XX SYNOD (2012)

SPEECHES

REPORTS

DECISIONS

DECREES

PASTORAL LETTERS
SYNODAL NEWS
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Editorial

The year 2011-2012 was conspicuous with many important events for the Syro-Malabar Church as well as for the Universal Church. The Mission Year celebrated in the Syro-Malabar Church from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012, marking the golden jubilee of the launching of the Syro-Malabar Mission into the virgin lands in 1962 in the present eparchy of Chanda and Adilabad, created a great surge in the mission consciousness among the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church. It was followed in the Universal Church by the Year of Faith announced by the Holy Father on 11 October 2012 to be concluded on 24 November 2013. Both these events fit in well with the theme of the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops held in Rome from 7-28 October 2012: the New Evangelization for the Transmission of Faith. In his intervention during the Synod, the Major Archbishop emphasized the need for “a new way of being and living the Christian reality in the Church and the Society. The priests and men and women of consecrated life who are to be in the forefront of evangelization need the inner urge of a ‘cannot but preach the Gospel’ as was evidenced in St. Paul and the great array of missionaries of past decades.” The Major Archbishop pointed out that “the transmission of faith is always through the traditions of the particular churches and Churches sui iuris” which “require more and more encouragement and support from all quarters of the Universal Church”. This is, continued the Major Archbishop, due to a “Lack of clear vision and understanding of the communion ecclesiology visualized by the Council Vatican II” and “is making the potentialities of evangelization and pastoral care of certain individual churches uncreative in some communities of their emigrants, especially those of the Oriental Churches.”
The erection of the Eparchy of Faridabad was a partial fulfillment of the encouragement and support of the Universal Church in the light of the Communion Ecclesiology. It has opened the way for effective pastoral care for a hundred thousand Syro-Malabar faithful and for evangelization in the five Federal States of India along with two districts of another Federal State. It is a huge task not only for the eparchy of Faridabad, but also for the entire Syro-Malabar Church for a witness of its faith life and ecclesial traditions. The Synodal News wishes the new eparchy and its Bishop, Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara every success.

In the two recent consistories, the Heads of the two Oriental Churches were honoured with the title of Cardinal which is a recognition of these Churches and also the recognition of the individual merits of their Heads. While we rejoice at the conferring of this honour on Their Beatitudes Mar George Alencherry and Baselios Mar Cleemis, we pray for God’s continued blessing upon them so that they may continue to give effective leadership to these Churches in the Universal Church and in the International Arena.

In this issue of the Synodal News (Vol. 20 Nos. 1 – 3, December 2012) we have included documents relating to the three Sessions of the XX Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church held in the year 2012. Besides, there are Pastoral Letters and Circulars, 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.
XX Synod (2012)
Session 1
09 – 13 January 2012
XX Synod (2012) Session 1
9-13 January 2012
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

The year 2012 has dawned raising in our hearts and minds new hopes and aspirations for a renewed Church and a better world. The celebration of the great feast of Christmas has been of abounding spiritual enthusiasm in our parishes and other ecclesial communities including those of Syro-Malabar emigrants in India and abroad. On the feast of Denha, the Apostolic See has once again manifested its recognition of the unique place and role of our Individual Church in the Catholic communion by conferring Cardinalate to its Head. Let us be thankful to the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for this act of his Petrinal solicitude towards our Church. The Churches and the people of different religions in India, and the Universal Church as a whole are looking up to us with unprecedented expectations for our involvement in a service of reconciliation and establishment of peace within the Church and the society at large.

During the post-Christmas days our Church was blessed by God with 225 ordinations to priesthood in the eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church and a good number of our candidates for the dioceses of the Latin Church. In the new priests’ day conducted on 7th January, 70 of the newly ordained priests participated and it helped them to have a direct contact with the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and its various functions.

The blessings that the Church received through the programmes of the Mission Year are many and I appreciate
the energy and enthusiasm of all those who are championing this great event in local, diocesan and major archiepiscopal levels by meaningful and innovative items that have created a new awareness and motivation towards our commitment for evangelization. The Mission Seminars at Hope Centre, Mumbai and Dharmaram, Bangalore, were successful as regards the content of inputs and discussions that led to many action plans. The Children’s Meet at Bharananganam proved a gala performance of children through liturgical celebrations, mission exhibition and cultural programmes. The Mission Anthem has become a memorable melody in the minds of the youth and children all over the Church. Let us hope that the Mission Year celebration will keep the same tempo and reach a successful conclusion that will take the whole Church to an era of “new evangelization for the transmission of faith”.

After the previous Synod, all the Commissions and Committees were actively functioning with various meetings and programmes with the orientations given by the Synod. The Apex Body for formulating an integral common vision of formation convened the proposed consultation with the people responsible for formation in seminaries and institutes of consecrated life. This Synod will surely take up the findings of the consultation and take proper decisions for renewal in the field of formation. The Commission for Catechesis conducted the Prthibha Sangamam of students of the XII Standard and honoured the best two prathibhas (one boy and one girl) with the SMCC Award. The dynamics of prathibha sangamam that lasted for three days was a highly motivating ecclesial experience for the young participants. The newly constituted Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life conducted a consultation of the Major Superiors that resulted in the pouring out of ideas and sentiments to be effectively addressed in the future functioning of the Commission and the Synod. The office of the Mission Fund has been installed and its working has gained an initial momentum and Bishop Gregory Karotempre, CMI, may inform the Synod of its success story.
As we know the Church is fully orientated to the task of the new evangelization for the transmission of faith, the theme on which the Holy Father has declared the forthcoming Synod in October 2012. As a complementary observance, he has also announced the year of faith to commemorate the golden jubilee of Council Vatican II. It is up to us to take these orientations into the lives of our people and assure the process of successful evangelization in our eparchies and communities of emigrant Syro-Malabar faithful.

The International Eucharistic Congress is scheduled from 10-17 June 2012 in Dublin and I intend to participate in it, with the delegation of Syro-Malabar Church organized by Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST and Fr. Thomas Parayadiyil, MST, as directed by the previous Synod.

In the present Synod we have many items of common interest in which we have to take practical decisions and a continued discussion on the question of our jurisdictional authority over the emigrant faithful. The construction of the extension of the curia building is almost completed and we are planning to have its blessing by His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, who is expected to visit us on 12th January. The detailed programme of his visit is given to us in the files.

I would like to inform you that my pastoral visits in certain dioceses of India, in Chicago, and in the diaspora communities of Bangalore, Delhi, Chennai, in Rome, Canada, Paris, and Singapore have helped me to have fruitful pastoral contacts with the Bishops, priests, the religious and the people with a view to create greater ecclesial awareness everywhere. Let me express my gratitude to the paternal solicitude of the Holy Father to my office as Major Archbishop and the continued concern of the Congregation for Eastern Churches towards our needs. The other dicasteries in Rome also have extended support for the continued appeals that we have placed before the Apostolic See. I also thank you, all my brother Archbishops and Bishops
for your whole-hearted support and encouragement that you give me individually and through the Synodal action and I feel greatly helped by you to continue my service for the good of our Church with the everlasting strength of the grace of God.

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 XX Synod 2012 open.

Mount St. Thomas + George Alencherry
9 January 2012 Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XX Synod (2012), Session 1
9-13 January

REPORT

The XX Synod (2012), Session 1 began with a recollection, in the context of the Mission Year celebration, preached by Fr. K.D. Chacko from the eparchy of Chanda at 10.00 a.m. The preacher was introduced by Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST and Bishop Jacob Manathodath proposed vote of thanks. After the personal prayer, the concelebrated Holy Qurbana of the Bishops was presided over by the Major Archbishop. In the homily, the Major Archbishop, referring to the Gospel of the day regarding the purification of the temple said that there is the Latin dictum “ecclesia semper reformanda,” the Church is in a continuous process of renewal. The word Church signifies the house of worship, but much more than that it is the body of Christ which has to be renewed constantly. The Major Archbishop brought to the attention of the Bishops the important passage in the Gospel of the day “the zeal for your house will consume me” and invited the Bishops always to take leadership in the continuous purification of the Church.

In the afternoon there was the sharing by the Missionaries, Fr. Jeevan K.D. and Sr. Fredia CMC from the eparchy of Chanda and Mr. Lourdsamy from the eparchy of Adilabad, of their experiences in the Mission. The speakers were introduced by Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST and the Major Archbishop thanked them for their valuable and inspiring sharing.

The first sitting of the day started at 4.30 p.m. with the prayer led by the Major Archbishop.

Felicitation to the Cardinal Designate Major Archbishop George Alencherry: Archbishop George Valiamattam felicitated Major Archbishop George Alencherry on his nomination by the
Holy Father to the College of Cardinals. Archbishop mentioned that it is a recognition to the Syro-Malabar Church, and also to the person of the Major Archbishop who could win the hearts of the people in all walks of life within this short period. The Major Archbishop being the Father and Head of our Church, through this nomination is being called also to the leadership service in the Universal Church. In the name of the Synod and in the name of the whole Syro-Malabar Church, Archbishop Valiamattam felicitated the Cardinal Designate and Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB presented him with a bouquet.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: In the beginning of his inaugural address, the Major Archbishop thanked the Holy Father and the Apostolic See which has once again manifested its recognition of the unique place and role of our Individual Church in the Catholic communion by conferring Cardinalate to its Head. He further mentioned that the Churches and the people of different religions in India, and the Universal Church as a whole are looking up to us with unprecedented expectations for our involvement in a service of reconciliation and establishment of peace within the Church and the society at large. The Major Archbishop expressed his appreciation for the well-organized programmes and activities of the various Commissions of our Church. Invoking God’s blessings and welcoming the Synodal Fathers, he formally declared the XX Synod (2012), Session 1 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 Abraham Mattam (Emeritus, Satna), Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy (Emeritus, Trichur), Mar Dominic Kokkat CST (Emeritus, Gorakhpur), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), 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 Adayanthurth (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), Mar Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), and Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara (Administrator, Thuckalay).

**Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod:** In consultation with the Synod, the Major Archbishop confirmed as Moderators Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI, Bishop Jose Arumachadath MCBS and Bishop Paul Alappatt, as Tellers Bishop Paul Alappatt, Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Bishop Jose Chittooparambil CMI, as Members of the Committee for the Media Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Bishop Mathew Arackal, and Bishop Raphael Thattil, as the person in charge of Liturgical Celebrations Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath and as Members of the Committee for the Circular after the Synod Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI and Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS.
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.

Sharing of Information by the Major Archbishop:

1. Angelo Cardinal Bagnasco, the President of the Italian Bishops’ Conference has appointed Fr. Stephen Chirappanath National Coordinator of the Syro-Malabarians in Italy.

2. The Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches has appointed Bishop Jacob Manathodath Bishop in charge of the Syro-Malabar priests residing in Collegio Damasceno, Rome.

3. The Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches has informed of the termination of the service of Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI as Apostolic Visitor and has requested the mind of the Synod regarding future nomination to this office.

4. The Major Archbishop informed the House of certain negative references in the address of the Latin Bishops of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala to the Holy Father during their ad limina visit:
   
a. There are 1.7 million Latin Church Catholics in Kerala, “though it goes often unnoticed, due to the powerful presence of other sui iuris Churches of the Syro-Malabar and Syro-Malankara rite.”

b. “Unlike some other Churches and Christian denominations which remain exclusively linked to particular caste or community, the Latin Church all over India, has a chequered history of missionary activities of almost eight centuries, and a commendable tradition of embracing all sections of people, especially the poor and the downtrodden, irrespective of caste, community, or social status.”
c. "The Latin rite Catholic Church in Kerala, has to bear with some strange and humiliating situations, in its relation to other rites ... However, their well-calculated plan of extending their own jurisdiction, wherever it is possible, cause many a hurdle to our mission and sometimes we feel almost stifled by them. We are constrained to say that any extension of pluri-jurisdiction outside Kerala, without mutual understanding and concern for each other, will certainly threaten the fabric of Indian Catholic Community."

5. The progress regarding the erection of eparchies in Delhi, Chennai and Bangalore.

6. Investiture which is going to take place in Rome on 18 February and the participation of the delegation.

7. Pastoral possibilities for the migrants:
   a. Australia: The Australian Bishops have expressed their openness to our suggestion for ecclesiastical structures for the Syro-Malabarians. We expect without delay some concrete measures in this regard.
   
   b. Canada: The initiatives taken by the Major Archbishop during his visit to Canada as well as that of Bishop Angadiath, the Apostolic Visitor to Canada for our own ecclesiastical structures there may bear some fruits in the near future.
   
   c. Singapore: As a result of the visit of the Major Archbishop to Singapore and his personal meetings with the Archbishop of Singapore, Nicolas Chia and the Apostolic Nuncio, the stand of the Archbishop regarding pastoral care of our faithful has softened.
   
   d. South Africa: The Archbishop of Pretoria, William Slattery had requested to send two priests for pastoral care of our faithful in Pretoria.
e. Gulf Countries: Bishop Camillo Ballin seems to have mellowed his attitude towards us and the Major Archbishop expressed his hope that the pastoral situation in the Gulf region may improve.

Acknowledgement of the Services of the Apostolic Visitor: The Major Archbishop expressed the deep gratitude of the Church to Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI for the great service he rendered as Apostolic Visitor through strenuous effort and great sacrifices. In this context, the Major Archbishop asked the mind of the Synod regarding the appointment of a new Bishop as Apostolic Visitor in the place of Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI. There was a suggestion from some members that such an Apostolic Visitor could be entrusted with the charge of the migrants in India. In general the Synod welcomed the idea but some expressed their reservation on such an appointment. As there was no time for discussion, the matter was adjourned for further deliberation.

In a later sitting, the Major Archbishop asked for further clarification from the Synod regarding the appointment of a new Bishop as Apostolic Visitor. After a lengthy discussion on the matter the Synod decided to request the Major Archbishop to initiate the process of appointing a new Bishop as the Apostolic Visitor with independent charge. The Major Archbishop summarized the various suggestions arising from the discussion regarding the mandate of the Apostolic Visitor in the following points: 1. To coordinate the pastoral care of the migrants, 2. To facilitate the creation of ecclesiastical structures and 3. To find out possibilities of evangelization. The Synod suggested that Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, in consultation with Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI prepare a pro-memoria note for the Major Archbishop for being helpful in dialoguing with the Apostolic See regarding the terms of reference for the activities of the Apostolic Visitor.

Delegation to Rome: The Major Archbishop announced to the Synod that a delegation comprising the two auxiliaries
of Ernakulam-Angamaly, the Curia Bishop and Curia Chancellor, will accompany the Cardinal Designate to Rome for the investiture. After some discussion, the Synod requested Archbishop George Valiamattam to be part of the delegation. Bishop Jacob Angadiath informed the Synod of his participation in the investiture ceremony.

**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.

**Finalizing 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, such as the report on the Youth Association, report on the consultation of the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life, proposal for the New Rector for Kunnoth Seminary and Campaign against cancer organized by the Laity Commission. With these additional items, the Synod approved the following items of the agenda:

1. Report of the apex body for formulating an integral common vision of formation.
2. Request for a new Eparchy in the region of Malappuram.
3. Taking over the St. Thomas Church and St. Joseph's School, Surat by the Synod.
6. Reporting on the trial celebration of the Second Anaphora by the Commission for Liturgy and by the Eparchies.

10. Request of the Synod to the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of the Legislative Texts regarding the question whether India is an Oriental Territory or a Latin Territory.

11. Reporting by the Committee for the study of the canonical and historical facts on the dates of the erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur, Changanacherry and Ernakulam-Angamaly.


13. Implementation of the Synodal decision regarding the public celebration of Divine Liturgy in religious houses.


15. To declare the Ephrem Theological Seminary a Mission Seminary of the Syro-Malabar Church under the Synod.

16. Getting the civil documents of our Churches and Institutions as legally valid documents.

17. Draft Proposals of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization.

18. Sharing of Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction between two neighbouring Bishops.


20. Modality of conferring the titles of Malpan/ Vaidikaratnam and Sabharatnam.
22. Proposal for the revision of the section on Monks and Religious of CCEO.
23. Briefing on the project of the Procura.
24. Reporting on Deepika.
25. Reporting on the present situation of AKCC.
27. Pastoral recommendations for the year of faith given by the Holy Father.
28. Cause of beatification and canonization of Puthenparampil Thommachan.

**Report of the Apex Body for Formulating an Integral Common Vision of Formation:** Bishop Bosco Puthur read out the report of the consultation the Apex Body had with the formation teams of both diocesan and religious seminaries on seminary formation. It was for the first time that such a consultation took place with the participation of the formators of all the major seminaries of the Syro-Malabar Church. The participants were very enthusiastic and requested the Synod to give them clear guidance regarding formation. After some discussion it was suggested that the Synod prioritizes the suggestions and formulates guidelines for formators. There was a proposal that we should evolve a methodology for implementing the suggestions. As to the question whether the guidelines are meant for the seminaries under the Synod, or under various dioceses and religious congregations, the Major Archbishop clarified that the participants in the consultation
enthusiastically welcomed guidelines meant for all formation houses. Each seminary may have to apply them taking into consideration its special status. The Synod reaffirmed that all the members of the staff of the seminary are part of the formation team.

There was a suggestion that among the recommendations number one regarding the guidelines for selection, appointment, formation, evaluation and promotion of the seminary formators and number nine regarding formulation of norms for the resident formators could be combined together and given the first priority. Hence guidelines could be made regarding selection, formation and involvement of the formators in the formation. Some Bishops suggested that in prayer life we should insist on the personal encounter of the candidate with Christ. The Major Archbishop reminded the Synod that Bishops are ultimately responsible for the selection and formation of the candidates and the seminary staff is to cooperate in this as per the direction of the Synod. Finally it was decided to form a committee comprising the Commissions of the three Synodal Major Seminaries and the Bishops responsible for other Major Seminaries, to draft the guidelines in consultation with the Rectors. Bishop Bosco Puthur shall be its convener. After having heard the opinion of the Bishops and the Major Superiors concerned on the Draft, the Guidelines shall be presented to the Permanent Synod for approval.

During the consultation the formators requested that the result of the survey taken on priestly life and formation by Fr. Paul Parathazham may be made available to the seminaries for their information, reflection and eventual action. Bishop Pauly Knookadan informed the Synod that he will get the result of the survey from Fr. Paul Parathazham to make it available to the seminary staff.

**Request for an Eparchy in the Region of Malappuram:**
Bishop Jose Porunnedom presented the proposal of people from Manimooi Forane for an eparchy in the Malappuram
District where the Christians are a small minority among the overwhelming majority of Muslims. Bishop Porunmedom made the suggestion that they can be helped pastorally by appointing an Auxiliary specially for that region. Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil was of opinion that being close to the eparchy of Thamarassery, his eparchy could give better pastoral care to the people of that region. Archbishop George Valiamattam informed the Synod that the request from the faithful of Manimoootty in the district of Malappuram deserves special consideration and urgent action of the Synod. They need protection, encouragement and leadership from the part of the Church for keeping up their faith in a district which is predominantly of Muslim population. Appointment of an Auxiliary Bishop may not be a solution. A new eparchy in the region is the best solution. If this is not possible, next choice is to entrust the entire area to the eparchy of Thamarassery and the eparchy of Thamarassery takes extraordinary care and gives special leadership in their religious and social life. The Major Archbishop said that whatever be the solution, the important point is to strengthen the faithful of that region in their religious and social life. After a lengthy discussion on the matter, the Synod decided that the Bishops of the province of Tellicherry first discuss the matter and bring before this Session of the Synod their proposals. Archbishop George Valiamattam shall be the convener for such consultation and Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, shall facilitate the discussions. Bishops emeriti of the region shall be consulted on the matter.

Report on the Movement of Fr. Varghese Alengadan:
Bishop Anthony Chirayath presented his findings on the Universal Solidarity Movement of Fr. Varghese Alengadan. Bishop Chirayath informed the Synod that he had written to Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal of Indore in whose diocese Fr. Varghese is at present engaged in ministry. Bishop Chacko expressed his satisfaction on the person and activities of Fr. Varghese. The Madhya Pradesh Bishops’ Council has initiated a study on the Movement of Fr. Alengadan. Bishop Chirayath
informed that several Bishops of that region have expressed their reservations on the matter.

Bishop Chirayath had personally talked to Fr. Varghese and had written to him asking explanations on several controversial points regarding his Movement. Although Fr. Varghese has given his response, Bishop Chirayath felt that the Movement of Fr. Varghese is harmful to the Church. The Synod was of opinion that Bishop Chirayath has to write to Fr. Varghese bringing to his attention the aberrations in his teachings and practices. Bishop Chirayath informed the Synod that as he has not sufficient evidence on the errors in the ministry of Fr. Varghese and as the Madhya Pradesh Bishops’ Council is in the process of studying the issue, it is better not to write such a letter at this point.

Taking over the School in Surat: Bishop Bosco Puthur presented the actual situation of the St. Joseph’s school under the Trust of the Syro-Malabar faithful in Surat facing threat of confiscation by the Bank on default of the repayment of interest and Bank loan. At present the community has to pay back to the Bank more than 95 Lakhs of Rupees and to individuals 30 Lakhs. Unless immediate steps are taken, the school will be lost to the community. In the ensuing discussion, several Bishops including Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI, Bishop Jose Chittooparambil CMI, and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST explained various aspects of the problem. The Major Archbishop told the Synod that the assets of the school are worth Crores at present, and we have to help the community in this difficult situation. It was decided to authorize Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Laity Commission to form a Trust to initiate the process of take over of the School and report to the Permanent Synod regarding the actions to be followed.

Updating on the Syro-Malabar Mission Year: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, presented to the Synod a short report on the various activities in connection with the Syro-Malabar Mission Year. He expressed his general satisfaction regarding
the various activities and programmes in the eparchies and in the Syro-Malabar Church as a whole and thanked the Bishops for their keen interest and support to the Mission Year. He said that the solemn conclusion of the Mission Year will take place in Delhi to which all Bishops are cordially invited. The Committee for the Mission Year celebrations further suggested that the Bishops go to Mannanam for a solemn Eucharistic concelebration during the Synod in August. The House agreed to the proposal. There was a suggestion that the Major Archbishop issues a circular towards the end of the Mission Year. Another suggestion was regarding documentation of the details of the celebration of the Mission Year in the eparchies. The Major Archbishop advised the Bishops to encourage the faithful to be more active in the celebration of the Mission Year.

**Implementation of the Second Vatican Council Documents:** Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam presented a detailed schema on the implementation of the documents of the Second Vatican Council and Post Vatican Council documents in the Syro-Malabar Church. He said that our study on the reception of the Council has to take into account the past, present and future dimensions of the life of our Church from the point of view of its Catholic, Oriental and Indian identity. We have to see what we have achieved, in what we have failed and what we have missed out in negligence, so that we have a better understanding of our present and can create a will for further and deeper reception of the Council into the future life of our Church.

At the request of the Members Bishop Bosco Puthur read out the pastoral recommendations from the Vatican for the Celebration of the Year of Faith. These recommendations are at four levels: 1. Universal Church, 2. Episcopal Conferences, 3. Diocesan level, and 4. Parishes, Communities, Associations and Movements.

During the discussions that followed the Major Archbishop suggested that we formulate an action plan for the celebrations
of the Year of Faith after the model of the Mission Year, taking into account salient points of both papers presented. It was suggested that more initiatives should be given to the parish and diocesan level activities. A committee was formed consisting of the Commissions for Catechesis, Liturgy, Doctrine, Ecumenism and LRC with Bishop Bosco Puthur as Convener to formulate guidelines for the celebration of the Year of Faith and the study of the implementation of the documents of the II Vatican Council and present it in the following Session of the Synod.

