priests and religious sisters and lay faithful. At about 8.30 p.m. all the ceremonies were over and the tomb was closed.

Fr. Antony Kollannur,
Chancellor, Major Archepiscopal Curia.
APPOINTMENT LETTER OF MAR JOSE
CHITTOOPARAMBIL, CMI, BISHOP OF RAJKOT

BENEDICTUS EPISCOPUS SERVUS SERVORUM DEI,
dilecto Filio Josepho Chittooparambil, Congregationis Fratrum
Carmelitarum Beatae Virginis Mariae Immaculatae sodali, hactenus
eiusdem Congregationis Provinciae Sancti Francisci Xaverei Superiori
Provinciali, constituto eparchia Raikotensis Episcopo, salutem et
Apostolicam Benedictionem.

Vitae contemplativae et apostolatus munera coniungendo, divini
Magistri vestigia sequi conamur. Idcirco cum in praesens, per
renuntiationem Venerabilis Fratris Gregorii Karotempel, C.M.I.,
juuenis eparchia Raikotensis suo orbata sit legitoimo Moderatore, te,
dilecte Fili, quem novimus spiritalem vitam colentem et pastorali
animo ferventer, rerum divinarum humanarumque satis peritum,
prudentia quoque ceterisque virtutibus praeditum, aptum arbitramur
ad hanc communitatem regendam, quae iam antea novit sacerdotalen
tuum zelum. Ideo, de sententia Congregationis pro Ecclesiis
Orientalibus, Apostolica Nostra potestate, te constituisimus Episcopum
RAIKOTENSEM, datis huius munera propris iuribus congruеisque
impositis obligationibus. Quod attinet ad fidei professionem
necon promissionem, officium fideliter implendi, ac similiter
tuum ordinationem episcopalem, praescripta canonum Ecclesiarum
Orientalium rite servabis. Insuper has Litteras Nostras clero ac
populo eparchiae tibi creditae notas facies, ut digne te accipient veluti
spiritalem suum rectorem, prompte tibi pareant, in bonis inceptis
ferventer te adiuvent. Committimus, dilecte Fili, ministerium tuum
pastorale tutelae beatae Mariae Virginis, quae eximium exstat exemplar
omnium fidelium, ut eius intercessione roboratus Apostolorum atque
sanctorum Pastorum vestigia sequi valeas, ipse firmiter confitens
aliosque docens Iesum Christum verum esse Dominum et Deum “qui
omnes homines vult salvos fieri et ad agnitionem veritatis venire” (1
Tim 2,4).

Datum Romae, apud Sanctum Petrum, die vicesimo tertio mensis
Iulii, anno Domini bismillesimo decimo, Pontificatus Nostri sexto.
Benedictus PP.XVI
ACTIVITY OF THE MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL TRIBUNAL IN SECOND INSTANCE -2010

A. CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED AFTER AN ORDINARY PROCESS IN FIRST INSTANCE.

1. Causes pending at the beginning of the year: 14
2. Causes introduced this year: 177
3. Decrees of ratification (total number): 169
4. Grounds of nullity considered in the decrees:
   (If a decision considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the total number of decisions under 4 may be greater than that under 3)
   
   CCEO c. 801 (Impotence): 02
   CCEO c. 818,1° (Lack of sufficient use of reason): 00
   CCEO c. 818,2° (Grave lack of discretion): 11
   CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume): 21
   CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality): 42
   CCEO c. 821 (Fraud): 20
   CCEO cc. 820§2, 821 (Fraudulent error): 10
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Simulation total): 07
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against fidelity): 21
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against children): 03
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against good of the spouses): 11
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against indissolubility): 08
   CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear): 25
CCEO c. 826 (Condition):

5. Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):
   a) In favour of nullity ("constat de nullitate", at least on one ground):
   b) In favour of the bond ("non constat de nullitate": on every ground alleged)

6. 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 6 may be greater than the sum of 5a and 5b)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE (constat de nullitate)</th>
<th>NEGATIVE (non constat de nullitate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 818,2 (Grave lack of discretion)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 818,3º (Inability to assume)</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality)</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against fidelity)</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against good of spouses)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 821 (Fraud)</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear)</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Causes abandoned:
   a) Through renunciation nil
   b) Through abatement (Peremptio) nil
8. Causes pending at the end of the year

