

**27th Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod:
27th February- 3rd March 2023.
Major Archiepiscopal Curia**

Report

1. Preliminary Part

The 27th ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod was held at Catholicate Centre, Pattom from 27th February to 3rd March 2023. HES began with half-day recollection led by Rev. Fr. Daniel Poovannathil. The Synod Fathers participated in it.

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Father and the Head of the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church convoked the 27th Holy Episcopal Synod at 3.00 pm. The following Fathers were present. HB Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos (President of the Synod), Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos (Secretary), Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios, Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Most Rev. Mathews Mar Polycarpus Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom (Emeritus), and Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios (Emeritus). Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, the Curia Bishop and the Chancellor, recorded the minutes.

HB cordially welcomed the Fathers of HES and invoked the assistance of the Holy Spirit to the entire sessions of the Synod. HB extended a special word of welcome to Most Rev. Mathews Mar Polycarpus and Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos since they were participating for the first time in the HES. HB expressed his joy for the presence of Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos in the Synod especially after the pandemic. HB indicated that the Church has been going through a challenging period. HB said that Pope Francis was trying to teach continuously about the Synodal style of functioning in the Church at various levels. He also spoke about the way in which Episcopal bodies from countries like Germany understand these points which were bringing fear and dilemma among common faithful.

HB also mentioned the KCBC and its commitment for a renewal in the Kerala Church. He advised the bishops to involve actively in this process. The

renewal of the Church meant the renewal of all the baptized faithful in the Church and it included bishops, priests, religious and all the people of God or the whole Church. HB also mentioned the desecration of the Holy Eucharist and its celebrations in the Catholic Church itself. This kind of desecration has never happened in the Catholic Church in Kerala. The devil is acting efficiently to create division among the faithful in this context. We think that these controversies do not affect our Church. We should know that new interpretations are spreading in our Church also in relation to these problems.

HB also mentioned the complex situation in politics. We are really confused to give our hands to any political party here. Sometimes we are pressurized and tempted by the political parties and sometimes we are disappointed and frustrated and even frightened by some of the political powers. We are called to live a Christian life and to lead the Christian community in a very complicated and a complex time. It is not an easy task.

HB expressed that all our discussions and suggestions in the Holy Synod might resonate and confirm the experiences of our ecclesial communion rather than personal issues. HB shared his expectation that the 27th Holy Episcopal Synod may contribute new light in various sections of our Church. HB wished that our thoughts and inspirations during this Holy Episcopal Synod might strengthen our liturgical, disciplinary and ecclesial patrimony. Let the Holy Spirit guide us abundantly throughout the sessions of the Holy Episcopal Synod.

HB shared that the brother of Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius has gone to eternal rest recently and many Bishops participated in the funeral Services. His Beatitude expressed his sorrow about the death of his sister Rev. Sr. Joice SIC on 3rd December in Bathery. His Beatitude conveyed the gratitude of his Family to the Bishops who participated the burial service. HES remembered and prayed for these two deceased persons. His Beatitude declared the HES open.

2. PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

1. Inaugural Address & Welcome: His Beatitude
2. Evaluation on the Report
3. Submission of Catholicos Day Offerings
4. *Subsecreto Items*
5. Meeting with Religious Superiors General
6. Revision of CPCSMML (Particular Law)
7. Meeting with the Secretaries of the Synodal Commissions

8. Liturgical Matters
9. Meeting with the Major Seminarians
- 10.Meeting with the Major Seminary Staff
- 11.Evaluation of the Major Seminary Academic year
- 12.Ministry for the Young Couples in SMCC- Evaluation
- 13.The administration of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia (Accounts)
- 14.New Secretaries to Synodal Commissions
- 15.Ongoing Formation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Priests - Evaluation
- 16.Ministries of the Members of the *Suvisesha Sangam*
- 17.Matters related to Gurgaon Diocese
- 18.Family Apostolate
- 19.Appointment of new Regents
- 20.New Agendas from Bishops for Discussion
- 21.Planning of common celebrations
 - 15 July - Mar Ivanios Day
 - Reunion- 20 September
- 22.Any other subjects with the approval of the President
- 23.Concluding Address of His Beatitude

The items in the agenda were unanimously agreed upon by the Fathers. The HES agreed to the proposal of HB to visit Mount Carmel Retreat Centre for the blessing of the new building on 3rd March at 12.00 pm after concluding the HES. The Malankara Major Seminary issue was discussed and the HES proposed to collect opinions from the seminarians in writing and His Beatitude and the Fathers of the Synod could visit and speak to them on the basis of their opinions.

3. Submission of the Catholicons Day Offerings

The Fathers of the Synod Presented to the offering to HB

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|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum - | Rs. 1,000,000/- |
| 2. Archieparchy of Tiruvalla | Rs. 700,000/- |
| 3. Eaprchy of Bathery | Rs. 500,000/- |
| 4. Eparchy of Marthandom | Rs. 300,000/- |
| 5. Eparchy of Mavelikkara | Rs. 350,000/- |

6. Eparchy of Muvattupuzha	Rs 200,000/-
7. Eparchy of Pathanamthitta:	-----
8. Eparchy of Puthoor	Rs. 155,000/-
9. Eparchy of Parassala	Rs. 100,000/-
10. Eparchy of Gurgaon- Delhi	Rs. 200,000/-
11. Eparchy of USA and Canada	US \$. 12000/-
12. Eparchy of Ghadki- Pune	Rs. 100,000/-

4. Reports of the 26th Holy Episcopal Synod and the Extraordinary Synod on 20-9-2022

The report of the 26th ordinary HES was discussed and the Fathers passed the report unanimously after due corrections.