**Pastoral Care in Australia:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the Australian Bishops have expressed their openness to our suggestion for ecclesiastical structures for the Syro-Malabarians and that we expect without delay some concrete measures in this regard, in which case, he shall initiate the process of preparing the terna.

**Mission Sunday Collection:** The Major Archbishop requested the Bishops to take greater interest in the Mission Sunday celebrations of the Universal Church and cooperate wholeheartedly in the Mission Sunday collection and forward it to the Apostolic See.

**Consecration of the Cathedral of the Eparchy of Bijnor:** Major Archbishop expressed his great satisfaction on the beautiful cathedral of the eparchy of Bijnor which he blessed in the month of October 2011 and complimented Bishop John Vadakel CMI and Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI for this great achievement.

**Implementation of the Synodal Decision Regarding the Celebration of Qurbana:** Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI, brought to the attention of the Synod the need of implementing the Synodal decision regarding the mode of celebration of Qurbana. The Major Archbishop was of opinion that we need not enter into a detailed discussion on the matter. However he exhorted the members of the Synod that 1. We should strive to implement the decision of the Synod regarding
uniform mode of celebration in the migrant communities outside
the proper territory, 2. We have to be models in our liturgical
celebrations, without omitting prayers of the anaphora. 3. We
shall strive to use bema, incense and other essential elements
in the celebration of the Qurbana on Sundays and solemn
occasions.

Report on the Dates of Erection of the Archdiocese of
Trichur, Changanacherry and Ernakulam-Angamaly:
Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, presented the report of the
Committee for the study of canonical and historical facts on the
dates of erection of the Metropolitan Archdioceses of Trichur,
Changanacherry and Ernakulam-Angamaly. The report
concluded that “since the See and Title of Trichur Apostolic
Vicariate erected in 1887 remained unchanged when it was re-
erected as Vicariate in 1896, historically it can claim its date of
erection to be 20 May 1887. Since the ordinary residence of
the Vicar Apostolic of Kottayam was shifted to Changanacherry
in 1889 though the title of the Vicariate remained ‘Kottayam’,
Changanacherry has reasons to claim that it is the continuation
of the Vicariate Apostolic of Kottayam erected in 1887.”

There were many interventions during the subsequent
discussion. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath said that from
the above study it is very clear that the date of erection of the
Archdiocese of Trichur is 1887. Hence the Synod has to take
appropriate decision to get the matter corrected in the Annuario
Pontificio. Although he was not concerned regarding the date
of erection of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, he expressed
a certain reservation regarding the assertion that the year of
its erection date too is 1887. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt told
the Synod that question regarding the date of erection is not a
matter that concerns only these two Archdioceses, rather it is of
great importance to the whole Syro-Malabar Church because
it is in 1887 that the Syro-Malabar Church gets independent
ritual existence in modern times. Hence the whole Church
has to celebrate this jubilee. Unfortunately what happened in
1896 was a restriction to our All India Jurisdiction. Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, said that he too is of the same opinion. Some others too suggested for a common celebration of the jubilee of the 125th anniversary of the erection of the first two Syro-Malabar Vicariates. In the final stage of the discussion, the general opinion was that there is no need of a common celebration as these two Archdioceses have already planned their own celebrations. However, some suggested that during the celebrations in these two places it will be appropriate that Bishops of our Church participate and highlight that this jubilee is of importance to the whole Syro-Malabar Church. Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam stated that although there is change of name from Kottayam to Changanacherry, the Archdiocese of Changanacherry is the true inheritor of the Vicariate Apostolic of Kottayam erected in 1887. The Synod unanimously accepted the date of erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur as 1887.

Regarding the formulation of the proposed entry of the date of erection of Changanacherry in the Annuario Pontificio there was no unanimity. Bishop Bosco Puthur said that while he was Vicar General in Trichur, this matter had been referred to Rome and the response was that in order to correct the date of erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur in the Annuario Pontificio the Major Archbishop has to request for it with the consent of the Synod. The Major Archbishop made his mind clear stating that on his own accord he will not act upon the matter unless the Synod gives a clear decision. A committee with Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Paul Chittilapilly and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI, was formed in order to draft a letter to the Apostolic See regarding the correction of the dates of the erection of these two Archdioceses and present it in this Session of the Synod.

In a later sitting, Bishop Bosco Puthur, Convener of the Committee to study suggestions regarding the date of erection of Changanacherry, presented the following recommendation:


In fact this was the entry found in Annuario Pontificio of 1995. The Synod decided to accept the above proposal and requested the Major Archbishop to write to the Apostolic See accordingly.

**Report of the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life on the Consultation with the Religious:** The Religious expressed their satisfaction in establishing the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated life and acknowledged that it was a recognition of the Religious in the Church. The newly constituted Commission for the Institutes of Consecrated Life had on 8 January 2012 a consultation with the Major Superiors of all the Religious Congregations of our Church in which 124 participated among whom were 94 women religious. The Major Archbishop and the three members of the Commission participated in it and addressed the assembly. It was meant mainly to get the feed back on the Guidelines for the Religious working in other *sui iuris* Churches. Since many members present were new, they could not give any suggestion regarding the proposed guidelines. The Commission told that they are studying the suggestions proposed by SMRC and will incorporate them accordingly. In the consultation many issues that concerned the religious of our Church came up. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Chairman of the Commission presented an oral report from the consultation. The following issues came up:

1. The women religious and religious brothers shared their dissatisfaction at the behaviour of some of the priests towards them, even publicly humiliating them.
2. There still exists in the Church gender discrimination as a result of male chauvinism.

3. Parish priests do not include the religious in the planning and decision-making of the pastoral ministry, but demand from them the execution of the decisions.

4. In the vocation promotion the religious are often discriminated.

5. Just remuneration is not always given to the religious.

6. Men religious complained that they feel stifled by the decisions of the Church authorities.

In the ensuing discussions the following points came up:

1. The Syro-Malabar Church should implement the CBCI Gender policy in our parishes and institutions.

2. We should give awareness programmes in the seminaries regarding the importance of ministry of the religious in the Church.

3. In the parishes and institutions we should develop participatory ministry, also involving the religious in the planning and decision making process.

4. The Religious have to ensure their active participation in the parish prathinidhiyogam.

5. We have to take seriously the suggestions of the document of the CBCI, Mutual Relations.

6. We have to consider the suggestions of Sr. Theodesia, CSN, Secretary of SMRC, which she presented in the Synod.

7. The Bishops should find time to listen to the religious, as we do during the KCBC Meeting.

8. There should be mention of the religious in the prayers of the Qurbana.

9. Appropriate remuneration has to be given to the religious.

10. The religious working for the diocesan institutions should be given free days for their recollection and retreats.
11. See that necessary contracts are made when religious come for service in the parishes.

12. Religious brothers should be given involvement in the parish activities.

After the discussion, the Synod decided to include the religious in the prayer of the Qurbana and the Commission for Liturgy is entrusted with suggesting the appropriate place for it.

**Financial Situation of the Curia:** Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer of the Curia presented briefly the financial situation of the Curia and the urgent works and repairs to be done. He told that the construction of the second floor is almost over, but we need at least 50 Lakhs more to pay the bills. He pointed out that the Chapel, the auditorium and the Refectory need immediate roofing in order to avoid further damage to the building due to leakage. We need to change sanitary wares in our closets. As the activities of the Commissions have increased and as we have increased number of visitors our expense on food items have gone up considerably. The house needs new washing machine, Steamer for cooking and a bio gas plant. The electricity cables and water pipes need to be replaced involving a substantial amount. Recently we had to buy two new vehicles for which we had to pay an additional amount of 7 Lakhs. He also informed the house of starting a corpus fund for the curia with the contributions received by the Major Archbishop. The Finance Officer pointed out that at present the running expenses of the Curia are often met from the donations received by the Curia Bishop as part of his ministry. As a proposal for augmenting the revenues of the Curia, the Bishops suggested that the contributions from the parishes and institutions and pilgrim centres of our eparchies are to be strengthened and followed up. The Major Archbishop and Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Commission for Finance and Bishop Bosco Puthur congratulated Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil for his excellent administration.

In the discussion that followed it was decided to raise the per head contribution on sabhadinam from Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 from the following sabhadinam onwards.
Reporting by the Procurator of the Major Archbishop at the Apostolic See: The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Stephen Chirapanath, the Procurator and congratulated him on his being appointed National Coordinator for the Syro-Malabarians in Italy. Fr. Chirapanath presented before the Synod the pastoral situation of the migrant communities in various parts of Italy. Although we have pastoral communities in 18 different places in Italy, only in two centres (Rome and Treviso) the Chaplains are officially appointed precisely for the pastoral care of Syro-Malabar faithful. Fr. Stephen informed the Synod that in Rome he is trying to organize Holy Qurbana in several centres for the people scattered throughout the city. The high point of the Roman migrant community was the visit of the Major Archbishop along with other Archbishops and Bishops in the month of October which culminated in the solemn Qurbana celebrated in Saint John Lateran Basilica. He also mentioned that due to the intervention of the Major Archbishop with the Cardinal Vicar of Rome our community has a new church, Basilica Santa Anastasia for its pastoral needs.

Regarding the purchase of the procura Fr. Stephen said that after strenuous negotiations we are able to reach an agreement to procure the proposed site for Euro 1,975,000. After completing the procedural matters and after getting loan from the Vatican Bank, we will be in the near future able to register the deal.

Fr. Stephen asked the Bishops to inform him whenever they intend to visit Rome so that he can be at their service. The Major Archbishop expressed the gratitude of the Synod to Fr. Stephen for his zealous and efficient pastoral ministry both as procurator of our Church and chaplain to the Syro-Malabar community in Rome.

Report on AKCC: Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Legate of AKCC introduced the present situation of AKCC and welcomed Fr. Jacob Palackapilly, Priest Director, AKCC, requesting him to present a report on the present situation.
He informed the Synod of the various controversies that has taken place and the consequent law suit. At present the court has stayed the State level election and the office bears cannot function as their term of office have long been elapsed. The Working Committee has presented a written request to the Synod to form an ad hoc Committee to continue the function of AKCC. After having discussed at length the legal implications of the matter the Synod authorized the Bishop Legate to form an ad hoc Committee for AKCC until regular elections conducted.

**Guidelines for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Women’s Forum:** Fr. Jacob Palackapilly presented before the Synod the draft of the Guidelines for the Syro-Malabar Catholic Women’s Forum. During the discussion the Bishops proposed certain amendments and corrections to the draft. Bishop Mathew Arackal thanked Fr. Jacob Palackapilly for his sincere spiritual leadership to AKCC.

**Activities of the Commission for Laity:** Bishop Mathew Arackal informed the Synod of the various activities under the aegis of Commission for Laity like History Forum, Research Forum, Dalit Forum, Media Forum, Entrepreneurs’ Forum, Farmers’ Forum, Paliative Care Centre, Campaign against Cancer, etc. The Major Archbishop congratulated the Commission for Laity and its Chairman for its various activities and said that Bishop Mathew Arackal is an animator of various initiatives and that the Commission for Laity is not directly responsible for many of these programmes, but only gives inspiration and impetus. He has got high level contacts which he uses for giving the Church a universal look especially among the laity.

**Draft Proposals of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization:** At the request of the Major Archbishop, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, read out the resolutions of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization proposed for discussion by the three Ritual Churches. The Major Archbishop explained the background of these resolutions and informed the
Synod that the Syro-Malankara Church is generally positive to them. In the discussion that followed several Bishops expressed their apprehensions regarding the content and formulation of the text. Several interventions registered reservation regarding the formulation of the draft. It was pointed out that this draft should be read with reference to the already agreed 12 points. This draft does not give sufficient importance to our right for evangelization. The draft should express that we stand for the All India Jurisdiction which is the natural right of the Oriental Churches in India. However, the Major Archbishop opined that it will be better for us to go along with these resolutions, may be giving our own suggestions and modifications. The following points for correction were proposed. 1. Instead of giving precise numbers in numbers 1 & 2, it would be better to say around 20 and around 100 families. 2. In number 3, it was suggested to add ‘by competent authority’ and 3. Again in number 3, instead of “with the consent of the Local ordinary”, the phrase “the local ordinary shall not object” be added. Concluding the discussion, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST was requested to present a draft taking into account the suggestions which were given by the Bishops. In a later sitting, Synod decided to authorize the Permanent Synod to examine and approve the modifications proposed by Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST on the draft proposals of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization.

Situation of the Latin Faithful in the Syro-Malabar Mission Eparchies: Bishop Thomas Thuruthimattam CST, presented before the Synod the pastoral situation of his eparchy. The Latin faithful of his eparchy are being provided pastoral care in their own rite by the priests of the eparchy of Gorakhpur. If the Draft Proposals prepared by the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization is applied, it will create a difficult situation in the eparchy of Gorakhpur. Hence he requested the Synod to consider Gorakhpur as a special case. Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI proposed the idea to offer sharing of ecclesiastical jurisdictions between two neighbouring Bishops for the pastoral care of the migrants in their territories with the provision of the
approval of the Apostolic See. Bishop Jose Chittooparambil CMI of Rajkot expressed his readiness to accept the proposal provided the jurisdiction over the Syro-Malabar faithful in other parts of Gujarat is entrusted to the Bishop of Rajkot. The Synod was of opinion that such mutual exchange has to be agreed upon by the Heads of the three Churches and approved by the Apostolic See except the case of the eparchy of Gorakhpur which has to be dealt with as a special case by the Special Commission for Evangelization of the CBCI.

**Reception to the New Cardinal:** Bishop Bosco Puthur informed the Synod that there was a meeting of the four Archbishops of our Church, the two Auxiliaries of Ernakulam-Angamaly and the Curia Bishop to consider the modality of the reception to be given to the Major Archbishop when he comes back from Rome after the investiture as Cardinal. The proposal was to have a Eucharistic concelebration in the Basilica of Ernakulam on 10 March 2012, with the participation of the Bishops and 15 representatives of priests, religious and laity from each of the eparchies of the proper territory, 5 representatives from each of the parishes of the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese. Baselios Mar Cleemis, Major Archbishop of the Malankara Church is proposed to give the homily and His Grace Francis Kallarackal, Archbishop of Verapoly and the Secretary of the pastoral council of the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly shall felicitate the new Cardinal who shall address the gathering towards the end. Catholic political leaders may be invited for the function and for tea thereafter. The Members of the Synod expressed their agreement to the proposal.

**Information Regarding the Meeting of the Cardinal Prefect with the Synod:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the Cardinal Prefect, accompanied by Fr. McLean Cummings, Fr. Flavio Pace from the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, Mgr. Marco Sprizzi from the Nunciature, will be addressing the Synod before which the media persons will come for a photo session.
Address of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches to the Synod:
Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, accompanied by Fr. McLean Cummings, Fr. Flavio Pace from the Oriental Congregation, Mgr. Marco Sprizzi from the Nunciature, and Fr. Stephen Chirapanath, Procurator of the Major Archbishop at the Apostolic See came to the Synod Hall at 2.45 p.m. After the photo session and a short message to the media, the Major Archbishop officially welcomed the Cardinal Prefect with an address in which, among other things, he said, “Let me turn to the expectations of this Synod from the Apostolic See by the interventions of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches. We are thankful to all your steps in the recent years coming to fruition concerning the formation of an eparchy in the big city of Delhi and the neighbouring regions. Equally urgent is the need of erecting eparchies in Chennai and Bangalore and I hope Your Eminence will help us for the formation of these eparchies also without much delay. We hope to get ecclesiastical provisions in Countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, Great Briton, Ireland and Singapore where there are large concentrations of the Syro-Malabar faithful. The situation of more than Four Hundred Thousand Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf Countries needs pastoral care of their own traditions and we request you to take urgent measures to set up suitable ecclesiastical structures over there.”

The Major Archbishop expressed the sentiments of the whole Syro-Malabar Church that in the person of the Cardinal Prefect, we have a leader in Rome who understands our concerns and hopes. He took the occasion to express the gratitude of the whole Church for the great service which the Congregation of the Oriental Churches does for our Church.

The Cardinal Prefect in his address congratulated the Cardinal Designate Major Archbishop George Alencherry and said that “this gesture of the Pontiff certainly testifies to the excellent pastoral record of His Beatitude, but also to a particular
affection which His Holiness has for the Syro-Malabar faithful and indeed for India as a whole.” He reminded the Synod that “the Pope offers you consolation and hope, while requesting of you patience and moderation.” On the question of All-India jurisdiction, the Cardinal told that the pontifical orientation in this regard is to go step by step. Regarding the pastoral care in the diaspora, specially in the Gulf Countries, the Holy See is working on a new rescriptum ex audentia. Concerning the care of vocations and the formation of all parts of the People of God, the Cardinal Prefect requested the Synod to intensify its efforts, coordinating formation initiatives, especially in places where a decrease in vocations is already felt and highlighted the importance to the entire Church of the extraordinary evangelizing and charitable works of priests and religious of Syro-Malabar origin.

He recalled the great spiritual heritage handed over by Late Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and congratulated the Bishops who celebrate their Jubilee, especially Archbishop Joseph Powathil who celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his priestly ordination and 40th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination. Invoking God’s blessings on the entire Syro-Malabar Church, the Cardinal Prefect concluded his address.

This was followed by interesting and enriching interactions between the Cardinal Prefect and the Bishops on the different aspects of the pastoral needs of the Church.

The Major Archbishop George Alencherry expressed thanks to the Cardinal Prefect for the very detailed address in which there are immediate and distant hopes for the Syro-Malabar Church. “We do appreciate the way you proceed with the Holy Father on this matter. Syro-Malabar Church does everything in communion with other Churches and in solidarity with other religions. We share the joys and sorrows of the whole Church and that of the Holy Father. We are happy that you informed us that the decision on the eparchy of Faridabad is already in the hands of Holy Father and we hope the decision will come
in these days and the decision on Chennai and Bangalore will follow in view of the All India Jurisdiction”.

Bishop Lawrence Mukkuzhy, referring to the address of the Cardinal Prefect regarding the substantive and non-substantive elements in the liturgy asked some more clarifications on the matter. The Cardinal Prefect said that when there is need of change, it should be according to the liturgical traditions of the Church and not by the individuals but under the moderation of Bishops, in consultation with experts.

Bishop Bosco Puthur drew the attention of the Cardinal Prefect to the need of revisiting of the rescript ex audientia on the pastoral ministry in the Gulf Region and asked whether it will be unilateral as in the case of the present one or in consultation with the Major Archbishop and other people concerned. The Cardinal Prefect clarified that the Holy Father wants that this be studied in an inter-dicasterial meeting in which Secretariat of the State, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, and the Congregation for Eastern Churches, and the Major Archbishops and the two Vicars Apostolic participate. He acknowledged that the Major Archbishop had, in fact, written in this regard and said that the congregation will be very happy if the Major Archbishop also could take part in the consultation.

Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS spoke about the need of pastoral care outside the proper territory from his own experience in Kalyan. He said that before the erection of the eparchy of Kalyan, Syro-Malabar faithful in that area were slowly drifting away from faith. Now after the establishment of the eparchy, as a result of the proper formation and catechesis given especially to children, now there are local vocations from the community in Kalyan. Although in the beginning the Latin Bishops had apprehensions about such a diocese, now there is mutual collaboration, helping each other. In this context, Bishop Elavanal brought to the attention of the Cardinal Prefect of the need of new eparchies in the major cities. The Cardinal Prefect
expressed his satisfaction of this good example of collaboration between the Latin and Syro-Malabar Hierarchies.

Bishop Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI recalled that Chanda was the first ad gentes mission entrusted to the Syro-Malabar Church. It was a virgin land and practically there were no Catholics. Seven CMI fathers under the leadership of Fr. Januarius (later the first Bishop of Chanda) started the mission in the virgin land after the model of Jesus Christ which has now grown to a community of 25,000 Catholics. The methodology adopted by them was getting the children to the schools and hostels and giving them catechesis and it was so successful that there are now many local vocations to priesthood and religious life from them. The Cardinal Prefect expressed his happiness in the missionary zeal of the Bishops working outside the proper territory.

The Major Archbishop then came back to the question of All India Jurisdiction which the Holy See is pursuing step by step - A principle approved by Holy See. The Cardinal Prefect replied that such a procedure is not in the Oriental code. However, the Holy See wants to proceed in this matter in dialogue with the Latin Hierarchy. The Major Archbishop also recalled that in the dialogue between the three Churches in India, Cardinal Oswald Gracias had said that there was the immediate possibility of Chennai and Bangalore also. And that is our understanding. But our bishops fear that some of the Latin Bishops may stall this process even if we come to an understanding. And the Major Archbishop asked the Cardinal Prefect about the mind of the Holy See on this matter. The Cardinal Prefect said that in the past the general thinking was that the Latin Church was the Catholic Church and slowly we are coming to the understanding of the two lungs in the Catholic Communion. However, it may take time to realize this in practical decisions.

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST expressed his happiness that the Holy See acknowledges that the Syro-Malabar vocations are being promoted for the whole Church which the Cardinal
Prefect had referred to in his address. In fact the mission year celebration has promotion of missionary vocations as one of its scope. Syro-Malabar Church is very much involved in ad gentes mission. Our religious and priests are capable of taking up more areas for evangelization. We are looking not only for the pastoral care of migrants, but also ad gentes mission. The Cardinal Prefect recalled that the Major Archbishop had already mentioned in his address that the Syro-Malabar Church is sending out a lot of missionaries to the Latin dioceses and Religious Congregations.

Finally The Major Archbishop expressing gratitude to the Cardinal Prefect, requested him to share with the people concerned that the Syro-Malabar Church is always ready to share vocations where it is needed.

**LRC Award:** Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the Synod the proposals of the Award Committee. He also reminded the Bishops of the forthcoming seminar on Archives conducted by LRC.

**Reporting on Youth Movement:** Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, responsible for the Syro-Malabar Youth Movement of the Commission for Laity, welcomed Fr. Sebastian Kaipanplackal, coordinator of the Youth Movement and Mr. Noel. Fr. Sebastian Kaipanplackal, presented a report of the various activities of the Youth Movement which includes a survey regarding the youth and a youth meet at the provincial level. For the migrant youth there will be a youth meet at Mangalore on 26th January. He requested the Synod to form a Commission for Youth. The Major Archbishop thanked Fr. Sebastian and Mr. Noel for their presentation.

**Anaphora of Mar Theodore:** Bishop George Punnakottil, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy welcomed Fr. Pauly Maniyatt, Secretary of the Commission. Fr. Pauly presented the suggestions received after the trial celebration of the Anaphora of Mar Theodore, both at the Curia and in the Eparchies. The
Commission received several suggestions on improving the text and whatever possible has been incorporated. After some discussion in which some corrections were proposed even in the present text, the Synod requested the Commission to present the text once more in the CLC to incorporate the suggestions received from the eparchies and then bring it to the Synod. Major Archbishop expressed his opinion that it will be good to prepare two texts, one which includes the whole text and the second one without the options which are put in brackets.