ACTIVITY OF THE TRIBUNAL IN THIRD & SUBSEQUENT INSTANCES -2010

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

1. Causes pending at the beginning of the year:  01
2. Causes introduced this year:  14
3. Decrees of ratification (total number)  07
   as per CCEO can.1369):
4. Grounds of nullity considered in the decrees:
   (If a decision considered several grounds of nullity, these are to be indicated separately; thus the total number of decisions under 4 may be greater than that under 3)
   CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume)  01
   CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality):  02
   CCEO c. 821 (Fraud)  02
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Total simulation)  01
   CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against good of the spouses):  01
   CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear):  01
5. Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):  07
   a) In favour of nullity ("constat de nullitate", at least on one ground)  06
   b) In favour of the bond ("non constat de nullitate": on every ground alleged)  01
6. **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 of 6 may be greater than the sum of 5a and 5b)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE</th>
<th>NEGATIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>(constat de nullitate)</td>
<td>(non constat de nullitate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 818,2° (Grave lack of discretion)</td>
<td>02</td>
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<td>CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume)</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality):</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 821 (Fraud)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against fidelity)</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear)</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Causes abandoned:**

   a) Through renunciation (due to the death of the respondent): nil
   
   b) Through abatement (Peremptio): nil

8. **Decrees of Nullity of Sentence:** nil

9. **Causes pending at the end of the year:** 01

**OTHER MATTERS**

1. **Bishops from the Tribunal**

   It was a matter of great joy and blessing for the tribunal that two judges, Rev. Fr. Remigius Inchananiyil and Rev. Fr. Paul Alappatt were elected bishops of the eparchies of Thamarassery and Ramanathapuram respectively. They were ordained bishops in April 2010.
2. New Ministers for the Tribunal

Rev. Dr. James Thalachelloor from the eparchy of Kanjirappally and Rev. Dr. Vincent Chittilappilly from the archeparchy of Trichur were appointed judges, Rev. Dr. Joseph Velinjalil from the eparchy of Idukki was appointed a defender of the bond and Rev. Sr. Ancy Maria of the Holy Family Congregation was appointed the office secretary and a notary.

3. Seminar for the Tribunal Personnel

The Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Ordinary Tribunal organized, as it does every year, a seminar for the ministers working in various metropolitan and eparchial tribunals in India on Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 and 24, 2010. This time, the seminar was intended mainly for the defenders of the bond and the notaries in the ecclesiastical tribunals. Sixty four persons participated in the seminar. Mar Bosco Puthur, Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, inaugurated the seminar. Resource persons of the seminar were. Rev. Dr. Jose Marattil (Procedure in Handling Marriage Cases); Rev. Dr. Joseph Mundakathil (Function of the Defenders of the Bond in Ecclesiastical Tribunals); Rev. Dr. Berchmans Kodackal (Function of Notaries in Ecclesiastical Tribunals). A sharing session was organized in the afternoon of the last day. It was moderated by Rev. Dr. Saju Kuthodiputhenpurayil CST. Besides the resource persons, Rev. Dr. Sr. Sherin SH, Rev. Sr. Geetha CMC and Rev. Sr. Blessy SABS were on the dais to lead the session.

4. Meeting of the Judicial Vicars

Meeting of all the judicial vicars of the tribunals of the Syro Malabar Church within the proper territory was convened under the auspices of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on Monday, November 8, 2010. Mar Mathew Moolakatt, the General Moderator for the Administration of Justice, presided over the meeting. It was an occasion to evaluate the activities of the eparchial and metropolitan tribunals in the Church. It helped the tribunals to improve efficiency in their action and uniformity in procedure. It insisted the need of
correctly following the application of law in processing cases. It discussed the major areas that could be subjected to the inspection of the General Moderator in his visit of the tribunals.

Mount St. Thomas
25-01-2011

Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal
President
## MAJOR ARCHI EPISCOPAL CURIA OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH
**ERNAKULAM-ANGAMALY**
**MOUNT ST.THOMAS, KAKKANAD, COCHIN – 682 030**

**SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2011**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>2009-10</th>
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<td>RECEIPTS</td>
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<td>150,716</td>
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<td>783,312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synodal and Commission Meetings</td>
<td>Agriculture Income</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>934,000</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>9,398,368</td>
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<td>1,382,601</td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>15,524,722</td>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sd/-
Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil
Finance Officer

Sd/-
C.J. Romid FCA
Chartered Accountant