**Huttamma Prayer:** Bishop George Punnakottil, Chairman of the Commission for Liturgy, presented the suggestion of the one-man committee entrusted with the study of who should recite the Huttamma prayer. The committee proposed the following: “In a liturgical gathering, for example, that of the Liturgy of the Hours, it is quite appropriate that the officiating celebrant, whether a priest or Bishop may recite the Huttamma, if he is officiating as a distinct celebrant by virtue of his vestment or his place of celebration. In such a case it is not fair that the Bishop or the Major Archbishop recites the Huttamma. But if the priest or Bishop who leads the liturgical prayer is doing so just standing along with the other members of the assembly (that means, not standing at Bema or Altar), then a Bishop or Major Archbishop in the liturgical assembly may recite the Huttamma.”

Bishop Punnakottil further suggested that it would be meaningful to commemorate in the liturgical prayers St. Alphonsa’s name along with the local saints (in our case the East Syrian Saints) and mention our Blesseds in a general way.

Regarding the question which Biblical Text is to be provided in the Lectionary, the Synod referred to the 1994 decision, “To use the Pesitha version of the Bible in the text of the propria of the Qurbana and to print later two lectionaries, one containing the Pesitha version of the reading and the other the POC version.” Later after some discussion on the feasibility of having two lectionaries, the Synod decided to prepare only one text of the lectionary adapting certain words in the POC version of the Bible.
Implementation of the Synodal Decision Regarding the Public Celebration of Divine Liturgy in Religious Houses:
Bishop Raphael Thattil presented the opinion of some religious on the matter which, it seems is following a different ecclesiology. Bishop Thattil requested the Synod for the implementation of the above guidelines which was formulated in 1999 after due consultation with the religious. Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath was of opinion that we should give opportunities for religious houses for pastoral involvement. Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS told the Synod that the religious should do the pastoral ministry according to the direction of the Local Ordinary. The Synod, towards the end of the discussion, decided to implement the guidelines of 1999 in a spirit of dialogue. The Major Archbishop said that in our dialogue with the Religious it should make clear that there is a substantial difference in the concept of parish ministry between the Latin and the Syro-Malabar traditions.

Deepika: Fr. Alexander Paikada CMI, the Chief Editor and Mr. P.P. Sunny, the MD, Deepika were welcomed by the Major Archbishop. Mr. Sunny presented the financial situation of Deepika which has to pay back substantial amount of debt. He invited the dioceses to contribute generously to Deepika to strengthen the only Catholic Daily which has rendered yeomen service to our community for the last 125 years. In a later sitting, Bishops had time for asking clarifications regarding the present financial status of Deepika. The Major Archbishop told the Synod that if we could pay back the debt, Deepika could take off and he invited the dioceses to contribute generously towards this purpose. And he announced that already a few dioceses have come forward to contribute substantial amount for Deepika. Mr. Sunny asked the Synod to endorse by letter to receive advertisements from the Educational Institutions of our Church. Bishops of Irinjalakuda and Palghat have already given recommendation letters asking educational institutions to contribute substantially towards Deepika.
Appointment of Rector, Kunnoth Seminary: Archbishop George Valiamattam, Chairman of the Commission for Kunnoth Seminary, informed the Synod that the term of office of the Rector is going to elapse towards the end of the academic year. He requested the Synod to give mandate to the Permanent Synod for the approval of the appointment of the next Rector. When the members of the Synod requested for the reason for such an extraordinary procedure, the Archbishop clarified that the present Rector does not want to continue in office after the termination of his term. Towards the end of the discussion, the Synod requested Archbishop Valiamattam to hold the meeting of the Seminary Commission and present their suggestion on the matter in the current session of the Synod.

Later Archbishop George Valiamattam, Chairman of the Commission for Kunnoth Seminary, informed the Synod that the present Rector was unwilling to continue in office after the expiry of his term. Hence the Synod decided to give consent to the request of Archbishop George Valiamattam to present the list of names for the office of the Rector to the Synodal Session in March if there is a Synodal Session then, otherwise to authorize the Permanent Synod to propose a person for appointment as Rector-in-Charge.

Commemoration of the Death Anniversary of the Late Major Archbishop: Bishop Thomas Chakiath proposed to commemorate the 1st Death Anniversary of the Late Major Archbishop Varkey Cardinal Vithayathil at 11.00 a.m., on Saturday, 31 March 2012 in St. Mary’s Basilica, Ernakulam, actual day 1 April being Palm Sunday.

Draft Study on the Four Themes of the Proposed Synodal Document: As there was no sufficient time for the presentation and discussion of the four themes of the proposed Synodal document on relevant contemporary issues, it shall be discussed in the Session of the Synod scheduled for August.

Cause of Canonization of Puthenparambil Thommachan: Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam informed the Synod that he
had set up a Commission to study the feasibility of introducing the cause of canonization of Puthenparampil Thommachan and that after having studied the report of the Commission he is convinced of the heroic virtues of Thommachan. Bishop Mathew Arackal strongly testified for the holiness of Thommachan. Thereafter at the request of Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, the Synod decided to give the nihil obstat to initiate the cause of Puthenparampil Thommachan.

**Shortening the Current Session of the Synod:** As a number of Bishops wanted to take part in the Jubilee celebrations of the Archdiocese of Trichur, taking into account the mind of the Synod, the Major Archbishop announced that the Sittings of the Synod will be over in the forenoon.

**A Short Synod in March 2012:** At the proposal of the Major Archbishop the Synod decided to hold a Session of the Synod if needed on 9 March 2012 to attend to some urgent business that may come up in the interim period after the current session of the Synod.

**The Light and Sound Show on Jesus the Saviour:** The Major Archbishop gave information about the light and sound show on Jesus the Saviour programmed for 15 January 2012 at Marine Drive, Ernakulam through the initiative of Jesus Youth as part of the Mission Year Celebration and requested the Bishops to support it by sending large number of people for the show.

**Press Release:** Bishop Bosco Puthur read out the Press Release and it was approved with some minor modifications.

**Scrutiny of the Decisions of the XX Synod (2012), Session 1:** The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XX Synod (2012), Session 1 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 close the present session of the Synod and gave the concluding address. The Major Archbishop
said that the Synod could consider certain important items like Evangelization in the backdrop of the Mission Year and the New Evangelization for the transmission of faith, the theme of the forthcoming Synod in Rome, the observance of the Year of Faith and the Research study on the reception and implementation of Council Vat. II, Seminary formation and Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar faithful in India and other countries. The Synod could also find guiding principles to certain pastoral questions. He recalled the important visit of His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches and the address of the Cardinal which raised greater hopes for the actualization of the legitimate jurisdictional rights of the Syro-Malabar Church. He expressed joy at the newly constructed second floor of the Curia building which was blessed by the Cardinal Prefect. And he mentioned the golden jubilee of St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor and the 125 Anniversary of the Archdioceses of Trichur and Changanacherry. The Major Archbishop thanked the Bishops for their support for the cause of Deepika and the personnel at the Curia for their various services for the cause of our Church. And with the permission of the Synod the Major Archbishop declared the XX Synod (2012), Session 1 closed.

Mount St. Thomas, + Bosco Puthur, Secretary
12 February 2012 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur, Chancellor
Major Archiepiscopal Curia.
XX Synod (2012), Session 1
9-13 January 2012

DECISIONS

1. To form a committee comprising the Commissions of the three Synodal Major Seminaries and the Bishops responsible for other Major Seminaries to draft the guidelines in consultation with the Rectors, Bishop Bosco Puthur being its convener. After having heard the opinion of the Bishops and Major Superiors concerned on the Draft, the Guidelines shall be presented to the Permanent Synod for approval.

2. To request the Bishops of the province of Tellicherry to discuss the proposal of an eparchy in the Malappuram region and to bring before the Synod their proposals. Archbishop George Valiamattam shall be the convener for such consultation and Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, shall facilitate the discussions. Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy and Bishop Paul Chittilapilly shall be consulted on the matter.

3. To authorize Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman of the Laity Commission to form a Trust to initiate the process of take over of St. Joseph’s School, Surat and to report to the Permanent Synod regarding the actions to be followed.

4. To form a committee consisting of the Commissions for Catechesis, Liturgy, Doctrine, Ecumenism and LRC with Bishop Bosco Puthur as Convener to formulate guidelines for the celebration of the Year of Faith and the study of the implementation of the Documents of the Second Vatican Council to present it in the following Session of the Synod.
5. To accept the date of erection of the Archdiocese of Trichur as 1887.

6. To form a committee with Bishop Bosco Puthur (Convener), Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt, OSB, Bishop Paul Chittilapilly and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, CMI, to draft a letter to the Apostolic See regarding the correction of the dates of the erection of the Archdioceses of Trichur and Changanacherry and present it in this Session of the Synod.

7. To mention the religious in the Anaphora of the Qurbana and to entrust the Commission for liturgy with suggesting the appropriate place for it.

8. To raise the per head contribution on sabhadinam from Rs. 1 to Rs. 2 from the following sabhadinam onwards.

9. To authorize the Bishop Legate to form an ad hoc Committee for AKCC until regular elections are conducted.

10. To request the Commission for Liturgy to present the text of the Anaphora of Mar Theodore once more in the CLC to incorporate the suggestions received from the eparchies and then bring it to the Synod.


12. To implement, in a spirit of dialogue, the guidelines of 1999 regarding the public celebration of Divine Liturgy in religious houses.
13. To commemorate in the liturgical prayers St. Alphonsa’s name along with the local saints (in our case the East Syrian Saints) and mention our Blesseds in a general way.

14. To request the Major Archbishop to initiate the process of appointing a new Bishop as the Apostolic Visitor with independent charge.

15. To authorize the Permanent Synod to examine and approve the modifications proposed by Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST on the draft proposals of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization.

16. To hold a Session of the Synod if needed on 9 March 2012 to attend to some urgent business that may come up in the interim period after the current session of the Synod.

17. To give consent to the request of Archbishop George Valiamattam, Chairman, Kunnoth Seminary, to present the list of names for the office of the Rector to the Synodal Session in March if there is a Synodal Session then, otherwise to authorize the Permanent Synod to propose a person for appointment as Rector-in-Charge.

18. To prepare only one text of the lectionary adapting certain words in the POC version of the Bible.

19. To give the nihil obstat of the Synod to initiate the cause of Puthenparampil Thommachan.

Mount St. Thomas, + Bosco Puthur, Secretary
12 February 2012 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
XX Synod (2012) Session 1
9-13 January 2012

CONCLUDING ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

As the Session 1 of the XX Synod is coming to a close let us raise our hearts to Almighty God for all his blessings on us during these days. Certain important items that we considered are Evangelization in the backdrop of the Mission Year and the New Evangelization for the transmission of faith, the theme of the forthcoming Synod in Rome, the observance of the Year of Faith and the Research study on the reception and implementation of Council Vat. II, Seminary formation and Pastoral Care of the Syro-Malabar faithful in India and other countries. We could find guiding principles to certain pastoral questions and for others, further deliberations are needed.

The visit of His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri has played a historical note to this Synodal Session. His address has raised greater hopes for the actualization of the legitimate jurisdictional rights of our Church. He has also recalled to us the orientations we should have in our adherence to the traditions of the Syro-Malabar Church. We could get the newly constructed Second floor of the curia building blessed by him. The fact that he visits St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor for its golden jubilee celebrations and the Archdioceses of Trichur and Changanacherry for their celebrations of the 125th Anniversary of the two Vicariates shows his earnest desire to share his joy with us in moments of fulfillment for our Church.

The discussion on Deepika has created an awareness that the Church has to give greater financial support to make the
Newspaper reach a take off stage. I thank the Bishops who have promised to take more shares in the company and request other Bishops to provide added assistance to Deepika.

Mar Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop deserves our appreciation for his conduct of the Curia and the sacrifices he has undertaken in collecting resources for the construction of the second floor of the Curia edifice. I thank also Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer, who painstakingly managed the construction project. I express my gratitude in a special way to Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, who carries out his duties of the Curia and role of the House Superior with care and devotedness.

Finally let me express my gratitude to all others who helped us in the conduct 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. James Kallumkal, the Vice-Chancellor, the resident and non-resident Secretaries of the Commissions, other priests functioning for the Curia, 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 20 August to 1 September 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 Blesseds 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 First Session of the XX Synod of the Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church closed.

13 January 2012  + George Alencherry
Kakkanad       Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XX Synod (2012)
Session 2
09 March 2012
XX Synod (2012) Session 2
9 March 2012
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

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

On my return from Rome, after having received the ‘berretta,’
the ring and the title of the Cardinal from the Holy Father, I have
the experience of a home-coming in this session of the Synod.
I thank you very much for your wholehearted support and
encouragement expressed in many ways when the Holy Father
created me a Cardinal. After the programmes in Rome I had
the chance to visit the Holy Land as a member of a Delegation
of Indian Church Leaders organized by the Ministry of Tourism
of the Government of Israel. It was a combined programme of
pilgrimage cum cultural exchange on tourism that proved to be
very helpful for the participants.

The most important event in these last few days is the
errection of the Eparchy of Faridabad of the Syro-Malabars and
the appointment of Mgr. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara as its
first Bishop. Although he desired to be present for this session
of the Synod, he informed me that because of some important
commitments in Delhi, he will be able to participate only in
the Holy Qurbana tomorrow at St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica,
Ernakulam. All the same I congratulate Mgr. Kuriakose
Bharanikulangara on his appointment as the first Bishop of the
Eparchy of Faridabad and I pray God’s blessing on this 30th
Eparchy of our Church.

The main purpose for which we desired to have this one day
session of the Synod cannot be accomplished as the process
of getting the approval of the Apostolic See concerning the Episcopal Candidates for the Eparchy of Thuckalay and the Auxiliary of Palai has not yet been completed, although it has reached its final stage. Therefore we may have to decide in this session of the Synod upon the next measure we have to adopt for this purpose. All the same we have very many important items in the agenda that needs our immediate deliberations and decisions. So I invoke God’s blessings upon all of us to have a fruitful Synodal session today. May Mary, Mother of Christ and all other Saints intercede for us!

With these words I declare the second session of the XX Synod 2012 open.

Mount St. Thomas + George Alencherry
9 January 2012 Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XX Synod (2012), Session 2
9 March 2012

REPORT

The XX Synod (2012), Session 2 began with a prayer by the Major Archbishop George Alencherry after which Archbishop George Valiamattam, in the name of the Synod, felicitated the Major Archbishop on his being created Cardinal. The Major Archbishop thanked the Synod and felicitated Archbishop George Valiamattam, the newly elected Vice-President of CBCI. He then proceeded with the formal inauguration of the Synod.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude for the wholehearted support and encouragement expressed in many ways when the Holy Father created him a Cardinal. He also recalled his pilgrimage to the Holy Land as part of the ecumenical delegation from India at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of Israel. He congratulated Mgr. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, the newly appointed Bishop of Faridabad and wished God’s blessings on the new eparchy. Although the Synod is only for one day, the Major Archbishop invited the Bishops to deliberate upon the very many important items in the agenda that needs our immediate decisions.

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 Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), 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 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 (Mandya), Mar
Remigioso Inchananiyil (Thamrassery), Mar Raphael Thattil
(Auxiliary, Trichur), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar
Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), Mar Jose Chittooparambil
CMI (Rajkot), and Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara (Administrator,
Thuckalay).

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The
Major Archbishop 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 Session of
the Synod. The Synod accepted the proposal and accordingly,
Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI, Bishop Joseph Arumachadath
MCBS and Bishop Paul Alappatt were to act as Moderators,
Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, Bishop Paul Alappatt and Bishop
Jose Chittooparambil 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 and
Bishop Thomas Elavanal as members of the Committee for
the Pastoral Circular and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath as the person to see to the ordering of the Liturgical Celebrations during the Synod.

**Leave of Absence:** The Synod granted leave of absence to Mar Mathew Arackal (Kanjirapally) and Mar Jacob Angadiath (Chicago) from the present Session of the Synod.

**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.

**Finalizing the Agenda:** The agenda of the Session of the Synod was read out and was approved.

**Report of the Meeting of the Syro-Malabar Bishops during the CBCI Meeting in Bangalore on 5 February 2012:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary read out the report of the meeting of the Syro-Malabar Bishops held during the CBCI Meeting in Bangalore on 5 February 2012. After a brief discussion, the Synod was of opinion that there was no need of making any decisions out of the above report.

**Moderator:** Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI moderated the sittings of the day.

**Anticipation of the August Synod:** The Major Archbishop read out the communication from the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches regarding the assent of the Holy Father for the Episcopal candidates proposed by the Synod. As it can be expected by the end of April, the Major Archbishop asked the opinion of the Synod regarding possible anticipation of the August Session of the Synod. After detailed discussion, the Synod came to the conclusion not to anticipate as it may cause inconvenience to many Bishops who have already taken other engagements.
Briefing on Faridabad: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that the Episcopal Ordination of the first Bishop of the Faridabad will take place in the evening of 26th May 2012 somewhere in Faridabad area. In this connection there was a discussion regarding the transfer of Syro-Malabar men and women religious working in the Latin Dioceses within the area of the new eparchy. The Major Archbishop reminded the Synod that the CBCI had come to an understanding that the men and women religious working in those dioceses in the pastoral field will continue to do so whereas the formation houses and provincial houses can become part of the new eparchy. Any transfer has to take place smoothly with agreement between the Bishop of Faridabad and the local Latin Bishops, in understanding with the Major Archbishop. The Major Archbishop advised that we have to be prudent in this matter.

New Member to the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST shall be the new Member of the CBCI Special Commission for Evangelization in the place of Bishop Gratian Mundadan CMI.

Mode of Repayment of the Loan for Procura: The Major Archbishop and the Curia Bishop briefed the Synod of the progress regarding the purchase of the property for the Procura in Rome. While in Rome, Bishop Bosco Puthur and Fr. Stephen Chirapanath had met with Mr. Paolo Cipriani, the General Manager of Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank), who had asked clarifications from us regarding the period and the mode of repayment of the loan which we are going to take from the Bank. After some discussion the Synod decided that we shall repay the loan within 10 years in which case monthly remittance comes to Euro 18,150,00. As it is not possible to send money directly from India, it was advised that the eparchies entrust priests or religious working abroad to pay the amount promised by the eparchies in the account of the Procura
in Rome. The Major Archbishop requested the Bishops to make available the services of two priests abroad from every eparchy for the benefit of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The Bishops agreed to the proposal.

**Presentation of the Gifts from Israel to LRC:** The Major Archbishop presented the two valuable gifts received from Israel to the St. Thomas Christian Museum and handed them over to Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Chairman of LRC.

**Contribution from the Mission Fund to the Eparchy of Faridabad:** The Major Archbishop announced that he has requested Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI, Chairman of the Mission Fund, to present the donation from the Mission Fund of Rs. 5,00,000.00 to the Bishop-elect of Faridabad on 10 March, during the thanksgiving qurbana in St. Mary’s Basilica in connection with the elevation of the Major Archbishop to the College of Cardinals.

**Election of Syro-Malabar Delegates for the FABC Plenary Assembly:** The Synod elected by secret ballot, Bishop Bosco Puthur and Bishop Thomas Elavanal MCBS delegates for the FABC Plenary Assembly to be held in Vietnam from 19-25 November 2012.

**Various Consultations:** The Major Archbishop sought the opinion of the Synod regarding various consultations he deemed necessary on the following matters. 1. On Higher Education, 2. On English Medium Schools, 3. On Retreat Centres, and 4. On Holy Land Pilgrimage. The Synod agreed that the consultation on Higher Education and on English Medium Schools can be done directly by the Major Archbishop. On Retreat Centres, Bishop Raphael Thattil shall be responsible. And the Synod was of opinion that it is better not to hold for the time being a consultation on the pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

**Briefing on Emperor Emmanuel Movement:** Bishop Pauly Kannookadan briefed the Synod of the present situation of the
activities of the Emperor Emmanuel Movement. He informed
the Synod that they are very active in different parts of Kerala.
Their movement causes a lot of division in the families because
once a member of a family gets involved with the movement, he
or she breaks away from the family and thus disrupts even the
sacred bond of marriage. He advised the Bishops to inform the
parish priests to give proper guidance to their faithful regarding
the danger of the movement.

**Election of the Rector of Kunnoth Seminary:** Archbishop
George Valiamattam, Chairman of the Synodal Commission
for Kunnoth Seminary, proposed three names for the office
of the Rector. After a brief discussion on the candidates, the
Synod elected by secret ballot Fr. Mani Attel Rector of Kunnoth
Seminary.

**Briefing on Philosophy Course:** Archbishop Andrews
Thazhath, Chancellor of the Pontifical Institute, Alwaye,
read out a letter received from the Congregation for Catholic
Education. As a response to the request sent by the Institute
whether the philosophy course (B.Ph.), can be completed in two
years, the congregation informed that it is possible to complete
B.Ph. Course in two years, provided the auxiliary subjects are
already taught in the previous years and in the two year course
60-70% of the basic subjects are taught.

**Mission Year Celebration and the International
Eucharistic Congress:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST
briefed the Synod of the various activities of the Mission Year
celebrations and thanked Bishops and others concerned for the
whole-hearted cooperation for the successful completion of the
Mission Year Programmes and requested continued support
for the forthcoming programmes. Bishop Vadakel proposed
eparchial level conclusion of the Mission year besides the
official conclusion in Delhi in the month of November. Bishops
suggested that we receive a report from the eparchies of the
various activities in connection with the Mission Year. Bishop
Vijay Anand CMI invited the Bishops to visit at least one mission eparchy during the Mission Year.

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST briefed the Synod on the preparations of the Syro-Malabar Delegation to the forthcoming International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in June 2012. Arrangements have been made for a Syro-Malabar Qurbana in the venue of the Eucharistic Congress and he invited the Bishops to take part in it.

Revision of CCEO: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath informed the Synod of the possibility of a revision of the CCEO. He proposed two subjects for its consideration: 1. The interstice between the first profession and the final profession of the religious to be made similar to that of the Latin Code, 2. Inclusion of the specifications of the pastoral ministry of the religious in CCEO in line with the provisions in CIC. The Synod decided to propose the revision of CCEO and include these two items for its consideration.

Intervention of the Church in the Issue of Legalizing Homosexuality: Bishop Bosco Puthur briefed the Synod of the initiative of a few lay people of the Trust God Ministry under the patronage of Archbishop Vincent M. Concessao against the scrapping of IPC 377. A case is going on in the Supreme Court of India and the Trust God Ministry is requesting our moral and financial support. The lawyer’s fee amounts to 3-4 Lakhs of Rupees. The Synod decided to help them by sending Rs. 50,000.00 towards legal expenses after consulting the CBCI Office Bearers on the matter.

Conferring the Honours and Titles: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he has received a few applications for conferring Honours and Titles. After some discussion, it was decided as a principle to refer all such applications to the committee consisting of Bishop Pauly Kannookadan (Convener), Archbishop Andrews Thazhath and Bishop
Remigiose Inchananiyil for its evaluation and presentation in the subsequent Synod for approval.

**Synodal Session in January 2013:** The Synod decided to hold, besides the August Session of the Synod, a Session from 7 (10.00 a.m.) to 11 (6.00 p.m.) January 2013.

**Conclusion of the Synod:** The Major Archbishop requested the permission of the Synod to conclude the Session. Having received the consent, the Major Archbishop concluded the Synod with a brief message.

Mount St. Thomas,  + Bosco Puthur, Secretary
22 April 2012  Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur,
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
XX Synod (2012), Session 2
9 March 2012

DECISSIONS

1. To repay the loan for the purchase of the procura in Rome within 10 years.

2. To make available the services of two priests abroad from every eparchy for the benefit of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

3. To propose the revision of CCEO and include the following items for its consideration: a. The interstice between the first profession and the final profession of religious to be made similar to that of the Latin Code, b. Inclusion of the specifications of the pastoral ministry of the religious in CCEO in line with the provisions in CIC.

4. To refer as a principle all applications for conferring Honours and Titles to the committee consisting of Bishop Pauly Kannookadan (Convener), Archbishop Andrews Thazath and Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil for its evaluation and presentation in the subsequent Synod for approval.

5. To hold, besides the August Session of the Synod, a Session from 7 (10.00 a.m.) to 11 (6.00 p.m.) January 2013.

Mount St. Thomas, + Bosco Puthur, Secretary
9 March 2012 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
XX Synod (2012) Session 2
9 March 2012
CONCLUDING ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

We have come to the conclusion of this one day session of our Holy Synod. First of all I express our gratitude to the Holy Father for having erected the Eparchy of Faridabad and having appointed Mgr. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, first Bishop of the new Eparchy, as the first step of recognizing our jurisdictional rights all over India. The earnestness with which His Excellency Salvatore Penacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio in India pursued this ecclesiastical provision also deserves our appreciation and gratitude.

It is my privilege and duty to thank you all, for your active participation in the discussions of the Synod. We have dealt with a few important pastoral concerns and adopted certain measures to respond to them more effectively. The election of the Rector of Good Shepherd Seminary, Kunnoth is an important act with regard to the priestly formation of the candidates of that seminary. The observations on the Mission Year have given new orientations regarding our missionary and pastoral commitment. I would like to place on record the appreciation of the Synod for the token donation of Rs. 5 Lakhs from the Mission Fund to the Eparchy of Faridabad and thank Bishop Gregory Karotemprel for the innovative ventures he has undertaken to raise the Mission Fund.

Finally I thank Bishop Bosco Puthur, Curia Bishop, Fr. Antony Kollannur, Chancellor, Fr. James Kallumkal, Assistant Chancellor, Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, Finance Officer and the
Secretarial and ministerial staff of the Curia for their service to conduct this one day Synod. The next Synod is scheduled for 20 August to 1 September 2012. May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God our Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us always!

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

Mount St. Thomas + George Alencherry
09 March 2012 Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XX Synod (2012)
Session 3
20 August – 01 September
2012
XX Synod (2012) Session 3
20 August -1 September 2012
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

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

We have prepared ourselves spiritually with the recollection
and the celebration of the Holy Qurbana for a fruitful
participation in the present Session of the Synod. We shall
commit our thoughts and sentiments to the inspirations of the
Holy Spirit so that all of us may work together for the good
functioning of the Synod. I thank Bishop Jose Chittooparampil
CMI for giving us an inspiring talk for the recollection in the
context of the Year of Faith emphasizing the new challenges
and the proper responses to those challenges from our part as
Pastors of the Church.

Let me now very cordially welcome all of you to the Third
Session of the XX Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar
Church. One of the important events after the March Session of
our Synod is the Episcopal Ordination of Archbishop Kuriakose
Bharanikulangara and his Installation as the first Bishop of the
Eparchy of Faridabad. I take this occasion to congratulate him
on his new office in the Church and pray God's blessings on
his apostolate. I cordially welcome him in a special manner
to the Synod of our Church. Let us hope that the Eparchy of
Faridabad under his leadership will create a growing impact in
the Northern Region of our Country, especially in the Capital,
as an eparchy well founded in the traditions of the Syro-Malabar
Church.
I am glad to note that except three emeriti Bishops, all
the other Bishops of our Church are present for this Session.
Archbishop Jacob Thoomkuzhy, has informed me by letter of
his inability to attend this Session of the Synod. Bishop John
Vadakel CMI has written to me that he would join us only by the
second sitting on Tuesday, 21 August.

The celebration of the Mission Year in our Church is in
its final stage, all of us awaiting its successful conclusion. It
is gratifying to note that this important event created great
enthusiasm, a wave of renewal and a missionary thrust in
different levels of ecclesial life. Even the other sui iuris
Churches of our Country appreciated the observance of the
Mission Year and in many places participated in our mission
year programmes, either spontaneously or at our invitation. By
God’s providence a context is created in the Church to continue
the spirit and momentum of the Mission Year by the advent of
the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in
Rome on “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the
Christian Faith” and the celebration of the Year of Faith to be
proclaimed by the Holy Father on 11 October 2012. It is in this
general context of our faith life and work of evangelization that
we are assembled for the present session of our Synod.

The Pastoral visits I have done both within India and abroad
have given me great satisfaction regarding the presence and
witness of our Church in various parts of the world. I am really
thankful to all the Bishops and their collaborators, priests,
religious and lay leaders who have organized the programmes
of my visits and made them really an ecclesial experience
both for me and for the faithful of the respective eparchies or
the diaspora communities. The kerygmatic drives of certain
mission eparchies in the form of ad gentes mission deserve our
appreciation and they are to be strengthened by the support and
cooperation of the eparchies of the Mother Church. Both in
the Eparchies in Kerala and in some Mission Eparchies, some
unique methods of evangelization have been launched which
could be discussed and experimented in other places too. The Community Radio by name "Radio Mattoli" of the Eparchy of Mananthavady is one such adventure. Special schools for the village people in the Eparchy of Adilabad are another important method of mission work. During my visits hitherto I could see some nascent Christian communities in the eparchies of Ramanathapuram, Adilabad, Bhadravathi and Bijnor and I am sure that similar communities are emerging in other mission eparchies too. It is with great enthusiasm that the diaspora communities received me and expressed their desire to get ecclesiastical structures for their pastoral guidance. We will have occasion to discuss this point in detail during our Synodal settings.

In the past our Church has witnessed real holiness of life through its sons and daughters. Consequently we were blessed with the canonization of St. Alphonsa and the beatification of Fr. Chavara Kuriakose Elias, Mother Mariam Thresia, Thevarparambil Kunjachan and Sr. Euphrasia. To add to our spiritual joy, two of our Servants of God, Bishop Thomas Kurialacherry and Fr. Mathew Kadaliakkattil, have become Venerables and there are a few other Servants of God whose causes have been taken for the process of canonization. All this entails upon us to examine ourselves whether we are at present really striving for holiness in our own lives and in the lives of the faithful of our Church. Christian vocation is a vocation to holiness and even evangelization is proclamation of the holiness of God to be realized in the lives of the people. Let us bear in mind this fundamental principle of Christian faith in the programmes that we conduct for the celebration of the Year of Faith and the follow up of the Mission Year.

The project of our Procura in Rome is still in its initial stage of realization. Only an amount of about $50,000,00 has been remitted in our Account in the Bank of Vatican by some priests and certain diaspora communities. The negotiation regarding the mode of payment of the cost of the proposed procura is not
yet completed. Other details of this project could be discussed during the Synod.

The Mission Fund started on 1 October 2011 has been received with enthusiasm among the various sections of the Church. Bishop Gregory Karotemprel, together with his Secretariat is engaged in awareness programmes and collection of funds and it seems to me that they deserve greater support and encouragement from the part of the Eparchies in the Mother Church.

There have been two important consultations after the Synodal Session in March, one on Institutions of Higher Education and the other on English Medium Schools. The findings of these consultations will be presented in the Synod for our reflection and subsequent lines of action.

I am happy to note that all the Commissions, Committees and other organs of the Curia are functioning with an ecclesial commitment and earnestness and I thank all of them wholeheartedly.

With sentiments of joy, I recall the Sacerdotal Golden and Silver Jubilee of some of our beloved bishops: Archbishop Joseph Powathil and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI celebrate their Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee while Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Paul Alappatt and Bishop Joseph Arumachadath MCBS, their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee during the current year. Let me extend to them our hearty congratulations and assurance of prayers on this graceful occasion in their lives.

Before concluding these words, I would like to express, in fraternal communion with all of you my brother Archbishops and Bishops, my deep sorrow for the sufferings of the victims of the landslides at Anickamopoil and Pulloorampara in the Eparchy of Thamarassery, and at Kadavoor in the parish of Njarakkad, in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam. Let us entrust the deceased in the hands of God praying for their suffrage and try to alleviate
the sufferings of the affected people with our support and efforts of solidarity. We may discuss at the beginning of the Synod what are the measures we could do on this score.

Finally I invoke God’s blessings upon all of us to have a fruitful Synodal session. May Mary, Mother of Christ, St. Thomas, our Father in faith and all other Saints intercede for us!

With these words I declare the third session of the XX Synod 2012 open.

Mount St. Thomas
20 August 2012

+ George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
XX Synod (2012), Session 3
20 August – 1 September 2012

REPORT

The XX Synod (2012), Session 3 began with a recollection before the official inauguration of the Synod, preached by Bishop Jose Chittooparampil CMI, at 10.00 a.m., followed by personal prayer for some time and a concelebrated Holy Qurbana of the Bishops for which the Major Archbishop George Alencherry was the main celebrant.

The Formal Inauguration of the Synod: The Major Archbishop recalled the Episcopal ordination of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, the first Bishop of Faridabad as one of the most significant events since the last Session of the Synod and wished God’s blessings on the new eparchy. He expressed his hope that the Eparchy under the leadership of Archbishop Bharanikulangara will create a growing impact in the Northern Region of our Country, especially in the Capital, as an eparchy well founded in the traditions of the Syro-Malabar Church. He conveyed his gratitude to all for organizing the Mission Year Programmes with great enthusiasm. The Major Archbishop pointed out that by God’s providence a context is created in the Church to continue the spirit and momentum of the Mission Year by the advent of the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome on “The New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian Faith” and the celebration of the Year of Faith to be proclaimed by the Holy Father on 11 October 2012. He expressed his satisfaction at the well organized pastoral visits he had made both within the territory and outside. The Major Archbishop conveyed jubilee greetings to Archbishop Joseph Powathil and Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI who celebrate their Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee and Bishop
Joseph Pandarasseril, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop Paul Alappatt and Bishop Joseph Arumachadath MCBS, their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee during the current year. Before concluding he conveyed his deep sorrow for the sufferings of the victims of the landslides at Anickampoil and Pulloorampara in the Eparchy of Thamarassery, and at Kadavoor in the parish of Njarakkad, in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam. He invited the Synod to deliberate upon how to alleviate the sufferings of the affected people with our support and efforts of solidarity. Invoking God’s blessings he declared the third session of the XX Synod 2012 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 Kuriakose Bharanikulangara (Faridabad), Mar Joseph Powathil (Emeritus Archbishop, Changanacherry), Mar Abraham Mattam (Emeritus, Satna), Mar Joseph Pallikaparampil (Emeritus, Palai), Mar Mathew Vattackuzhy (Emeritus, Kanjirapally), Mar Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI (Emeritus, Sagar), Mar Dominic Kokkatt CST (Emeritus, Ghorakhpur), Mar Gratian Mundadan CMI (Emeritus, Bijnor), Mar James Pazhayattil (Emeritus, Irinjalakuda), Mar Paul Chittilapilly (Emeritus, Thamarassery), Mar Gregory Karotemprel CMI (Emeritus, Rajkot), Mar George Punnakottil (Kothamangalam), 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 Adyanthnath (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 (Mandya), Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil (Thamrassery), Mar Raphael Thattil (Auxiliary, Trichur), Mar Paul Alappatt (Ramanathapuram), Mar Pauly Kannookadan (Irinjalakuda), Mar Jose Chittooparambil CMI (Rajkot), and Fr. Philip Kodiyanthara (Administrator, Thuckalay).

Office Bearers for the Present Session of the Synod: The Major Archbishop 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 Session of the Synod with a few changes. The Synod accepted the proposal and accordingly, Bishop Joseph Kunnath CMI, Bishop Joseph Arumachadath MCBS and Bishop Paul Alappatt were to act as Moderators, Bishop Paul Alappatt, Bishop Jose Chittooparambil and Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara as Tellers, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Bishop Mathew Arackal, and Bishop Thomas Chakiath (Convener) as members of the Committee for the Media, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam as Convener and Bishop Joseph Kunnath and Bishop Thomas Elavanal as members of the Committee for the Pastoral Circular and Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath as the person 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 Minutes and Decisions of the Previous Synod: Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Secretary of the Synod read out the Minutes and the decisions of the Synod held on 9 March 2012. The Synod approved the Minutes with minor modifications and reviewed the implementation of the decisions.
Finalizing 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. Sunday Collection for the victims of Landslide in the Dioceses of Thamarassery and Kothamangalam.
2. Election for the office of Bishop of Thuckalay and the Auxiliary of Palai
3. Processes for Episcopal offices.
5. Improvements on the Procedure for Collecting Names of Episcopal Candidates
6. Collecting the bio-data of priests who could be appointed in important offices
7. Initiating the procedure for the successor of a Bishop some years before the actual retirement.
8. Eparchy/Exarchy in Australia – Developments and Procedures
11. Appointment of the Apostolic Visitor- India
12. Apostolic Visitor for the whole of Europe with coordinators in each country
13. Road Map for the Pastoral Care in the Gulf Region
14. Letter of Fr. Jose Palatty regarding the support for Chennai Mission
15. Procura in Rome – further developments regarding its procedure
16. Contribution to the Curia from the priests working as Chaplains presented by the Major Archbishop.

17. Presentation on the final assessment of the editio typica

18. Appropriate place for mentioning the religious in the Anaphora.


20. Lectionary


23. Guidelines for the celebration of the Year of Faith.

24. Celebrating the feast of St. Thomas in a befitting manner at the Major Archiepiscopal level.

25. Request for action from the part of the Church to get St. Thomas day declared a restricted holiday.

26. Celebration of the 1950th death anniversary of St. Thomas in 2022

27. Guidelines for religious working in other sui iuris churches.

28. Statutes of AKCC

29. Need to delay the granting of dispensation from religious vows

30. Directive on the modality of correction in the baptismal register

31. Publication of the Particular law of the Syro-Malabar Church

32. Whether to change the day of abstinence from Friday to Wednesday for our faithful in Saudi Arabia.
33. Request of the Synod to the Pontifical Council for the Interpretation of the Legislative Texts regarding the question whether India is an Oriental Territory or a Latin Territory

34. Authorization to charismatic preachers to go abroad and set up for granting permission.

35. Bringing “Family Units” under one of the Major Archiepiscopal Commissions.

36. Early appointment of Bishop’s Committee for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly 2015.

37. Participation of religious and laity in the functioning of the Finance Committee.

38. Office of a Postulator at the Curia

39. Formation of the Inter Church Council

40. Briefing on the consultation on Higher Education + Follow up

41. Briefing on the consultation on the English Medium Schools + Follow up

42. Presentation of Reports of Various Commissions, Committees and the Tribunal

43. Presentation of Reports of Various Major Seminaries

44. Amendments to the Statutes of PV & Vadavathoor Seminary

45. To declare the Ephrem Theological Seminary a Mission Seminary of the Syro-Malabar Church under the Synod.

46. Presentation of the Statement of Accounts and Budget of the Curia

47. Briefing by M.L. Thomas, Executive Director, CNEWA

48. Request for Ecclesiastical title of honour to different persons.
49. Guidelines to award honours and titles

50. Consultation with representatives of priests, religious and laity on current challenges during every Session of the Synod in August

51. One separate sitting of the synod for the bishops in the proper territory / Kerala and outside.

52. An employment programme under Syro-Malabar Church.

53. Catholic Hospitals and Pro-Life Commitment.

54. Draft study document on the four themes 1. Increasing violence, 2. Sex revolution, 3. Wrong influence of the Media, and 4. Rampant corruption

55. Deepika – donation for D-ACT

Help for the Victims of Landslides: Following the invitation of the Major Archbishop in his inaugural address, the Synod discussed the ways and means of helping the victims of the recent landslides in the Eparchies of Thamarassery, Kothamangalam and the Archeparchy of Tellicherry. There were suggestions to raise the money either through a Sunday collection or through direct contributions from the Eparchies. Finally a committee was constituted with the Members of the Finance Commission and the Bishops of the affected Eparchies to assess the extent of the damage and suggest the amount required for help and how to raise it. Bishop Mathew Arackal presented in a later sitting the report of the Committee designated for assessing the financial contributions to be given by the Synod. The Committee proposed that the Synod gives Rs. 10,00,000.00 from the contributions of the eparchies, with the exception of Bijnor, to the victims of the three Eparchies in the following proportion: Rs. 7,00,000.00 to Thamarassery, Rs. 2,00,000.00 to Tellicherry and Rs. 1,00,000.00 to Kothamangalam. The Synod accepted the proposal. The balance amount will be given to the Eparchy of Bijnor which has suffered massive landslide.
Election of Bishop for Thuckalay and Auxiliary Bishop for Palai: The Synod took appropriate decision on the matter.

Improvements on the Procedure for Collecting Names of Episcopal Candidates: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST presented the points for amendment proposed by the Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions. After some discussion the Synod approved the following proposals:

1. The Bishop of the Eparchy concerned may send to the Major Archbishop 4 or 5 names, instead of 3 to 5 names as given in the present text (III, 2).

2. The total number of informants may be around 40, instead of 30 (IV, 3).

3. Each Bishop concerned has to submit names of 3 candidates once in 5 years and the Major Archbishop shall remind the Bishops on the matter (VIII, 2).

In the course of the discussion the Synod decided to continue the practice of making the priority list (VIII, 2, b). The Synod also decided to omit the first part dealing with the bio-data of the candidate from the Questionnaire in the enquiry. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel and Archbishop Thazhath were requested to bring in writing the amendment to be made in the Particular Law in this regard. We shall do the amendments in the next Synod following the procedure stipulated in the Particular Law. Bishop Vijay Anand CMI suggested that it is better to prepare separate guidelines for the Procedure for collecting names of Episcopal Candidates both for the outside and inside the proper territory.

Preparing a List of Candidates for Other Offices in the Church: The Major Archbishop asked the opinion of the Synod on periodically collecting the bio-data of priests who could be appointed in important offices of the Church. The Synod gave its consent. It was further clarified that the request has to specify the category of the office concerned.
**Request for an Eparchy in Malappuram:** Archbishop George Valiamattam briefed the Synod on the findings of the Committee of the Bishops of the Province of Tellicherry along with the facilitator, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB. The Committee was of opinion that at present it is not feasible to create an Eparchy in Malappuram as that would cause considerable decrease in the territory of the Eparchy of Thamarassery. The Committee proposed that after proper atmosphere is created through dialogue with the people concerned, Manimooly region could be attached to the Eparchy of Thamarassery. If that is not acceptable it is better to maintain the status quo. The Major Archbishop and Archbishop Valiamattam were requested to take leadership in this regard to explain the mind of the Synod to the people concerned. The Major Archbishop requested the Committee to give its report in writing.

**Eparchy/Exarchy in Australia:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that according to the collected statistics, there are 36,348 Syro-Malabar faithful in Australia. It is estimated that the numbers are still higher. The attitude of the Bishops of the Australian Hierarchy is very favourable for an Eparchy/Exarchy expressed during his meeting with them in Rome. The Major Archbishop told the Synod that he had sent a letter to the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in this regard and the response was positive and the Congregation had written to the Nuncio in Australia to expedite the procedure. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that during his visit to Australia in November, he is invited to address the Australian Bishops’ Conference and that he will be visiting most of the Major centres where our people are concentrated. He expressed the hope that something specific will come out of the visit. In this context the Major Archbishop sought the opinion of the Synod for preparing a list of candidates for Australia. After some discussion the Synod was of opinion that it would be better to prepare the list at the appropriate time.
Letter of Dr. A.M. Chinnappa, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore: The Major Archbishop read out the letter of Archbishop A.M. Chinnappa in reply to the Major Archbishop’s request for endorsing a Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Chennai Region. Archbishop Chinnappa expressed his mind that at present it is inopportune to create a Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Chennai, which, according to him, would cause social disharmony and even ethnic crisis. There was a long discussion on the issue where several Bishops intervened. All were of opinion that we have to give a well-studied proper reply to the letter. We should try to convince the Bishops in Tamil Nadu that we are not interested in ethnic and linguistic concerns. Our concern is building up of the Apostolic Church in the context of the ecclesiology of communion. Accordingly we shall continue to negotiate in an atmosphere of dialogue and try to get the just ecclesiastical jurisdiction in Chennai. Some Bishops opined that only with the intervention of Rome a solution can be realized in this regard. In the meantime our priests, religious and people working in the region should try to adapt themselves to Tamil language and culture and instruct our people to continue to celebrate the Qurbana also in Tamil.

Eparchy in Bangalore: The Major Archbishop read out the letter of Archbishop Bernard Moras in reply to his request for endorsing a Syro-Malabar Eparchy in the Bangalore Region. The Archbishop was of opinion that the present situation is not conducive for a Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Bangalore. However, he did not exclude its possibility in future. The Synod further discussed on how to proceed in the above context. The following alternatives were proposed by the Major Archbishop:

1. An Exarch with an Episcopal Rank to be appointed
2. One Curia Bishop in charge of that Region
3. Extension of the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mandya to Bangalore Region
The general opinion of the Synod was in favour of the extension of the Jurisdiction of the Bishop of Mandya to Bangalore Region and proposed the Major Archbishop to dialogue with the Archbishop of Bangalore in this line.

The discussion came to the point of the pastoral care of the Latins in the Syro-Malabar Eparchies and vice versa. It was proposed that Syro-Malabar Bishop concerned, in consultation with the Latin Bishop, appoints priests of the Latin Rite for the pastoral care of the Latin faithful in his Eparchy. Vice versa, this can be done also for the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabarians. This issue shall be brought up in the Special Commission for Evangelization of the CBCI to bring about an understanding among the Bishops.

**Apostolic Visitor for India:** The Major Archbishop sought the mind of the Synod on appointing an Apostolic Visitor with Episcopal Rank for the migrants in India. The Major Archbishop explained that he has received green signal on the matter from the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. During the discussion, the Bishops requested that there should be clarity regarding his residence, his competence and financial resources for his maintenance. It was suggested that the office of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care for the Migrants and that of the Apostolic Visitor could be clubbed together. Towards the end of the discussion the Synod gave its consent to proceed on the matter.

**Apostolic Visitor for Europe:** The Major Archbishop explained to the Synod his experience with migrant communities in the different Countries of Europe during his pastoral visits. Even though there are chaplains to the Syro-Malabarians in several Countries, there is no proper coordination of the pastoral care. Hence, the Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he has sought the help of the Bishops Conferences concerned for the appointment of Syro-Malabar pastoral coordinators for each country. The Major Archbishop asked the consent of the
Synod to proceed with the appointment of an Apostolic Visitor to Europe with Episcopal Rank and the Synod gave its consent.

Reconstitution of the Public Relations Office: The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he has reconstituted the Public Relations Office with the following Members: Fr. Paul Thelakatt (Spokesperson), Fr. Jose Palakeel MST and Fr. Jolly Vadakan, specifying their duties.

Meeting of the PRO with the Bishops in the Synod: In response to the suggestion of Bishop Vijay Anand CMI, it was agreed upon by the Synod that the Members of PRO be invited in the January Synod.

Road Map for Pastoral Care in the Gulf Region: Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, briefed the Synod of the present situation of the pastoral care in the region, which was complemented by the Major Archbishop. A detailed discussion followed on the complicated and delicate situation in the Gulf Region. The following points emerged from the discussions:
1. When Bishops visit the Gulf Region for religious or public functions, they shall do so in concurrence with the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, along with the invitation of the Local Ordinary. 2. Bishops shall correspond with the Apostolic Vicars on ecclesiastical matters with the concurrence of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants.

Thereafter Bishop Paul Alappatt, the Moderator, read out the “Road Map for the Pastoral Care in the Gulf Region” prepared by Chevalier Dr. Mohan Thomas Pakalomattam, SMCA Gulf Coordinator. From among the detailed programmes of the Road Map, immediate request was for erecting a Syro-Malabar personal parish in Doha which they hope will lead to the creation of an Eparchy/Exarchy in the Gulf Region. During the discussion in which several Bishops intervened, the Major Archbishop expressed his hope that during the forthcoming
Synod in Rome there will be an Interdicasterial Meeting on pastoral care in the Gulf Region in which the issues like ius commissionis and the Rescript will be addressed. The Major Archbishop suggested that only the appointment of a Syro-Malabar Exarch with Episcopal rank was the solution to the problems of the pastoral care in the Gulf region. In the name of the Synod, the Major Archbishop expressed his solidarity with the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Gulf Region who strive hard to preserve their ecclesial identity and tradition in difficult circumstances.

To formulate guidelines regarding the visit of priests and lay faithful to the Gulf Region for religious purpose, a Committee was formed with the Members of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Bosco Puthur. The Convener of the Committee will be Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST who shall present the draft of the Guidelines in the Synod in the present session itself.

Letter of Fr. Jose Palatty Regarding the Support for Chennai Mission: The Moderator read out a letter of Fr. Jose Palatty, Coordinator of the Syro-Malabar Mission in Chennai forwarding the request of the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Parishioners, Little Mount, Chennai, for financial help to erect a common monument at Little Mount-St. Thomas Mount area. During the discussion a few Bishops expressed their concern regarding the construction of a monument in that area in the present context. The Synod entrusted to Bishop Mathew Arackal, the Chairman of the Laity Commission, the responsibility to explore the possibility of fund raising for buying a plot of land in view of the proposed project of building a community centre in Chennai. He shall present his report on the project in the following Synod.

**Procura in Rome:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod of the developments in the project of the Procura in Rome. In the context of the difficulty to get the loan sanctioned
from the Vatican Bank, the Congregation for the Oriental Churches proposed to us regarding the free use for 3 – 5 years, of a college with 28 Rooms, built for the ecclesiastical students from the Arab Countries. In the meantime the Congregation has promised to negotiate with Missionarii della fede to extend the period of payment for the property which we had decided to buy. The Synod decided that we accept the offer of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches to take over the St. Ephrem College temporarily. The Major Archbishop reminded the Synod to earnestly pursue the fundraising drive for the Procura.

**Contribution to the Curia from the Syro-Malabar Priests Working as Chaplains:** At the request of the Major Archbishop, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants presented the state of affairs of the contributions by the priest-chaplains ministering to the migrant communities. He said that the Commission receives financial contributions only from three priests working Abroad. After some discussion, the Synod decided that every priest officially sent to the migrant communities as chaplains shall contribute a share of their allowance to the Curia. The Commission shall prepare a list taking into consideration each case and present it to the Permanent Synod.

**Briefing on the Eparchy of Faridabad:** The Major Archbishop invited Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara to brief the Synod on the situation of the new Eparchy and on its status. Archbishop Bharanikulangara said that there are a few specialities regarding the Eparchy of Faridabad. The first one is the importance given to the Evangelization, besides the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful. The second is that it is not suffragan of any Latin Metropolitan Archdiocese, but directly under the Congregation for the Oriental Churches which is a *ius speciale*. He emphasized that in his ministry he has been keen on fostering harmony with the six Latin dioceses within the territory of Faridabad. As directed by Rome, an Inter-ritual Ad
hoc Commission under the leadership of the Nuncio has been formed. Joint common pastoral letters with the Latin Bishops are being issued and monthly recollections of priests are often conducted together with the Latin confreres. Syro-Malabar Provincial Houses and Formation Houses existing in the area, except a few, have shifted their ascription to the Eparchy of Faridabad. The Archbishop said that he will continue to exhort the lay faithful to enroll themselves in the new Eparchy.

In the discussion that followed several Bishops intervened. Having congratulated the Archbishop, the Bishops hoped that the new Eparchy show the fine example of the Syro-Malabar tradition and identity in that region, especially in the liturgical matters. Although outside the territory with ius speciale, the eparchy has to foster greater communion and solidarity with the Major Archbishop and the Synod. While taking care of the religious, the new eparchy has to take into consideration that the men and women religious working in those dioceses in the pastoral field will continue to do so where as the formation houses and the Provincial houses can become the part of the new Eparchy. In the name of the Synod, the Major Archbishop congratulated the Archbishop and wished him God’s blessings in his ministry.

**Invitation by the Prior General, CMI for the Pilgrimage to Mannanam:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottieyil CMI, the Prior General and Fr. George Thanchan CMI, the Vicar General who came to the Synod Hall to invite the Bishops for a pilgrimage to Mannanam scheduled for 26 August. The Prior General cordially invited the Bishops to Mannanam, the Mother House of the CMI Congregation and explained briefly the programme on 26 August at Mannanam.

**Bishops’ Pilgrimage to Mannanam and Kudamalloor:** The Synod appreciated the well-organized pilgrimage of the Bishops to Mannanam and Kudamalloor on Sunday, 26 August, in connection with the Mission Year Celebrations and expressed
gratitude to the CMI Congregation and FCC Changanacherry Province.

**Updating on the Mission Year Celebrations:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt MST, Secretary, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, and invited Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, the Chairman, to introduce the topic. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel and Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt briefed the Synod of the various programmes of the Mission Year celebrations and expressed their gratitude for the generous cooperation from all quarters of the Church. The remaining important event is the concluding ceremony of the Mission Year scheduled for November in Delhi for which the new eparchy of Faridabad has offered whole hearted assistance. Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara invited the Members of the Synod to this event. He informed the Synod that the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants has requested him to invite the President of India, the Prime Minister or one of the Cabinet Ministers for the function. If none of them is available, the name of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam emerged as a possible chief guest. The Major Archbishop and several Bishops congratulated the organizers of the Mission Year for their excellent and unassuming attitude in the successful organization of the various programmes of the Mission Year. The Mission Year celebrations have given a new impetus to the lay movements for missionary activity. One of the Bishops brought to the notice of the Synod that as many Syro-Malabar religious congregations are already engaged in missionary activities in several African Countries, it is high time that the Mother Church coordinates Syro-Malabar missionary activities in the African Countries.

With the permission of the Major Archbishop, Bishop Vijay Anand CMI reminded the Synod major points of the "concrete proposals for keeping up the missionary dynamism of the Mission Year.” In conclusion Bishop Vijay Anand invited the
Synod in the context of the Mission Year celebrations, to bring greater unity in the Church, especially in the Liturgical matters.

In a later sitting Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST presented the programme of the conclusion of the Mission Year Celebration in Delhi in the month of November. During the discussion the Major Archbishop informed the Synod that Mgr. John E. Kozar, President of CNEWA will give the keynote address on the Missionary challenges of the Syro-Malabar Church during the seminar. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel requested the Bishops to participate in the two days programmes of the conclusion of the Mission Year Celebration.

**Expenses for the Concluding Functions of the Mission Year in Delhi:** Bishop Mathew Arackal, Convener, Finance Committee for the Mission Year Celebration, informed the Synod that according to the calculation the total expense will come to Rs. 8,50,000.00. There followed a discussion on how to raise this amount. The Synod requested Bishop Mathew Arackal, Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST and Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara to consider how to reduce the expenses and to propose in a later sitting of the Synod concrete mode of sharing the amount.

**Official Announcement of the New Bishops:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod at 11 o’clock on Friday, 24 August, that he has received communication from the Apostolic See that the announcement of the new Bishops is scheduled for 3.30 pm on the same day. The Major Archbishop invited the opinion of the Bishops on the modality of the announcement. As per the decision of the earlier Synod, the announcement will take place at Mount St. Thomas in the presence of the two Bishops - Elect and the Members of the Synod. At 3.20 the Synod took a break from the sitting for the official announcement of the new Bishop for the Eparchy of Thuckalay, Fr. George Rajendran and Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Palai, Fr. Jacob Muricken.
Guidelines for the Celebration of the Year of Faith and Study on the Reception of the Vatican II: Bishop Bosco Puthur, the Convener of the Committee designated for the celebration of the Year of Faith and for the Study of the Reception of Vatican II, presented the Guidelines for the celebrations at the level of the Eparchies, Parishes, religious houses, formation houses, and retreat centres with due importance to the teachings of the Vatican II and catechism of the Catholic Church. The Committee proposed to the Synod that there should be an organizing committee at the eparchial and parish level. The convener at the eparchial level shall be preferably the Director of Catechetical Department. Regarding the reception of the teachings of Vatican II, the Committee has envisaged to conduct a survey with the help of the Major seminarians. Survey will be conducted in ten parishes of an Eparchy. In each of these ten parishes, survey questionnaires will be served to ten knowledgeable persons, including priests, religious and lay people. The Meeting of the Bishops of the Mission Eparchies will decide on the feasibility of the Survey in Eparchies outside Kerala.

Dispensation from Religious Vows: Bishop Pauly Kannelkadan suggested that there should be a reasonable span of time before granting dispensation from the religious vows. Discussion followed in which some Bishops remarked that according to canon law there is no provision for delaying the dispensation and also from the human point of view it may cause damage to the person concerned. However, pastoral prudence should be applied to each individual case.

Correcting the Date of Birth in the Baptismal Register: The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal who presented once again the modality of correction of the date of birth in the Register of Baptism. Although the modality of correction may not be applicable in every case, after some discussion, as principle, the Synod was of opinion that Bishops may use it as
a directive for correction of the date of birth in the Baptismal Register.

**The Approval of the Bye-law of AKCC:** Mar Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Legate for AKCC, explained briefly the history of the formation of the new Bye-law which has been approved by the General Body of the AKCC and requested the Synod for its approval. After detailed discussion on the history and the present situation of AKCC, the Synod decided to give provisional approval to the Bye-law and constituted a Committee to scrutinize in detail the Bye-law before its final approval with the following members: Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Remigiose Inchananiyil and Bishop Paul Alappatt. The committee can consult legal experts.

**AKCC State Leadership Meet:** The Synod congratulated Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil for the well-conducted AKCC State Leadership Meet at Mount St. Thomas on Saturday, 25 August 2012 in which many of our Bishops participated.

**Vanitha Forum:** Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil who is in charge of the Vanitha Forum requested the Synod to give at least provisional approval to the Bye-law of the Vanitha Forum. After a short discussion the Synod decided to give provisional approval to the Bye-law of the Vanitha Forum.

**Youth Forum:** Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, in charge of the Youth Ministry, informed the Synod of the efforts taken so far to reinforce youth ministry in the Syro-Malabar Church. He expressed his gratitude to Fr. Sebastian Kaipanplackal. Bishop Adayanthrath added that as Fr. Sebastian was only part time, in spite of his good will, not much progress has been made in this field. He insisted on the need of better pastoral care among the Syro-Malabar youth. In the discussion that followed, some of the Bishops remarked that unlike other individual Churches, Syro-Malabar Church is far behind in organizing its youth and
pointed out the importance of a Youth Organization for the Syro-Malabar Church. During the discussion, reference was made to the ‘Jesus Youth’ movement. It is high time that we care for organizing the units of Jesus Youth in our parishes and eparchies.

Bishop Joseph Pandarassery, responsible for KCBC Youth movement remarked that the youth ministry needs always dynamic activities and often lack of adequate funds is a hindrance for effective youth ministry.

**Youth Ministry and Jesus Youth:** In continuation with the discussion on Youth Ministry, there were a good number of interventions in the Synod on Jesus Youth Movement. Bishops in general appreciated their zeal and commitment. They have great potential for campus ministry and outreach to the tribal areas and mission stations. However, they seem not to have correct ecclesial sense and claim to be supra-ritual in their vision and ministry. We should try our best to organize them and help them spiritually by accompanying them in their ministry. Some suggested that parish, diocesan and State level animators could be appointed for Jesus Youth and to bring it under the KCBC Charismatic Commission. It was mentioned that this is possible in our eparchies, both inside and outside the proper territory of our Church. But it is more difficult in the case of migrant youth in the Gulf Countries and Europe. We should be able to inculcate in them an ecclesial sense through proper liturgical catechesis helping them for a better participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy. As the Apostolic See is in the process of recognizing the Jesus Youth as an independent International Movement, some Bishops proposed that the Major Archbishop writes to the authorities concerned presenting the proposals of our Church regarding the Jesus Youth. A Committee was formed with the following members: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Convener), Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt in order to dialogue with the leaders of
the Jesus Youth, to study the pastoral issues and propose to the Synod concrete suggestions to help them through our ministry.

**Informal Visit of the Bishop-Elect of Thuckalay:** The Bishop-elect George Rajendran came for an informal visit to the Synod Hall and expressed his gratitude to the Bishops for entrusting him with this responsible ministry and invited the Bishops for his Episcopal Ordination scheduled for 16 September 2012. He asked for the prayers so that by the Grace of God he can do his ministry for the glory of God and the good of His people in the Eparchy of Thuckalay. In the name of the Bishops, the Major Archbishop assured him of the prayers and the wholehearted support of the Synod and of the whole Church.

**Welcome to Bishop-elect Fr. Jacob Muricken:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Jacob Muricken Auxiliary Bishop-elect of Palai to the Synod and wished him God’s blessings in his apostolic ministry.

**Contribution to FABC:** The Major Archbishop reminded the Synod that the Eparchies have to contribute $100 per year as subscription for FABC. In order to facilitate the payment, the Bishops are requested to pay Rs. 5,500.00 to the Curia before leaving the Synod and the Finance Officer will forward it to the Secretariat of FABC.

**Request for Subsidy for the Pilgrimage to Holy Land and for the Foundation of Catholic University:** Bishop Mathew Arackal informed the Synod of a letter he had written to the Union Cabinet Minister for Minority Affairs, Sri Salman Khurshid requesting subsidy for Holy Land Pilgrimage and for erecting a Catholic University. Bishop Arackal said that he got a response from the office of the Minister that they will consider the possibility of granting the request. The Synod first discussed the grant for the Pilgrimage. The Major Archbishop said that there seems to be disagreement among the Bishops regarding the request for the subsidy for Holy Land pilgrimage, because it may cause antipathy among other communities towards us. The
Major Archbishop further suggested that when such important issues are taken up by the Commissions, it would be better to get first the mind of the Synod. However, initiative towards the foundation of a Catholic University is a welcome idea.

**Publication of the Particular Laws:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Convener, Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions, briefed the Synod on the present state of the redaction process of the Particular Laws of the Syro-Malabar Church and sought the guidance of the Synod regarding the inclusion of various guidelines as appendix to the Particular Laws. The Synod approved the inclusion of the following Guidelines:

1. Guidelines for pastoral collaboration in parishes with the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life

2. Guidelines for the Regulatory Councils of Self-Financing Educational Institutions

3. Guidelines for raising a Religious Congregation to the Major Archiepiscopal Status and for granting nihil obstat for Pontifical Status

4. Guidelines for recognizing Lay Associations of the Syro-Malabar faithful outside the Syro-Malabar Eparchies in India and Abroad

5. Guidelines for pastoral care of the migrants

6. Guidelines for the formation of the Permanent Deacons

7. Guidelines for the functioning of the Commission for Finance

8. Guidelines for the Liturgical Commission of the Syro-Malabar Church

9. Guidelines for the functioning of ecumenical activities

10. Guidelines for the functioning of the Commission for Laity
11. Instruction regarding free-state certificate, kuries and marriage preparation course.

The Synod approved the proposal of the Permanent Synod to appoint Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal to assist the Bishops' Committee for Canonical Questions in the publication of the Code of Particular Laws.

**Request from Saudi Arabia for Changing the Day of Abstinence from Friday to Wednesday:** The Major Archbishop presented in the Synod the request for permission to observe abstinence on Wednesday, instead of Friday, by some people from Saudi Arabia. The Synod after discussing the various aspects of the issue, was of opinion that the Major Archbishop could give a pastoral exhortation allowing the request for our faithful in the Gulf Countries. The Major Archbishop entrusted the task of formulating such an exhortation to Archbishop Andrews Thazhath and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST.

**The Question whether India is an Oriental Territory:** Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Convener, Synodal Committee for Canonical Questions, informed the Synod that the Text of the request to the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts on whether India is an Oriental territory would be ready only for the following Synod in January.

**Remodeling of the Synod Hall:** As we need more seats in the Synod Hall, the Bishops were of opinion of remodeling it. Mr. Antony Thomas, the Contractor and Mr. Santhosh Paul, the Architect presented to the Synod a few models. After a short discussion, the Synod asked them to present an improved version with 70 seats. Mr. Antony Thomas presented a new drawing of the Synod Hall with around 70 seats in a subsequent sitting and the Synod decided to remodel the Synod Hall.

**Implementation of the Proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly:** Bishop Bosco Puthur, Convener of the Committee for the Implementation of the Proposals of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly presented in the Synod a
brief report on the implementation. In the month of March a booklet of 10,000 copies had been published with the text on the implementation of the proposals of the Assembly and forwarded to the Bishops, to the participants of the Assembly and to the eparchial priests, to the religious houses and to the members of the eparchial pastoral councils, requesting implementation reports from the eparchies. The committee received reports from 15 eparchies. Most of the eparchies have tried to implement the proposals of the Assembly. The Synod discussed some of the points presented in the Report and decided to expand the present follow up Committee with the inclusion of the Secretaries of the eparchial pastoral councils. There was a proposal that important documents of the Church like that of the Assembly shall be published at least in Malayalam, English and Hindi, for which there should be some mechanism.

Appointment of Bishops’ Committee for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly: Bishop Sebastian Adayanthurath, Convener, Organizing Committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, proposed that it would be better to appoint early a Bishops’ Committee to organize the next Assembly. Towards the end of the discussion, the Major Archbishop informed the Synod that during the coming January Synod he shall appoint a Synodal Commission/Committee for the organization, execution and follow up of the Assembly.

Guidelines on Conferring Honours and Titles: Bishop Pauly Kannonkadavan, Convener of the Committee to scrutinize the applications for Honours and Titles, presented the Guidelines for conferring Honours and Titles in the Syro-Malabar Church for priests, religious and Laity. After some discussion with a few corrections and modifications, the Synod approved the Guidelines. The Synod discussed the names already proposed for the Titles and requested the Committee to scrutinize them and present their proposals in the present session of the Synod. Later, Bishop Pauly Kannonkadavan presented after the scrutiny of the Committee, the list of the candidates for the Honours
and Titles for whom the Synod made a vote on the following
day. Accordingly, the Synod chose by secret vote persons to be
awarded the Titles *Vaidika Ratnam, Malpan* and *Sabhatharam*. They are Fr. Jacob Aeranatt (*Vaidika Ratnam*) and Dr. P.T. Kuriakose (*Sabhatharam*) from Ernakulam-Angamaly, Fr. Mathew Vellanickal (*Malpan*), and Prof. K.T. Sebastian (*Sabhatharam*), from Changanacherry, and Dr. Cyriac Thomas (*Sabhatharam*), Prof. A.T. Devasia (*Sabhatharam*), and Mr. John Kachiramattam (*Sabhatharam*) from Palai.

**Briefing on the Consultation on Higher Education:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. George Madathiparambil, Secretary, Education Desk, who briefed the Synod on the consultation on Higher Education which was enthusiastically participated by many prominent educationists of our Church. Among the suggestions arising from the Consultation, the most important ones were, 1. Creating a Commission for Education, and, 2. Striving to make our colleges autonomous.

During the discussion that followed, some of the Bishops pointed out that when we deal with the question of education we should be doing it in understanding with KCBC. Our Educational Institutions should be accountable and transparent in their management and transactions. There was a suggestion that when consultation meetings are held on education it is desirable that people concerned from outside Kerala are invited. The Synod decided to form a Committee for Higher Education with the following members: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Member of the CBCI Commission for Education), Bishop Mathew Arackal (Member, KCBC Commission for Education) and Bishop Bosco Puthur (Curia Bishop). The Major Archbishop thanked Fr. George Madathiparambil for the well conducted consultation meeting and the report presented. Regarding the Committee for Education, the Synod specified that the Curia Bishop shall be its convener and Fr. George Madathiparambil, Secretary for Higher Education and Fr. Jacob
Palackapilly, Secretary for School Education, including Special Schools.

**Briefing on the Consultation on the English Medium Schools:** Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Jacob Palackapilly who read out the suggestions which are in conformity with the recommendations of the CBCI & KCBC, arising from the Consultation on English Medium Schools. The most important suggestion arising from the Report is that Eighty percent of the Tuition Fee shall be given as Salary to the Staff. The study recommended stricter adherence to provisions of the Kerala Education Rules. Due to the constraints of time, discussion on the subject was postponed to a later sitting. Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked Fr. Jacob Palackapilly for the excellent report. Fr. Jacob Palackapilly was asked to clarify the points arising from his report presented in the Synod. After a long discussion, the following proposals were accepted as Directives, in tune with the CBCI and KCBC Education Policy, for implementation in all the schools where these Directives have not yet been fully implemented:

1. The English Medium Schools shall pay at least a minimum salary to the Staff at par with the Minimum Wages as per the order of the State Government. In situations where that is not possible, 80% of the tuition fee shall be used for salary and other allowances of the Staff.

2. There shall be Provident Fund, ESI and Annual Increment for the Staff, as per the Government Rule.

3. There shall be a fixed period of probation after which the appointment of the Staff has to be confirmed. Details of allowances, and terms and conditions of service shall be declared at the time of appointment.

4. Maternity and paternity leave with payment is to be given as per the Government regulation.

5. Teaching Staff shall be given continuing education.
6. Written appointment orders are to be served to the Staff
7. Salary should be given through Cheque/Bank Accounts

The Synod decided to communicate the above directives to the Bishops and Religious Superiors and the Managers of the English Medium Schools for implementation.

Fr. Palackapilly brought to the attention of the Synod that we should impress upon the Government about the necessity of a common syllabus for Government/Aided/Unaided Schools. He further said that we have the responsibility to maintain and strengthen the Aided Schools which are facing stiff competition.

**Celebration of the Feast of St. Thomas at the Major Archiepiscopal Level:** The Major Archbishop sought the mind of the Synod regarding the solemn celebration of the feast of St. Thomas on July 3 at the Major Archiepiscopal level at Mount St. Thomas. In general the Bishops welcomed the idea. Following were some of the suggestions regarding the celebration. The feast shall be celebrated in connection with 1. Some events like conferring the Honours and Titles, 2. Some seminars or programmes of the Commissions or Liturgical Research Centre, and 3. Participation of Eparchial representatives. Finally it was agreed upon that the Curia Bishop in consultation with the Secretaries of the Commissions shall propose in the January Synod the mode of celebration of the Feast.

**Third July as a Restricted Holiday:** The Major Archbishop presented the topic by reading out a letter he had received, suggesting that Syro-Malabar Church should make representation to the Government to get Third July declared a restricted holiday. During the discussion it was suggested that first an agreement has to be reached among the Catholic Communities as well as the Members of the Inter Church Council.

**Celebration of the 1950 Death Anniversary of St. Thomas:** The Major Archbishop presented the topic with the following two suggestions: 1. To celebrate the 1950 Death Anniversary
of St. Thomas the Apostle in 2022 with due preparations. For this he suggested that we organize pilgrimages to the important places related to the life of St. Thomas in order to create greater awareness among the people about the faith witness of St. Thomas, 2. For the next 10 years we should have an action plan through which we should declare the vision and mission of our Church. During the discussion it was pointed out that from the early days of the Church, the faithful used to go on pilgrimages to the Holy Sepulcher, to Santiago de Compostela, the tomb of St. James, to Rome, the tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul and to Mylapore, the tomb of St. Thomas. It was suggested that pilgrimage to Mylapore can be brought up for discussion during the meeting of the Inter Church Council. The Synod decided that a Committee consisting of Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman, Commission for Laity and Bishop Pauly Kunnookadan shall present in the January Synod (2013) a programme on the celebration of 1950 death anniversary of St. Thomas and on the pilgrimage to Mylapore.

Project Regarding St. Ephrem College, Rome: For the information of the Bishops a few Photos of St. Ephrem College, Rome were screened and a letter of the Cardinal Prefect from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches with the offer to the Syro-Malabar Church to take up the College was read out by the Major Archbishop. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that during his visit to Rome in October, he shall seek clarification on the matter from the Cardinal Prefect.

Request for Constituting an Office of the Postulator at the Curia: The Synod discussed the proposal of Bishop Jose Porunnedom for constituting an office of the Postulator at the Curia. Since from the Syro-Malabar Church several causes for canonization are being taken up, the request suggested that for greater coordination it was expedient to have such an office in the Curia of the Syro-Malabar Church. After some discussion on the matter, Bishop Jose Porunnedom was entrusted with the task of studying the feasibility and report to the Synod.
Reports of the Regional Meetings of the Bishops: Bishop Bosco Puthur and Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST presented in the Synod the Reports of the Meetings of the Bishops of Kerala and outside Kerala respectively.

Report of the Major Seminaries: Fr. Antony Nariculam, Rector, St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha, Aluva, Fr. Alex Tharamangalam, Rector, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor, Kotayam and Fr. Mani Attel, Rector, Good Shepherd Seminary, Kunnoth were welcomed by Bishop Bosco Puthur. They had a brief interaction with the Bishops on various aspects of the Seminary formation. In general they expressed satisfaction in the running of the seminaries and thanked the Bishops especially the respective Commission Members for their guidance and support.

Report of the St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary, Mangalapuzha: Fr. Antony Nariculam, Rector, presented before the Synod the Report for the academic year 2011-2012. He said that Mangalapuzha Seminary in collaboration with Carmelgiri Seminary has conducted a few combined classes on theological subjects and found them to be useful. As part of liturgical formation, the seminary community celebrates Latin and Malankara Qurbana once a month. Four members of the Staff were relieved of all administrative functions in order to be appointed exclusively as Spiritual Directors. As part of pastoral formation, in association with the neighbouring parish, house visits are being arranged for the students. Renovation of the kitchen and refectory was the major financial initiative of the year. He said that the valuable stain glasses of the Seminary Chapel are to be immediately repaired which may cost Rs. 10 Lakhs. After some clarifications on the points raised by the Members of the Synod, Bishop Jacob Manathodath appreciated the improved atmosphere of the Institution and thanked the Rector and the Staff for their cooperation with the Seminary Commission. The Major Archbishop expressed his gratitude to the Staff and Rector of the Seminary for their service.
Report of the Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth: Fr. Mani Attel, the Rector presented the Report of the Seminary touching all aspects of the life and formation in the Seminary. He said that Kunnoth Seminary stresses the importance of spiritual and liturgical formation. He mentioned that daily in the celebration of the Holy Qurbana all the resident professors concelebrate with the community. He invited the Bishops to visit the seminary at least once a year. He said that Library, Administrative Block and Auditorium are still to be built and the ‘tarring’ of the 2 Kilometer Seminary Road has become imperative. At present, there is great difficulty because of inadequate Library and Class Rooms. He thanked the Eparchies for their financial support to overcome the huge debt which the Seminary had incurred. Although Rs. 1, 91, 45, 222.00 could be collected from the parishes, the Seminary has a debt of Rs. 50,00,000.00 During the discussion, the Rector clarified that, in general, he enjoys good cooperation from the part of the Staff. Archbishop George Valiamattam said that the construction of a Library is a priority of the Seminary and he requested the cooperation of all for Kunnoth Seminary. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, a Member of the Seminary Commission, remarked that although the Members of the Staff had been very generous in visiting the parishes for the collection of funds for the Seminary, they feel that this cannot be continued for long because in the present circumstances they do not get enough time for preparing the classes. The Major Archbishop thanked the Rector and the Seminary Commission.

Report of the St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor: Fr. Alex Tharamangalam, the Rector, presented the Report of the Seminary in which he highlighted the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Seminary and thanked the Bishops for their participation and support. The Report mentions that the Seminary gives greatest importance to the spiritual formation of the Seminarians. The Seminary is giving special emphasis to the studies of the heritages of the Oriental Churches. In the particular context of India,
the study of other religions and traditions forms part of the theological formation. The Seminary promotes self discipline and maturity of character in the students. As part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations the Seminary arranged altar servers meet in which 600 boys and girls who assist at the Holy Qurbana participated. Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB cautioned vigilance against polarizations and invited the whole hearted support of the Staff and the Bishops to impart, in a spirit of unity and communion, effective formation to the future priests. The Major Archbishop thanked the Members of the Staff, the Rector and the Commission for their service and cooperation in the running of the Seminary.

**Amendments to the Statutes of Paurastya Vidyāpītham:**
In the presence of Fr. Alex Tharamangalam, Fr. Vincent Alappatt, the President of Paurastya Vidyāpītham explained the necessity of the amendments in the Statutes of the Paurastya Vidyāpītham and presented the points for amendment as requested by the Congregation for Catholic Education in view of the erection of an Independent Institute for the Study of Oriental Canon Law. After a brief discussion on the various aspects of the amendment, the Synod gave its approval.

**Discussion on Seminary Formation:** After the presentation of the Reports, the Bishops took up for discussion a few points affecting Seminary formation. One of them was regarding the use of personal mobile phones by the seminarians. After discussing various aspects of the issue, Bishops came to the conclusion to continue the present policy of not allowing the use of personal mobile phones by the seminarians. Another issue which was discussed was regarding the liturgical abuse during the pastoral ministry like preaching and assisting at the altar with priestly vestments by seminarians ultra vires. The Curia Bishop was asked to discuss the issue with the Commission for Liturgy and the Rector of Mangalapuzha Seminary and propose Directives in this regard. The Synod decided to send the Directives in the name of the Major Archbishop to the
Eparchies, Major Superiors and Rectors of Major Seminaries. The Bishops expressed their mind that the Seminarians should have interest for theological studies and spiritual formation because in future they have to give spiritual nourishment to the people of God. Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt said that along with emphasis on spiritual formation, due importance is to be given to the theological formation. It was suggested to invite the Presidents/Deans to the Synod along with the Rectors. There was an opinion suggesting that Eparchial seminaries also could be invited to present in the Synod their report on formation. The Major Archbishop said that we should continue annually the follow up of the consultation with the formators. He suggested that in future, the contribution from Mission Sunday celebrations coming from the Seminaries shall be given to the Mission Fund.

**Guidelines for the Major Seminary Resident Staff:** Bishop Bosco Puthur read out the Guidelines for the Major Seminary Resident Staff and the Synod discussed its directives. The general mind of the Synod was that we should first dialogue with the Seminary Staff on these issues and only thereafter we shall give them directives. Accordingly it was decided that the Curia Bishop will convene a one day consultative meeting of the Resident Staff of the three Synodal Seminaries of our Church in Kerala along with the Members of the Synodal Commission for the three Major Seminaries.

**Request for Declaring St. Ephrem Theological College a Mission Seminary of the Syro-Malabar Church:** Bishop Abraham Mattam V.C., the Founder of the St. Ephrem Theological College briefed the Synod on the history of the College which was founded in 1992 for the formation of the missionary priests of our Church. He requested the Synod that it is high time now that the Church declares it a Seminary for the whole Church. Bishop Mathew Vaniakizhakel VC formally requested the Synod that St. Ephrem Theological College be declared a Mission Seminary of the Syro-Malabar Church.
under the Synod. During the discussion, several Bishops endorsed the request giving various reasons in its favour. Some of the Bishops testified to the missionary zeal of the priests trained at St. Ephrem College. The general opinion was to set up a Committee to study the feasibility of making the St. Ephrem College a Mission Seminary of the Syro-Malabar Church under the Synod and report to the January Synod. A committee was constituted with the Chairmen of the three Seminary Commissions, namely, Archbishop George Valiamattam, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Jacob Manathodath and Bishop Thomas Chakiath and Bishop Bosco Puthur (Covener) as Members. The Major Archbishop praised the vision of its founder, Bishop Abraham Mattam V.C. and appreciated the fact that the request is to hand over the Seminary well furnished without liabilities.

**Report of the Commission for Liturgy:** Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, the Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy, presented the report of the activities of the Commission of the previous year. The Central Liturgical Committee had two sessions, one to discuss the Mystagogical Catechism together with the Members of the Commission for Catechesis and the second, to discuss the Anaphora of Theodore. The Sub-Committees discussed modalities of the translation of the Propria of the Liturgy of Hours into Malayalam. The Sub-Committee for the Liturgical Calendar and Lectionary finalized the readings in a joint session of the Scholars of Liturgy and Bible and published the revised readings in this year’s Liturgical Calendar which will be discussed by CLC and then presented in the Synodal Session of January 2013. After the trial celebration of the Anaphora of Theodore at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and in the Eparchies, the suggestions were studied by the CLC and then by a special committee and the final text was presented in the current session of the Synod. He also informed the Synod on the status of the preparation and publication of new Liturgical Texts. The Secretary also presented the Statement of Accounts of the Commission.
Liturgical Matters: The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary of the Commission for Liturgy and invited Bishop George Punnakottil, the Chairman, to introduce the topics for discussion. Bishop Punnakottil informed the Synod that there are four topics for discussion on Liturgical matters: 1. The revised Text of the Second Anaphora, 2. Prayer for the Religious in the Holy Qurbana, 3. Lectionary and 4. Editio Typica of the Qurbana.

a. Revised Text of the Second Anaphora: Fr. Pauly Maniyattu brought to the attention of the Synod the changes that have been made in the text of the Second Anaphora by CLC and at the advice of the Expert Committee. The Synod exhaustively discussed the changes proposed and made necessary corrections and modifications on the Text and gave its approbation. Besides the decree of promulgation by the Major Archbishop, the Synod decided that the Text should carry a catechetical instruction. The Synod also decided that the full text of the Anaphora shall be published in the Taksa of Raza, whereas the Text without the options shall be published in the Taksa of the Solemn and Simple Form, after getting the recognito from the Apostolic See. Before reprinting the Taksa, the Text of the Second Anaphora shall be published as a booklet in two forms.

b. Editio Typica: Fr. Pauly Maniyattu presented a report on the observations by the Syriac Language Scholars on the Editio Typica of the Qurbana with corrections and suggestions for improvement. After some discussion on the matter, the Synod requested the Commission for Liturgy to bring the matter first before the Central Liturgical Committee and then before the Committee consisting of the following Members: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Bishop George Punnakottil (Convener), before presenting it in the Synod in January 2013.
The Manner of Commemorating the Major Archbishop, the Religious and the Laity in the Liturgical Prayers: The Major Archbishop expressed the view that the present manner of commemorating the Major Archbishop in the Liturgical prayers does not adequately reflect the office of the Major Archbishop. Hence he suggested the following formulation: “Head and Father of our Church Mar George Major Archbishop.” During the discussion that followed many Bishops intervened. Among others the Major Archbishop explained that the title Major Archbishop could be retained in all the languages and by usage it will become familiar to all. Some Bishops expressed their doubt about the advisability of using an English term in the context of the variety of languages in which our Liturgy is being celebrated. In line with the spirit of the Oriental Code (CCEO), eg., c. 55, one of the Bishops opined that the Head of the Church should be addressed “pater et caput” – Father and Head, instead of “Head and Father”. In the Oriental tradition Head of a Church is primarily a “Father.” The discussion on the matter was inconclusive.

In a subsequent sitting, Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary, Commission for Liturgy, presented a model formula incorporating the changes proposed by the Synod in the wordings of the IV Kusapa of the Anaphora of Addai and Mari to commemorate the names of the Major Archbishop, the Persons of Consecrated Life and Lay faithful in the Liturgy. After a brief discussion, the Synod approved the formula proposed as follows: അബ്ദുല്ലാഹ് അബൂ പെറാക്കാം അബ്ദുല്ലാഹ് അബൂ എല്ലാവറുകൾക്കു അവിടെ സാധനിക്കു അവിടെ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ അവിടെ…….. അബ്ദുല്ലാഹ് അബൂ പെറാക്കാം അബൂ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ (അബൂ) അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര പിതാവായ (അബൂ)……..

Lectionary: Fr. Pauly Maniyattu, Secretary, Commission for Liturgy, in the name of the CLC, enquired of the Synod: 1. Regarding the names to be given to the different parts of the Lectionary: a. Praghoshana Grandham: Pazhayaniyamam, b.
Praghoshana Grandham: Lekhanam, c. Praghoshana Grandham: Suvishesham. 2. Whether the Seasons of Annunciation and Nativity could be combined to one season, 3. Whether to divide the season of Elia-Sleeva-Moosa into two units, a. Elia-Sleeva and b. Moosa, 4. Whether it is more appropriate to commemorate St. Thomas, the Patron of our Church or the Patron Saint of the Parish on the 7th Friday of the season of Denha. During the discussion, the general opinion expressed was to keep the seasons of Annunciation and Nativity as two distinct seasons and to keep Elia-Sleeva-Moosa season as one unit. The Bishops generally preferred to commemorate the Patron Saint of the parish on the 7th Friday of Denha, but some were of opinion that St. Thomas also could be commemorated on another Friday. Bishop Raphael Thattil appealed to the Synod that it is high time that we take serious steps towards adaptation and renewal of our Liturgy. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its activities in the field of Liturgy.

Report of the Commission for Catechesis: Fr. George Danavelil, the Secretary of the Commission for Catechesis, was welcomed by Bishop Bosco Puthur. The Secretary presented a report on the various activities of the Commission. Until now the Commission could publish catechism texts up to XII Standard in Malayalam, English and for some classes in Hindi, Kannada and Tamil and Supplementary text, Preshithhayaya Syro-Malabar Sabha in connection with the Mission Year. The Commission launched its Website on 15 December and the Logo was released by the Major Archbishop. Scholarship examination and Prathibha Sangamam with the participation of 51 students from 13 Eparchies, was the high point of the activities of the Commission in the past year. The Commission plans to publish ‘Guideline to the Parents in the Faith Formation of their Children.’ The Text Book on the Mystagogical Catechesis is jointly prepared by the Commission for Catechesis and Liturgy. The Commission will conduct more training programmes for resource persons. The Secretary presented briefly a Receipts and Payments of Accounts of the Commission. During the discussion
it was suggested that guides for the Texts in English and an Adult Catechism Book have to be published. The Commission informed the Synod that as part of the catechism syllabus, Sex Education Text prepared by KCBC will be distributed. Bishop Jacob Manathodath, Chairman of the Commission, expressed his gratitude to the Secretary, Fr. George Danavelil who from this year onwards could dedicate full time to the Commission since he took up residence at the Curia. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its efficient ministry in the field of catechesis.

**Report of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants:** Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt MST, the Secretary of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants, who presented the Report of the Commission and informed that a copy of the Report has been forwarded to the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of the Migrants and Itinerant People. He said that the Pastoral Visits of the Major Archbishop to the migrant centres in India and Abroad boosted the enthusiasm and the spirit of the communities. The Chairman, Members and the Secretary of the Commission visited different migrant centres like Bangalore, Surat, Aurangabad and Goa. As part of the faith formation of the migrant communities, the Commission, with the help of the Commission for Catechesis is arranging training programmes for Catechism Teachers. The Meeting of the priests and people from Saudi Arabia at Mount St. Thomas was an important event. So also Mission Seminar for migrants in Kolkotta. In connection with the Mission Year celebrations, Mission gatherings were arranged in Bangalore, Bhopal and Aurangabad. The Report drew the attention of the Synod to the present situation of the various migrant communities in India and Abroad. He also gave a list of 23 priests sent during this year to serve as Chaplains to the migrant communities. The inflow of unauthorized preachers and mushrooming of lay associations are some of the concerns of the Commission. He also presented the financial report of the Commission for the year 2011-2012.
Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST, Chairman of the Commission, said that although the main thrust of the year was the Mission Year Celebration, the Commission could equally care for the migrant communities. In the discussion that followed the Major Archbishop invited the Bishops to suggest names of priests from their Eparchies who would foster communion and who could be eventually sent to our migrant communities as chaplains. He reminded the Synod of the decision that the Chaplains working for the migrant communities contribute their share to the Curia. Finally the Major Archbishop thanked the Commission and the Secretary for their service.

The Major Archbishop advised the Commissions to be self-sufficient and be generous to help the Curia from the money they receive over and above what is needed for their expenses.

**Report of the Commission for Doctrine:** Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Sibi Pulickal, Secretary of the Commission for Doctrine, who presented a Report of the activities of the Commission which highlighted the visits of the Commission to all the eparchies in Kerala for an awareness programme on the influence of the sects among the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church. The Secretary expressed the gratitude of the Commission to the Bishops who organized the meetings and took active part in it. The Synod discussed the 13 points of the Report from which emerged the following two factors as the main causes of the faithful going to the sects: 1. Inadequate pastoral care in our parishes. 2. Unorthodox elements of faith promoted by some of the retreat preachers. Fr. Pulickal informed the Synod that the dialogue with the leaders of the ‘Spirit in Jesus’ undertaken by the Commission did not bear fruit and as it is a question that affects all the Catholics in Kerala, further dialogue with the leaders of the ‘Spirit in Jesus’ is being continued by the KCBC Doctrinal Commission. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Chairman KCBC, told that the leaders of Spirit in Jesus did not accept the proposal for a Spiritual Director because according to them in the Spirit in Jesus Movement there are also people
other than Catholics. The Synod also discussed the influence of the Emperor Emmanuel Movement, Black Mass and Satan Worship. The Major Archbishop congratulated the Commission for its awareness programmes in the Eparchies through which the influence of the sects have come down. He further said that our pastoral ministry should be more evangelical and we should try our best to visit the sick and people in crisis and pray for them. The Chairman of the Commission, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt said that what is needed is a proper catechesis on ecclesiological and ecclesial vision of the Church as one body, and stress on Bible and the teachings of the Vatican II. He further said that teaching and preaching on the Word of God should be more effective. He asked for Episcopal vigilance on the writings in our publications which often deviate from orthodox teachings. Towards the end of the discussion, Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked Fr. Sibi Pulickal.

**Report of the Commission for Clergy:** Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Fr. Jimmy Poochakatt, the Secretary of the Commission for Clergy who presented the report of the activities of the Commission of the previous year. The important programmes were: 1. Assembly of Vicars General and Chancellors, 2. Get-together of Golden and Silver Jubilarians, 3. New Priests’ Meet, 4. Seminar on Priestly Formation at Good Shepherd Major Seminary, Kunnoth, and 5. Training for Major Seminary Professors. He further proposed the plan of action for the year 2012-2013. Discussion followed in which there was an evaluation of the Seminar conducted for the formators of the seminaries. Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Chairman of the Commission told the Synod that the Vicars General in the consultation meeting were not in favour of a common ongoing formation course for the clergy. Hence the Synod requested the Commission to assist the Eparchies to conduct the ongoing formation course for the clergy with a common programme and resource persons. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission and the Secretary for their service to the clergy and to the formators.
Report of the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life: Bishop Bosco Puthur welcomed Sr. Vimal Jose CMC, the newly appointed Secretary of the Commission. In her short report she mentioned that the Commission for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life is the newest among the Commissions of our Church and she promised that she would do her best as Secretary for the good of the Church. She mentioned about the Guidelines to the Syro-Malabar Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life in their life and ministry in other sui iuris Churches and the Response of the Religious communities to these Guidelines. She further said that as directed by the Major Archbishop, the Commission made effort to propose solutions to various disputes and canonical issues. Bishop Jose Porunnedom complemented the presentation and informed the Synod that the Commission has just started its activities. He plans to organize a dialogue with the Fifteen Member Committee to be proposed by the SMRC on the guidelines and present their response during the January Synod. During the discussion the Major Archbishop said that we should continue dialogue with SMRC informing our aspirations to them and asking for their support and cooperation. He thanked the Commission for helping the Curia in finding solutions to various disputed issues and wished the Secretary and the Commission every success in their activity.

Guidelines for the Religious Working in other sui iuris Churches: Bishop Jose Porunnedom informed the Synod that he could not get the final response from the Religious on the Guidelines because the fifteen member consultative Body of SMRC is yet to be constituted. He further said that as we do not have a mechanism to monitor the observance of the Guidelines, it may not be effective. During the discussion, one of the Bishops reminded the Synod that evangelization is an ecclesial act; hence the Mission work of the religious has to be planned and monitored by the Mother Church. It was suggested that we shall discuss the matter in detail during the January Synod when Bishop Jose Porunnedom shall present the response of
the religious on the Guidelines. It was decided that during the January Synod half a day shall be dedicated for a dialogue with the Major Superiors of the Religious.

**Report of the Commission for Ecumenism:** Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Chairman, Commission for Ecumenism read out the report of the Commission for the year 2011-2012. In his report, he referred to the various ecumenical programmes of the past year such as Nilakal Ecumenical Committee, Ecumenical Christmas gatherings, Ecumenical Bible conventions, Unity Octave prayers, etc. He informed the Synod that the Unity Octave prayers which the Commission used to prepare for the Syro-Malabar Church will be prepared this year onwards by the KCBC Ecumenical Commission. The Commission now concentrates its activities in collaboration with the Episcopal Churches of St. Thomas Tradition alone. As part of the celebration of the Year of Faith the Commission intends to recommend the implementation of the Guidelines on inter-religious dialogue and ecumenical activities. Among the proposals he presented, publication of an ecumenical handbook is a welcome idea. The Major Archbishop thanked the Commission for its efficient ministry in the field of Ecumenism.

**Report of the Commission for Laity:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Adv. V.C. Sebastian, Secretary of the Commission for Laity who presented in detail the Report of the various activities and initiatives of the Commission for the last one year. He highlighted the various seminars, conferences for the benefit of the Laity both in India and Abroad like the History Seminar, Youth Conference, Regional Laity Conference, the Launching of the Cardinal Vithayathil Foundation, Regional Womens’ Conference, and International Oncology Conference. The Laity Conferences were held in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Townsville, and Melbourne in Australia. Various Forums are launched or are envisaged under the Laity Commission. The Laity Commission held talks with Ambassadors of different African Countries in Delhi. Mr. Jose Pachico, Minister for
Agriculture of Mozambique was given a reception at Mount St. Thomas under the auspices of the Commission for Laity. The Commission has launched International Networking in order to help our migrant communities. Bishop Mathew Arackal complimented Adv. Sebastian for his dedicated service for the cause of the Laity Commission and said that he is fully satisfied with the achievements of the Laity Commission. Adv. V.C. Sebastian informed the Synod of the result of a sample survey conducted on the migration of our youth and the result shows that majority of our youth are out of the State or out of the Country. During the discussion, the Major Archbishop suggested that the activities of the Commission, especially the networking be developed through the cooperation of the Eparchies and the official representatives of the Church in the migrant communities. In order to facilitate the networking, there shall be offices in the eparchies. There should be follow up of the activities of the forums and the Commission shall present a report on activities of the Forums. The Major Archbishop appreciated the various activities undertaken by the Commission especially the new launching of the AKCC and the Youth Movement. The Major Archbishop called for the mobilization of AKCC and the Youth Forum at the Eparchial level under the guidance of the Laity Commission.

**Request for the Expansion of the Commission for Laity:**
The Major Archbishop read out a letter addressed to him by the Chairman of the Commission, Bishop Mathew Arackal, requesting him to expand the Commission with two more members. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he will take appropriate decision on the matter.

**Kudumba Koottayma:** The Major Archbishop presented to the Synod the request of the “All Kerala Syro-Malabar Kudumba Koottayma” to bring the Kudumba Koottayma (Family Units) under one of the Commissions of the Synod. Asking the mind of the Synod the Major Archbishop announced that Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Member of the Commission for Laity
will take the responsibility for the Kudumba Koottayma (Family Units).

Discussion on the Studies Presented by the Public Affairs Committee: Archbishop Joseph Powathil welcomed Fr. Antony Kariyil CMI, Fr. Kuriakose Mundadan and Fr. Philip Nelpuraparampil who presented the Draft Study on the Increasing Violence in the Society, on the Influence of the Media in the Society and on the Increasing Corruption in the Society, respectively. Fr. Philip Nelpuraparampil read out a short report on the activities of the Public Affairs Committee. Discussion followed on the papers presented and their follow up. Some doubted the propriety of the Synod publishing these documents without consulting KCBC/CBCI because the topics that are dealt are the concern of the three individual Churches and society as a whole. At the end of the discussion it was decided to publish the papers in Malayalam and English as the documents of the Synod, including the fourth study, Family and Sex Revolution (which requires the consent of the Permanent Synod). The Synod hoped that through wide diffusion of these documents and discussions in the Eparchial pastoral councils, presbyterium and religious communities, they shall create greater awareness among the people about these problems.

Archbishop Joseph Powathil brought to the attention of the Synod the dangerous trend of public dissent advocated by certain individuals in the Church. This shall be brought to the attention of CBCI as a serious matter. He also pointed out that we have to be aware of the communal polarization taking place in the Kerala Society. During the discussion many members expressed their opinion that we have to lobby for the benefit of our people especially of the lower strata. The Commission for Laity was asked to take steps in collaboration with AKCC in this regard with due caution. The Major Archbishop suggested that to discuss similar issues, the Syro-Malabar Bishops, at least those from Kerala, have to hold meetings periodically.
Report on Retreat Centres and Charismatic Preachers:
Fr. Jose Anchanickal, Chairman, KST, was welcomed by the Major Archbishop. After Bishop Raphael Thattil introduced the subject, Fr. Jose Anchanickal presented a brief report on the retreat centres. He said that according to their study, there are at present 76 Retreat Centres in Kerala, out of which 61 come under the Syro-Malabar Church. Fr. Anchanickal said that he has already visited 55 retreat centres and he hopes to visit all of them in the near future. During the discussion the Bishops expressed the positive influence of the Retreat Centres in the Christian communities and society at large. However some of them pointed out that there are serious flaws especially in the field of preaching the Word of God, the way of celebrating the Qurbana and counseling. Here there is urgent need of Episcopal overseeing. It was also mentioned that serious consideration has to be given regarding the accountability and transparency in the management of the Retreat Centres. After a long discussion it was decided to organize a consultation meeting, as part of the celebration of the Year of Faith, of the Directors of the Retreat Centres, the Major Superiors of the Religious who maintain the Centres, Bishops and Priest Representatives. Bishop Bosco Puthur, Convener of the Year of Faith Celebrations, was requested to organize the consultation meeting with the cooperation of Bishop Raphael Thattil, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Archbishop Andrews Thazhath. The Bishops were of opinion that under the guidance of the Major Archbishop, all the Bishops have to exercise their responsibility as the custodians of faith and morals and vigilantly oversee the ministry of the retreat centres.

Retreat Preachers Going Abroad: The Major Archbishop asked the mind of the Synod regarding the Retreat Preachers going abroad to our migrant communities. There have been often complaints about them both from our communities as well as from the local ordinaries. Bishop Sebastian Vadakel MST suggested that the Retreat Preachers have to get the invitation from official chaplains, wherever there are, serving
our communities and permission from their Local Ordinaries, in concurrence with the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. The Major Archbishop thanked Bishop Raphael Thattill and Fr. Jose Anchanickal for their service in this important area and their presentation today.

**Participation of the Religious and Laity in Finance Council:** Bishop Mathew Arackal sought the mind of the Synod on the participation of the Religious and Laity in the Finance Council. During the discussion it was pointed out that Guidelines for the Functioning of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Finance already envisage this provision. In that context Bishop Arackal invited the Bishops to suggest the names of competent persons to be Members of the Finance Council. In order to constitute the Finance Council, the Chairman has to get the prior consent of the Major Archbishop. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that he will give consent in consultation with the Permanent Synod.

**Formation of the Inter-Church Council:** The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that as per the direction of KCBC, in order to form the Inter-Church Council, he has already contacted the Heads of Churches, namely, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church, CSI and Marthoma Church. In agreement with them a Meeting is scheduled for 14 December with the Heads and Representatives of these Churches along with the Heads and a few Representatives of the three Catholic Individual Churches. From the part of the Syro-Malabar Church, besides the Major Archbishop the following persons shall participate in the meeting: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Archbishop Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath and Archbishop Joseph Powathil.

**Report of the Liturgical Research Centre:** Fr. Sebastian Naduthadam, the Executive Director of the Liturgical Research Centre was welcomed by the Major Archbishop to present the Report of LRC. The Report presented the details of the various
seminars conducted in connection with the Mission Year Celebrations and the one on Ecclesiastical Archives with the participation of Dr. Enrico Flaiani, the Vatican Archivist.

The high point of the activities of the year is the presentation of LRC Award to Prof. Mathew Ulakamthara. Two issues of the Journal St. Thomas Christian Heritage were published during the current year. The research scholar, Fr. Sebastian Muthuplackal is in the process of collecting Liturgical Manuscripts. Another important event of the year was the meeting of the Governing Body of NBCLC at Mount St. Thomas. The Synod approved in principle the Project of LRC for the construction of a building for the expansion of the Museum and decided to reimburse to LRC the amount of Rs. 14,00,000.00 which was used for the Curia expenditure from the LRC Accounts. Fr. Naduthadam also presented the financial report and informed the Synod that LRC has financial constraints due to the non-availability of funds from MISSIO. Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Chairman, LRC, said that the main problem for the activities of LRC is lack of financial resources. The Major Archbishop and Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked Fr. Sebastian Naduthadam.

**Report of the Association of Supporters of the Syro-Malabar Mission:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Jaison Puthur CMI, the Secretary cum Treasurer of ASSM, who presented the report of the activities of the Association founded on 1 October 2011. The primary goal of the Association is to create missionary awareness in the hearts of the Syro-Malabar faithful. The distinctive feature of ASSM is that 9,00,000 families of the Syro-Malabar Church are the members of the Association. Sr. Philsy Kunnel SH and Sr. Linet Puthet SH are working as Office Secretaries. It is through news letters that ASSM reaches out to the potential benefactors. Although in the beginning response was rather minimal, through the visits of Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI and Fr. Jaison Puthur to the various Eparchies and parishes, there are better responses now. The ASSM also makes use of the e-mail addresses
collected by the Commission for Laity. The First General Body Meeting of ASSM was convened on 20 April 2012 at Mount St. Thomas. The Association is happy that it could hand over a token contribution of Rs. 5,00,000.00 to the new Mission Eparchy of Faridabad and Rs. 48,000.00 for Sponsoring Seminarians. So far the Association could collect more than Rs. 33,00,000.00 and it plans to distribute financial help to the Mission Eparchies assessing their requests for projects. Bishop Gregory Karotemprel CMI expressed his gratitude to the Bishops and the parish priests who generously received the Director and the Secretary during visits to the Eparchies and parishes. He expressed his hope that by the end of the year ASSM will receive at least one crore rupees donation. Bishop Bosco Puthur expressed the gratitude of the Synod to Bishop Gregory and to Fr. Jaison. The Major Archbishop was all praise for the adventurous initiatives of Bishop Gregory and his team.

**Report of the Internet Mission:** Fr. Jose Palakeel MST, Executive Director of SMCIM, presented the Report of the activities of the Internet Mission. The Report brought to the attention of the Synod the achievements of the Mission as well as its financial constraints. He sought the support of the Eparchies for the effective conduct of the Internet Mission. The Report also mentioned the launching of the Syro-Malabar Matrimony. Fr. Jose Palakeel presented the proposal of linking our site with the Eparchial sites and data sharing. Fr. Jose said that at present Internet Mission has a debt of Rs. 13 Lakhs. Bishop Jose Porunnedom, Chairman of the Internet Mission said that in the modern times online website presents the face of the Syro-Malabar Church to young people and suggested that if there is a contact person, preferably a lay man, in every eparchy to provide up to date news to our website, it will help the growth of our Internet Mission. Bishop Porunnedom also mentioned the need to popularize our site. During the discussion, Bishop Joseph Pandarasseril suggested that if the site carries news about the migrant communities they will support the Internet Mission. Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked Fr. Jose Palakeel and
Bishop Jose Porunnedom for their great concern for our Internet Mission. The Major Archbishop recalled the appointment of Fr. Jose Palakeel as a Member of the Public Relations Office of our Church.

**Report of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal:** Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal, President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, was welcomed by the Major Archbishop to present the Report of the Tribunal. In the Report the publication of the Annual Eastern Legal Thought, Seminar for the Tribunal Personnel, and Visitation of the Metropolitan and Eparchial Tribunals were mentioned as the important activities of the Tribunal in the previous year. The Report presented the details of the personnel of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal and the cases processed. The Report also included the Financial statement. Fr. Kochupurackal proposed giving pre-marital counseling. As the expenses for the activities of the Tribunal are on the increase he informed the Synod that there is a proposal to increase the fee for II instance from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500. During the discussion the Bishops said that the certificates of the Marriage preparation course from the migrant communities have to be recognized, provided the course is conducted as per the approved norms of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants. The Commission was asked to send for publication in the eparchial bulletins the list of approved marriage preparation courses in the migrant communities. Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, the General Moderator expressed his satisfaction at the efficient running of the Tribunal. Bishop Bosco Puthur thanked Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal who has taken permanent residence in the Curia since the month of June.

**Report on the Activities of the Curia:** Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor of the Curia, presented a short report of the Curia of the past year.

**Presentation of the Statement of Accounts and Budget of the Curia:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil, the Finance Officer of the Curia and thanked him
for his dedicated and efficient service to the Church. Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil presented the Highlights of the important financial activities in the Curia for the past financial year.

The Curia Bishop was asked to seek clarification from the Advocates regarding the present state of the cases against the Curia and through Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara regarding the case undertaken by 'Trust God Society' of Delhi.

**Clarification by Mr. C.J. Romid, F.C.A:** Mr. Romid, our Auditor was welcomed by the Major Archbishop who gave clarification on certain financial items for the attention of the Bishops: 1. Possible change in the Direct Tax Code regarding income tax exemption, 2. The cancellation of FCR even of Catholic Institutions due to their non-submission of returns, 3. The new regulations regarding the service tax, etc. At the request of the Bishops Mr. Romid has promised to supply these points in writing. The Major Archbishop thanked Mr. Romid for his service.

**Prioritizing Project Applications from the Syro-Malabar Church to ROACO:** The Major Archbishop read out the letter from the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in which he requested that the Syro-Malabar Church has to prioritize the project applications from the eparchies through a Synodal Commission that would prioritize them before forwarding them to the funding agencies which form part of ROACO, as it is done in other oriental Churches. Consequently, the Major Archbishop invited the Synod to think over the matter before taking decision on it at a later stage.

**Visit of Mr. M.L. Thomas, Regional Director, CNEWA and Prioritization of Projects to CNEWA:** Major Archbishop welcomed Mr. M.L. Thomas, Regional Director of CNEWA who spoke about the present situation and activities of CNEWA, especially for the Syro-Malabar Church. He recalled the recent visit of the Major Archbishop to the Head Quarters of CNEWA in New York. He said that the new President of CNEWA, Mgr.
John E. Kozar is trying to re-launch CNEWA. He informed that every year CNEWA helps the Church in India with at least Rs. 20,00,000,00.00 out of which 14,00,000,00.00 was allotted to the 350 Orphanages, 19 Major Seminaries and 94 Novitiates in the Syro-Malabar Church. Mr. M.L. Thomas invited the Bishops to indicate their priorities so that CNEWA can help our Church more effectively. In the discussion that followed Bishops mentioned some of the priorities like awareness programmes, seminaries and formation houses, minor seminaries, infrastructures for the mission, evangelization, care for the elderly, environment protection and rain harvesting, medical help for the retired priests, etc. Some Bishops said that we have to make a distinction between the needs of the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala and of the other States. The Major Archbishop invited the Bishops to present the priorities of their Eparchies in writing so that the Syro-Malabar Church can prioritize the projects. He requested the Curia Bishop to collect from the Bishops their priorities and present it on the following day in the Synod. At the request of the Bishops it was decided that the Major Archbishop will send a circular to the Bishops regarding the modality and timings of forwarding the requests for projects to ROACO and CNEWA. The Major Archbishop expressed the gratitude of the whole Syro-Malabar Church for the generosity of the CNEWA.

**DEEPIKA:** The Major Archbishop welcomed Mr. P.P. Sunny, the Managing Director of Deepika for the last 3 years and thanked him for his meritorious service to the Church as the Managing Director of Deepika who served Deepika without remuneration. The Major Archbishop informed the Synod that Mr. Sunny is terminating his service to Deepika and is going to dedicate his time for his family and business. Mr. Sunny briefly explained to the Synod the financial situation of Deepika for the last three years. He expressed his satisfaction at the achievement Deepika has made during the last 3 years. And he thanked the Bishops for the great opportunity he has been given to serve the Church by being the MD of Deepika. He hoped that if we efficiently manage, Deepika can overcome all
the financial problems. The Major Archbishop wished Sunny and his family God’s blessings and invited him and his family for supper in the Curia.

**Press Release:** Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Convener of the Committee for the Media, presented the draft of the Press Release and the Synod approved it with a few modifications regarding the content.

**Scrutiny of the Decisions of the XX Synod (2012), Session 3:** The Synod made a scrutiny of the decisions of XX Synod (2012), Session 3 including the decisions of the final day and the Synod gave its final approval for them.

**Schedule of the Synodal Sessions in 2013:** The Synod decided to hold, besides the January Session (From 7 – 11 January 2013), a Session of the Synod from 19 August (10.00 a.m.) to 31 August 2013 (both Saturdays, the sittings up to 12.30 p.m.).

**Conclusion of the Synod:** The Major Archbishop sought the permission of the Synod to conclude the present session and gave the concluding address. After thanking God for his abundant Graces which we experienced during the Synod, the Major Archbishop recalled that the election of two new Bishops for Thuckalay and Palai was the most important blessing which we received for our Church during the Synod. He invited the Bishops for the observance of the Year of Faith in communion with the Universal Church with the orientation of the New Evangelization as desired by the Holy Father Benedict XVI. The final approval to the Second Anaphora of the Holy Qurbana, attributed to Mar Theodore, is a step further in our programme of liturgical restoration and renewal and requested to make earnest efforts regarding other Anaphoras as per the earlier decision of the Synod. The mobilization of the lay faithful under the banner of AKCC and other Forums, and the successful coordination of Youth are great achievements. The decision to accept the offer of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches to occupy St.
Ephrem College in Rome is very positive. Recalling several other decisions of the Synod and thanking the Bishops and the collaborators, the Major Archbishop declared the XX Synod (2012), Session 3, closed, at 12.30 p.m. on 1 September 2012.

Mount St. Thomas,  
1 September 2012  

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

Fr. Antony Kollannur  
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
XX Synod (2012), Session 3
20 August – 1 September 2012

DECISIONS

1. To constitute a committee with the Members of the Finance Commission and the Bishops of the affected Eparchies to assess the extent of the damage caused by the recent landslides and suggest the amount required for help and how to raise it.

2. To give its consent to the request for a new Auxiliary Bishop for Ernakulam-Angamaly.

3. To approve the starting of the procedure for the election of the successor when the incumbent Bishop enters into 75th Year of age.

4. To give consent to the proposal of periodically collecting the bio-data of priests who could be appointed in important offices of the Church.

5. To give Rs. 10,00,000.00 from the contributions of the eparchies, with the exception of Bijnor, to the victims of the three Eparchies in the following proportion: Rs. 7,00,000.00 to Thamarassery, Rs. 2,00,000.00 to Tellicherry and Rs. 1,00,000.00 to Kothamangalam and the balance amount to be given to the Eparchy of Bijnor which has suffered massive landslide.

6. To entrust Bishop Mathew Arackal, the Chairman of the Laity Commission the project of exploring the possibility of fund raising for buying a plot of land in view of the proposed project of building a community centre in Chennai and to present the report on the project in the following Synod.
7. To accept the offer of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches to take over temporarily St. Ephrem College in Rome.

8. To approve the text of the Second Anaphora (Theodore).

9. To publish the text of the Second Anaphora (Theodore), after getting the recognitio from the Apostolic See:
   a. With a catechetical instruction, besides the decree of promulgation by the Major Archbishop.
   b. The full text of the Anaphora in the Taksa of Raza, and without the options, in the Taksa of the Solemn and Simple Form.
   c. The Text of the Second Anaphora as a booklet in two forms, before reprinting the Taksa.

10. To request the Commission for Liturgy to bring the matter on Editio Typica of the Qurbana first before the Central Liturgical Committee and then before the Committee consisting of the following Members: Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop Paul Chittilapilly, Bishop Pauly Kannookadan and Bishop George Punnakottil (Convener), before presenting it in the Synod in January 2013.

11. To give provisional approval to the Bye-laws of AKCC.

12. To constitute a Committee to scrutinize in detail the Bye-laws of AKCC before its final approval with the following members: Bishop Mathew Arackal (Convener), Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bishop Remigioso Inchananiyil and Bishop Paul Alappatt. The committee can consult legal experts.

14. To form a Committee with the following members: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Convener), Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath, Bishop Raphael Thattil and Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt in order to dialogue with the leaders of the Jesus Youth, to study the pastoral issues and propose to the Synod concrete suggestions to help them through our ministry.

15. To include the following Guidelines in the Code of Particular Laws as appendices:

   a. Guidelines for pastoral collaboration in parishes with the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
   
   b. Guidelines for raising a Religious Congregation to the Major Archiepiscopal Status and for granting nihil obstat for Pontifical Status
   
   c. Guidelines for recognizing Lay Associations of the Syro-Malabar faithful outside the Syro-Malabar Eparchies in India and Abroad
   
   d. Guidelines for pastoral care of the migrants
   
   e. Guidelines for the formation of the Permanent Deacons
   
   f. Guidelines for the functioning of the Finance Commission
   
   g. Guidelines for the Liturgical Commission of the Syro-Malabar Church
   
   h. Guidelines for the functioning of ecumenical activities
   
   i. Guidelines for the functioning of the Commission for Laity
   
   j. Guidelines on conferring Honours and Titles
   
   k. Instruction regarding free state certificate, kuries and marriage preparation course.
16. To appoint Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal to assist the Bishops’ Committee for Canonical Questions in the publication of Code of Particular Laws.

17. To expand the present follow up Committee of the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly with the inclusion of the Secretaries of the eparchial pastoral councils.

18. To approve the Guidelines on conferring Honours and Titles in the Syro-Malabar Church.

19. To form a Committee for Education with the following members: Archbishop Andrews Thazhath (Member of the CBCI Commission for Education), Bishop Mathew Arackal (Member, KCBC Commission for Education) and Bishop Bosco Puthur as Convener (Curia Bishop) and to make Fr. George Madathiparampil, Secretary for Higher Education and Fr. Jacob Palackapilly, Secretary for School Education, including Special Schools.

20. To publish the Studies prepared by the Public Affairs Committee on the Increasing Violence in the Society, on the Influence of the Media in the Society and on the Increasing Corruption in the Society, in Malayalam and English, as the documents of the Synod, including the fourth study, Family and Sex Revolution (which requires the consent of the Permanent Synod).

21. To request Bishop Bosco Puthur, Convener of the Year of Faith Celebrations, to organize, with the cooperation of Bishop Raphael Thattil, Bishop Thomas Chakiath, Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Archbishop Andrews Thazhath, a consultation meeting of the Directors of the Retreat Centres, the Major Superiors of the Religious who maintain the Centres, Bishops and Priest Representatives, as part of the celebration of the Year of Faith.

22. To communicate to the Bishops and Religious Superiors and the Managers of the English Medium Schools the following Directives, in tune with the CBCI and
KCBC Education Policy, for implementation in all the schools where these Directives have not yet been fully implemented:

a. The English Medium Schools shall pay at least a minimum salary to the Staff at par with the Minimum Wages as per the order of the State Government. In situations where that is not possible, 80% of the tuition fee shall be used for salary and other allowances of the Staff.

b. There shall be Provident Fund, ESI and Annual Increment for the Staff, as per the Government Rule.

c. There shall be a fixed period of probation after which the appointment of the Staff has to be confirmed. Details of allowances, and terms and conditions of service shall be declared at the time of appointment.

d. Maternity and paternity leave with payment is to be given as per the Government regulation.

e. Teaching Staff shall be given continuing education.

f. Written appointment orders are to be served to the Staff.

g. Salary should be given through Cheque/Bank Accounts.


24. To dedicate half a day during the January Synod for a dialogue with the Major Superiors of the Religious to discuss the Guidelines for the Religious Working in other sui iuris Churches, after which Bishop Jose Porunnedom shall present the response of the religious on the Guidelines in the same Synodal Session.
25. To constitute a Committee consisting of Bishop Mathew Arackal, Chairman, Commission for Laity and Bishop Pauly Kannookadan, to present in the January Synod (2013), a programme on the celebration of 1950 death anniversary of St. Thomas and on the pilgrimage to Mylapore.

26. To approve the amendments proposed to the Statutes of Paurastya Vidyāpīṭham in view of the erection of an Independent Institute for the Study of the Oriental Canon Law.

27. To ask the Curia Bishop to discuss with the Commission for Liturgy and the Rector of Mangalapuzha Seminary, on the roles of various Orders and propose Directives which are to be sent in the name of the Major Archbishop to the Eparchies, Major Superiors and Rectors of Major Seminaries.

28. To request the Major Archbishop to send a circular to the Bishops regarding the modality and timings of forwarding the requests for projects to ROACO and CNEWA.

29. To approve the formula of commemorating the Major Archbishop and others in the Qurbana as follows: പൂശിക്കപ്പെട്ട ഗൈരാണം നിസ്സേറ്റ ചെയ്തു കാണിക്കൽ പാടി മെന്റെ (തുലകു) അയക്കുന്നു പുതുതെണ്ടയാണു എന്നെന്ന് മറ്റൊരു പോള്ളേറ്റ വിതി വെള്ളം (തുലകു) അയക്കുന്നു പുതുതെണ്ടയാണു എന്നെന്ന് അമ്മലുകുന്നു (തുലകു)

30. To request the Curia Bishop to convene a one day consultative meeting of the Resident Staff of the three Synodal Seminaries of our Church in Kerala along with the Members of the Synodal Commission for the three Major Seminaries.
31. To request Bishop Mathew Anikuzhikattil, Member of the Commission for Laity to take the responsibility for the Kudumba Koottayma (Family Units).

32. To approve in principle the Project of LRC for the construction of a building for the expansion of the Museum.

33. To constitute a Committee with Archbishop George Valiamattam, Archbishop Mathew Moolakkatt OSB, Bp. Jacob Manathodath, Bp. Thomas Chakiath and Bp. Bosco Puthur (convener) as Members to study the feasibility of the request of Bishop Mathew Vaniakzhakel V.C. to declare St. Ephrem Seminary Satna, a Synodal Mission seminary and present its report in January Synod.

34. To entrust Bishop Jose Porunnedom with the task of studying the feasibility of constituting an office of the Postulator for Syro-Malabar Church in the Curia and reporting to the Synod.

35. To hold, besides the January Session (From 7 – 11 January 2013), a Session of the Synod from 19 August (10.00 a.m.) to 31 August 2013 (both Saturdays, the sittings up to 12.30 p.m.).

Mount St. Thomas, + Bosco Puthur, Secretary
1 September 2012 Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur, Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
XX Synod (2012) Session 3
20 August – 1 September 2012
CONCLUDING ADDRESS OF THE
MAJOR ARCHBISHOP

My dear Brother Archbishops and Bishops,

Praise be to Jesus Christ!

We have come to the final moments of the present session of our Synod. Let us thank God our Father for all the special graces He offered us through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit during this Synod. The most important blessing we received is the election of two new Bishops who have been acclaimed with joy by the respective local Churches in Thuckalay and Palai. Halleluiah!

Awaiting the formal conclusion of the Mission Year in New Delhi on November 17-18, we have to launch in communion with the Universal Church and with the orientation of the New Evangelization the observance of the Year of Faith to be proclaimed by the Holy Father Benedict XVI for a period from October 11, 2012 to November 24, 2013. As we ourselves are trying to realize and to make the faithful aware of, the celebration of each year fixing our attention on a special orientation of our ecclesial life is not meant to multiply programmes and activities one after another, but to become more and more authentic in our faith experience, evangelical mission and witness of charity.

The fact that we have given final approval to the Second Anaphora of the Holy Qurbana, attributed to Mar Theodore is one step further in our programme of liturgical restoration and renewal. We have to make earnest efforts to make the other Anaphoras too as per the earlier decision of the Synod.
It is gratifying to note that the lay apostolate in our Church is becoming more and more lively and effective through eparchial initiatives and the dynamism of the Laity Commission. The mobilization of the lay faithful under the banner of AKCC and other forums, and the successful co-ordination of the Youth in an International network are achievements of greater prospects for the future. The decision of the Synod to give greater support for the Internet Mission is a positive response to the challenges in the Media field.

This Synod has approved pointed action plans for many concerns of the Church.

Dialogue session of the Seminary Commission with the Staff of our three Major Seminaries, greater support for the Mission Fund from the Eparchies, better coordination for the visits of priests and preachers to the Syro-Malabar Communities abroad, Committee of Bishops for the prioritization of the projects of the eparchies to be placed before ROACO as requested by the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, the decision to accept the offer of the same Congregation to occupy, as per its terms and conditions, the College of St. Ephrem for the board and lodging of our bishops, priests, and the faithful, the mode of participation of our Church in the Inter Church Council, the formulation of the Guidelines for English Medium Schools, by way of implementation of the CBCI and KCBC Education Policy, the approval of certain action plans for those engaged in Higher Education, and the consent granted for the publication of four studies “On the Increasing Violence in the Society, On the Influence of the Media in the Society and On the Increasing Corruption in the Society and On Family and Sex” as documents of the Synod are some of such new drives from the Synod.

For the first time we have conferred Titles to two priests and five laymen in our Church. By this measure, we shall hope to create a wave of enthusiasm for the good of the Church.
The Commissions, Committees and other organs of the Synod are doing remarkable service for the effective mission of the Church. The leadership of the Bishops, the collaboration and cooperation of the Committees, consultors and grass-root level workers deserve our appreciation and gratitude. Still we have to continue our race, to use the Pauline expression with all the plans and objectives of evangelization and witness of charity. In everything let our goals be our own sanctification and that of those entrusted to our stewardship. As St. Ireneus says, "The glory of God is the perfection of the creature."

Bishop Bosco Puthur deserves our appreciation for his conduct of the Curia and the sacrifices he has undertaken in collecting resources for the construction of the second floor of the Curia edifice. I thank also Fr. Mathew Pulimootttil, the Finance Officer, who painstakingly managed the construction project. I express my gratitude in a special way to Fr. Antony Kollannur, the Chancellor, who carries out his duties of the Curia and role of the House Superior with care and devotedness.

Finally let me express my gratitude to all others who helped us in the conduct of the Synod, especially Bishop Boso Puthur, the Synod Secretary, 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. James Kallumkal, the Vice-Chancellor, the resident and non-resident Secretaries of the Commissions, other priests functioning for the Curia, 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 7 – 11 January 2013. While thanking you for the love and concern you show towards me and the perfect communion and wholehearted support you give for my humble service, I entrust our Synod, the priests, the religious and the lay faithful of our Church to the protection of
Mary, Mother of the Church, St. Thomas, our Father in faith, all
the other Saints and Blesseds of our Church.

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

1 September 2012
Kakkanad

+ George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
Pastoral Letters/Guidelines/Decrees
PAPAL BULL ERECTING
THE EPARCHY OF FARIDABAD

BENEDICT BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS
OF GOD, for perpetual remembrance.

In order to provide more suitably for the spiritual good and
governance of the Syro-Malabar Christian faithful living in the
northern region of India, which includes the capital city of Delhi
as well as the States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh,
Jammu Kashmir and the Districts of Gautambuddhanagar and
Ghaziabad belonging to the State of Uttar Pradesh, it has been
thought good to establish for them an Eparchy. Having heard,
therefore, our venerable Brother His Eminence Cardinal Prefect
of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, I am hereby
establishing with my supreme Apostolic authority the Syro-
Malabar Eparchy of Faridabad with all its rights and obligations.
I am setting up its see in the city of Faridabad. Its establishment
and administration will be according to the norms of the Code
of Canons of the Eastern Churches. This order of mine is to be
properly executed and the usual documents regarding this matter
are to be sent to the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

Finally, I want this Apostolic Constitution to be in vigour
now and in future, notwithstanding anything to the contrary.

Given in Rome, at St. Peters, on the sixth of March in the
year of the Lord two thousand twelve, in the seventh year of my
Pontificate.

Tarcisius Card. Bertone
Secretary of State

Marcello Rossetti, Apostolic Protonotary,
Francisco di Felice, Protocollist.
PAPAL BULL APPOINTING
DR. KURIAKOSE BHARANIKULANGARA
BISHOP OF FARIDABAD

BENEDICT BISHOP, SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS
OF GOD.

Health and Apostolic blessing!

To my dear son Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, belonging to the clergy of the Syro-Malabar Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, currently a Councilor of the Apostolic Nunciature in Germany, appointed Bishop of the newly constituted Syro-Malabar eparchy of Faridabad with the personal title of Archbishop.

Provision is to be made for the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Faridabad, which I established in India today itself with my apostolic letter Ad aptius consulendum; and you, dear son, endowed as you are with proven qualities and are an expert in ecclesiastical affairs, seem to be worthy to govern it. Therefore, having heard my venerable brother, His Eminence the Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, with my supreme authority, I appoint you Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Faridabad with all the rights and duties attached to this office by the Code of Canons of the Oriental Churches. You will have the personal title of Archbishop.

As regards your ordination and profession of faith as well as promise of obedience to me and to my successors the norms of the said Code are to be followed. Moreover, I command that this letter be made known to the clergy and faithful of this same eparchy; I exhort them to accept you willingly and remain in union with you.

Finally, my dear son, I pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit for you: fortified with them, you will shepherd the faithful
entrusted to your care in such a way that they grow daily in the evangelical and human virtues as well as become valiant and joyful witnesses of the love of Christ in the world. And may his peace, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, be always with you and with this new ecclesial community, which is so dear to me.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter’s, on the 6th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord two thousand and twelve, in the seventh year of my Pontificate.

BENEDICT XVI
Nicholaus Theverin, Protnot. Apost.
DECREE APPOINTING REV. FR. GEORGE RAJENDRAN BISHOP OF THACKALAY

Prot. No. 1670/2012

MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL LETTER
OF CANONICAL PROVISION

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH sends his paternal Blessings to you, REV. FR. GEORGE RAJENDRAN SDB, priest from the Eparchy of Thuckalay, belonging to the Congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco, presently Principal of St. Anthony’s Higher Secondary School, Shillong, who, having obtained the prior assent of the Holy Father, has been elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Third Session of the XX Synod (2012) Bishop of Thuckalay that fell vacant upon the assumption of office by the undersigned as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. You as a person of exemplary priestly qualities with adequate intellectual formation, administrative experience and spiritual depth have been chosen to succeed him as the Bishop of Thuckalay.

Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1° and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the eparchy of THUCKALAY and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby appoint you BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF THUCKALAY. You are to be ordained Bishop in accordance with CCEO c. 187 §2 and c. 188 and take canonical possession of your office in accordance with CCEO c. 189. Commending you to Our Lord, the Master
Shepherd and praying that through the intercession of Mary our Mother, the Patroness of the Eparchy, St. Thomas, our Apostle, and St. Geevarghese Sahada, the Second Patron of the Eparchy of Thuckalay, you may in close communion with the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Thuckalay, fulfil the duties of your office as “an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (1Tim 4:12), I send you, my hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on 24th day of the month of August of the year 2012 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
DECREE APPOINTING REV. FR. JACOB MURICKEN AUXILIARY BISHOP OF PALAI

Prot. No. 1671/2012

MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL LETTER
OF CANONICAL PROVISION

GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY, THE MAJOR ARCHBISHOP OF THE SYRO-MALABAR CHURCH sends his paternal Blessings to you, REV. Fr. JACOB MURICKEN, priest belonging to the Eparchy of Palai, presently the Pastoral Co-ordinator of the Eparchy, who, having obtained the prior assent of the Holy Father, has been elected by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Third Session of the XX Synod, Auxiliary Bishop of Palai. His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, the Bishop of Palai had requested the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church for an Auxiliary Bishop, considering his increasing responsibilities in the diocese and his own health reasons. You as a person of exemplary priestly qualities with adequate intellectual formation, spiritual depth and pastoral and administrative experience in different parishes, ecclesiastical institutions and offices have been chosen to be the Auxiliary Bishop of the Eparchy of Palai to assist His Excellency Mar Joseph Kallarangatt in his duties as the Shepherd of the Eparchy of Palai.

Therefore, in virtue of CCEO c. 86 §1, 1o and by the authority vested in me as the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church to provide the people of God entrusted to my care with pastors and efficient systems of governance, and guided by the consideration of the good of the faithful of the Eparchy of PALAI and of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, I, George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, hereby appoint you AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE EPARCHY OF PALAI. Moreover, His Holiness Pope
Benedict XVI has assigned to you the Titular See of "TINIS." You are to be ordained Bishop in accordance with CCEO c. 187 §2 and c. 188 and take canonical possession of your office in accordance with CCEO c. 214. Commending you to Our Lord, the Master Shepherd and praying that through the intercession of Mary our Mother and St. Thomas, our Apostle, the Patrons of the Eparchy of Palai, you may in union with Bishop Mar JOSEPH KALLARANGATT and in close communion with the entire clergy and the faithful of the Eparchy of Palai, fulfil the duties of your office as "an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity" (1Tim 4:12), I send you, my hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

All contrary dispositions notwithstanding.

Given from the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad on 24th day of the month of August of the year 2012 under my seal and signature.

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church

Fr. Antony Kollannur
Major Archiepiscopal Chancellor
DIRECTIVES TO ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

Prot. No. 2265/2012

To

The Bishops, Religious Superiors and the Managers of the English Medium Schools

Dear Bishops, Religious Superiors, Managers of English Medium Schools,

Taking into consideration the proposals given by the consultation on English Medium Schools held on 18 May 2012, the XX Synod (2012), Session 3 decided to communicate to the Bishops and Religious Superiors and the Managers of the English Medium Schools the following Directives, in tune with the CBCI and KCBC Education Policy, for implementation in all the schools where these Directives have not yet been fully implemented:

a. The English Medium Schools shall pay at least a minimum salary to the Staff at par with the Minimum Wages as per the order of the State Government. In situations where that is not possible, 80% of the tuition fee shall be used for salary and other allowances of the Staff.

b. There shall be Provident Fund, ESI and Annual Increment for the Staff, as per the Government Rule.

c. There shall be a fixed period of probation after which the appointment of the Staff has to be confirmed. Details of allowances, and terms and conditions of service shall be declared at the time of appointment.

d. Maternity and paternity leave with payment is to be given as per the Government regulation.
e. Teaching Staff shall be given continuing education.

f. Written appointment orders are to be served to the Staff.

g. Salary should be given through Cheque/Bank Accounts.

I hereby communicate these directives given by the Synod of Bishops of the Syro-Malabar Church and earnestly request you to make every effort to implement them wherever needed.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely in the Lord,

Mount St. Thomas
20 November 2012

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DATE OF Birth</th>
<th>DATE OF Appointment</th>
<th>Academic Degree in Canon Law</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. PRESIDENT (Judicial Vicar)</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal</td>
<td>03.11.1963</td>
<td>Judge on 18.08.2002 President on 13.05.2004</td>
<td>D.O.C.L.; DJp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II. VICE-PRESIDENTS (Adj. Judicial Vicars)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Fr. Jose Chiramel</td>
<td>24.04.1952</td>
<td>Judge on 12.11.1994 Vice President on 27.11.2003</td>
<td>D.O.C.L.; DJp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>III. JUDGES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Fr. Michael Vattappalam</td>
<td>09.11.1951</td>
<td>17.08.2007</td>
<td>D.C.L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Fr. Thomas Adoppillil</td>
<td>05.02.1964</td>
<td>18.03.2010</td>
<td>D.O.C.L.; DJp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Fr. James Thalachelloor</td>
<td>18.09.1958</td>
<td>18.03.2010</td>
<td>D.C.L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>IV. DEFENDERS OF BOND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Fr. Mani Kuthodiputhenpurayil CST</td>
<td>05.04.1966</td>
<td>17.08.2007</td>
<td>D.O.C.L.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Fr. George Thekkekara</td>
<td>18.11.1973</td>
<td>01.05.2009</td>
<td>D.O.C.L.; DJp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. CAUSES OF MATRIMONIAL NULLITY HANDLED AFTER AN ORDINARY PROCESS IN FIRST INSTANCE

Number

1. Causes pending at the beginning of the year: 7
2. Causes introduced this year: 241
3. Decrees of ratification (total number): 212
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): --
CCEO c. 818,1° (Lack of sufficient use of reason): 01
CCEO c. 818,2° (Grave lack of discretion): 29
CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume): 42
CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality): 44
CCEO c. 821 (Fraud): 21
CCEO cc. 820§2, 821 (Fraudulent error): 07
CCEO c. 824§2 (Simulation total): 15
CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against fidelity): 25
CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against children): 18
CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against good of the spouses): 36
CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against indissolubility): 15
CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear): 21
CCEO c. 826 (Condition): 09

5. **Sentences given** (after an ordinary examination): 23
   
   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</td>
<td>04 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Grave lack of discretion):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 818,3°</td>
<td>01 --</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Inability to assume):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality):</td>
<td>06 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Total simulation):</td>
<td>03 02</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Intention against fidelity):</td>
<td>01 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Intention against good of spouses):</td>
<td>03 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Intention against indissolubility):</td>
<td>-- 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCEO c. 821 (Fraud):</td>
<td>-- 01</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-2011

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Causes pending at the beginning of the year:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Causes introduced this year:</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Decrees of ratification</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(total number) as per CCEO can.1369):</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Grounds of nullity considered in the decrees:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(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)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 818,2° (Grave lack of discretion)</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume)</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 820§2 (Error of quality):</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Total simulation):</td>
<td>01</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against good of the spouses):</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 824§2 (Intention against fidelity)</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CCEO c. 825 (Force or grave fear):</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Sentences given (after an ordinary examination):</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a) In favour of nullity (&quot;constat de nullitate&quot;, at least on one ground)</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b) In favour of the bond (&quot;non constat de nullitate&quot; on every ground alleged)</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6 may be greater than the sum of 5a and 5b)

**AFFIRMATIVE**  **NEGATIVE**  
(constat de nullitate)  (non constat de nullitate)

CCEO c. 818,2°  
(Grave lack of discretion)  02  --
CCEO c. 818,3° (Inability to assume):  01  01
CCEO c. 824§2  
(Intention against good of the spouses)  02  --

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

**ACTIVITIES OF THE LOWER TRIBUNALS**  
**IN THE YEAR 2011**

There are seventeen eparchies in four metropolitan provinces and one archeparchy within the proper territory of the Syro Malabar Church. All the four metropolitan provinces have metropolitan tribunals and they function as the tribunals of appeal in the second instance as per c. 1064§1. The metropolitan tribunal of Kottayam judges cases only of the eparchy of the metropolitan of Kottayam. The eparchies of Belthangady and Thuckaly have single judge tribunals. The cases of the eparchy of Ramanathapuram are handled by the eparchial tribunal of Palakkad and the cases of the eparchy of Mandya by the eparchial tribunal of Mananthavady. The eparchial tribunal of Bhadravati is under constitution.

The activities of the eparchial and metropolitan tribunals during the year 2011 are briefly given in the following tables:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Eparchial and Metropolitan Tribunals (I instance)</th>
<th>Cases Pending</th>
<th>Cases Introduced</th>
<th>Sentences Given</th>
<th>Cases Abandoned</th>
<th>Penal Cases</th>
<th>Ratum et non-consuicaturn</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Cases pending</th>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Bhadravathi</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Changanacherry</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>44</td>
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<td>Ernakulam-Ang.</td>
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<td>71</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>Idukki</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Irinjalakkuda</td>
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<td>49</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Kothamangalam</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Palakkad</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Ramanathapuram</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Tellicherry</td>
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<td>75</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thuckalay</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Trichur</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>358</strong></td>
<td><strong>468</strong></td>
<td><strong>353</strong></td>
<td><strong>37</strong></td>
<td><strong>390</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
<td><strong>-</strong></td>
<td><strong>438</strong></td>
<td><strong>388</strong></td>
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### Cases Processed by the Tribunals of second Instance during the Year 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Metropolitan Tribunals (II instance)</th>
<th>Cases pending</th>
<th>Cases introduced</th>
<th>Degree of Ratification Sentences Given</th>
<th>Cases Abandoned</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Cases pending</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Changanacherry</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ernakulam-Ang.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tellicherry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>48</td>
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</table>

### OTHER MATTERS

1. **Annual Eastern Legal Thought**

Under the auspices of the Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopcal Ordinary Tribunal a periodical entitled Eastern Legal Thought on Church law and jurisprudence is published every year since its inception in 2002.

2. **Seminar for the Tribunal Personnel**

The Syro Malabar Major Archiepiscopcal Ordinary Tribunal organized, as it does every year, a seminar for the ministers working in various metropolitan and eparchial tribunals in India on Thursday and Friday, December 1 and 2, 2011. There were 85 participants. The seminar was inaugurated by Mar Mathew
Moolakatt, the General Moderator for the Administration of Justice. Mar Bosco Puthur, the Bishop of the Curia, made a benedictory talk. Adv. Lilly James, Pleader of the Government of Kerala, gave classes on the Major Issues in Civil Law in confrontation with the activities of the Church. Rev. Dr. Mathew Kochupurackal, the President of the Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, explained in detail the procedure in declaring the nullity of marriages in the light of the instruction Dignitas Connubii. Mar George Alencherry, the Major Archbishop, gave the concluding message.

3. Visitation of the Metropolitan and Eparchial Tribunals

As part of implementing the prescription of the particular law of the Syro Malabar Church given in Appendix One of the Statutes of the Superior Tribunal in no. 5, the President/Vice Presidents of the Major Archiepiscopal Ordinary Tribunal with the mandate of the General Moderator visited all the Metropolitan and Eparchial tribunals of the Syro Malabar Church situated in Kerala.

Since such a visit was for the first time in the history of our Church, priority was given to adopt means to foster communion between the eparchial tribunals, and between the lower tribunals and the major archiepiscopal tribunal. The visit has helped to foster unity and uniformity of action among the various tribunals. It also has occasioned to recognize the great service the tribunal ministers render in our eparchies.

The visitors spent a few hours in the tribunal, meeting the tribunal personnel, interacting with them and examining the registers and dossiers. Information has been collected from the tribunals through a questionnaire of 40 points and a résumé of the information was presented to the synod of bishops held in August 2011.

Fr. Mathew Kochupurackal
President

Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad
27.01.2012
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
<th>PARTICULARS</th>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>PAYMENTS</th>
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<td>3,670,471</td>
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<td>Syro Malabar Sabhadinam Collection</td>
<td>3,717,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>426,000</td>
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<td>Contribution for Running Expenses</td>
<td>550,500</td>
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<td>57,518</td>
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<td>Mission Sunday Collection</td>
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<td>1,016,635</td>
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<td>Administrative Receipts</td>
<td>8,556,920</td>
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<td>2,744,692</td>
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<td>Synodal and Commission Meetings</td>
<td>414,227</td>
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<td>619,227</td>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture Income</td>
<td>891,960</td>
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<tr>
<td>235,843</td>
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<td>Major Tribunal Collection</td>
<td>279,601</td>
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<td>116,370</td>
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<td>Synodal News Collection</td>
<td>52,073</td>
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<tr>
<td>403,776</td>
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<td>Liturgical Research Centre Income</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>246,826</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commission for Liturgy Income</td>
<td>530,735</td>
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<tr>
<td>20,763</td>
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<td>Catechism Commission Income</td>
<td>4,567</td>
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<tr>
<td>160,938</td>
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<td>Syro Malabar Church Internet Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mission Fund Income</td>
<td>722,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Amount</td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synodal &amp; Commission Meetings</td>
<td>2,591,601</td>
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<td>Agricultural Expenses</td>
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<td>Donations &amp; Charity</td>
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<td>Major Tribunal Expenses</td>
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<td>Synodal News Expenses</td>
<td>59,911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liturgical Research Centre Expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Mission Expenses</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9,719,059</strong></td>
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**II. CAPITAL RECEIPTS & INVESTMENTS**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>Foreign Contribution Received</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Fund &amp; Corpus Donation</td>
<td>18,926,531</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building Construction</td>
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<td>Furniture &amp; Equipments</td>
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<td>Other Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>21,849,952</strong></td>
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**III. CURRENT LIABILITIES & ASSETS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Commission for Liturgy</td>
<td>530,735</td>
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<td>20,763</td>
<td>Catechism Commission</td>
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<td>Liturgical Research Centre</td>
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**IV. BANK & CASH BALANCES**

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,699,000</td>
<td>Bank : Fixed Deposits</td>
<td>24,160,623</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,688,651</td>
<td>Bank : S.B. Accounts</td>
<td>2,005,928</td>
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<tr>
<td>13,468</td>
<td>Bank &amp; Cash : Synodal News</td>
<td>69,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>252,794</td>
<td>Bank &amp; Cash : Tribunal</td>
<td>236,489</td>
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<td>41,184</td>
<td>Cash in Hand</td>
<td>15,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,695,097</td>
<td>Sub-Total</td>
<td>26,488,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38,264,108</td>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>59,168,403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sd/-
Fr. Mathew Pulimoottil
Finance Officer

Sd/-
C.J. Romid FCA
Chartered Accountant