1. Proposed by Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas
2. Supported by Most. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios

The report of the Extra Ordinary Synod on 20th September 2022 at Tiruvalla was presented and passed unanimously

1. Proposed by Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios
2. Supported by Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose

5. PASTORAL PROVISIONS

HB presented the pastoral provisions outside India.

UK

At present seven Priests are working in UK for the Syro-Malankara Catholic community.

1. V. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Thadathail (Tiruvalla) is working as the coordinator of the Syro –Malankara Catholic community and he is the pastor of the Birmingham English parish.
2. Rev. Fr. Jibu Mathew (Marthandom) is working as the associate pastor and assistant to Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Thadathil. He is in charge of Bristol, Gloucester, Cardiff parishes.
3. Rev. Fr. Louis Charuvila Puthenveed (Bathery) is in charge of Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool parishes.
4. Rev. Fr. James Elenjikal (Pathanamthitta) is in charge of Nottingham and Northampton parishes.

5. Rev. Fr. Lukose Kannimel (Mavelikara) is in charge of Glasgow, Belfast, Aberdeen

6. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Tiruvalil (Mavelikara) is in charge of East London, Luton, Ashford, Croydon.

7. Rev. Fr. Daniel Plavila (Trivandrum) is in charge of West London, Southampton, Ipswich.

These are seven Priests who are working for the Syro Malankara Catholic community in UK and they are serving also in English parishes. Birmingham Archbishop most Rev. Lonely is very favorable to us and he appointed Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Thadathil as pastor.

IRELAND

1. Rev. Fr. Cherian Thazhamon (Tiruvalla)

He is staying and working in Dublin parish and he is the coordinator of the Syro-Malankara Catholic community in Ireland.

2. Rev. Fr. Varghese Angadiyil (Tiruvalla) is in charge of the parish Cork.

3. Rev. Fr. Johny Assariparmpil (Bathery) is in charge of Ganveel.

4. In Belfast we have a community of 25 families and we are trying to send a priest there.

AUSTRALIA

1. Rev. Fr. Stephen Kulathumkarottt (Mavelikkara) is in Adalaid and is working as the coordinator of the Syro-Malankara Catholic community in Australia. He will return to India immediately and Rev. Fr. Premkumar will take charge as the coordinator.

2. Rev. Fr. Premkumar (Marthandom) is working in Brisbain.

3. Rev. Fr. Philip Vettikatt is woking in Mellbourn.

4. Rev. Fr. Babu Kizhakekara is preparing to go to Australia.

5. Rev. Fr. Rony Varghese is also preparing to go to Adalaid parish.

NEWZEELAND

1. Rev. Fr. Daniel Kulangara is working at Oakland diocese and working for the Syro-Malankara Catholic community there.

SINGAPORE

Rev. Fr. Sam is working for the Syro-Malankara Catholic community in Singapore.

GERMANY

1. Rev. Fr. Santhosh Koikaleth (Trivandrum) is working as the coordinator of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Community in Germany. At present he is staying in a German parish at Frankfurt.
2. Rev. Fr. Joseph Chelamparampath (Bathery) is in charge of the community in Bonn.
3. Rev. Fr. Jacob Vazhakunnath (Tiruvalla) who is working in Munster diocese is in charge of the Malankara faithful there.
4. Rev. Fr. Paul Mathew OIC is working for the Malankara Community in Aachen.
5. Rev. Fr. Samuel Plavila OIC who is working for the Paderborn diocese is in charge of the Malankara community there.
6. Rev. Fathers who are studying in Eichstadt are also working for the Syro-Malankara Catholic community in Germany.

SWITZERLAND

1. Rev. Fr. Joseph Chavadimuruppel is the coordinator in Switzerland and he is in charge of the community in Zurich and Basel.
2. Rev. Fr. Josekunju Kalariparampil helps out in Bern in an unofficial way.

AUSTRIA

Rev. Fr. Shaiju Mathew OIC is in charge of the Syro-Malankara community in Vienna.

ROME

Rev. Fr. Benedict Perumuttath is staying in Rome and he is working as a Special Pastor of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Community there.

MALTA

There is a small community in Malta and Re. Fr. Benedict Perumuttath is in charge of the community there.

We have 21 missions in UK and 35 missions in whole Europe. We have to consider the whole Europe as a one unit and think of a canonical provision for Europe. At the same time we have to see Oceania as another unit. We have some families in South Africa and we need to provide pastoral provisions there also.

GULF

There is new centre in Bahrain and there is a new bishop in Bahrain who is from France, a member of a Trinitarian Community, and he is the successor of Bishop Camillo. We are still insisting to get a priest in Bahrain. We are waiting for the new arrangements in Bahrain. Abu Dhabi: Bishop Marinelli who is the successor of Bp. Paul Hinter, is in charge. There is a need of changing the coordinator in Gulf region. The HES discussed the salary of the priests who are working outside India and evaluate the contribution of each priest to the diocese.

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios shared the view that if he would get some priests from other dioceses, they could send them outside India in the context of the financial crisis in Gurgaon diocese. The common opinion was that if the priests are incardinated to the diocese, they can be sent for such purposes. Mar Anthonios expressed his anxiety about the poor responses of the dioceses who adopted the mission areas. His Beatitude clarified that the mission parishes should have a project on the needs of the particular mission and it should be discussed with the bishop who adopted that particular mission and the diocese would provide the possible financial assistance. Collecting money from each parish by sending mission preachers was not considered a welcome suggestion. Abp. Mar Koorilos asked about the norm of receiving priests/seminarians from other dioceses and other Churches. His Beatitude said that the priests from the Syro-Malankara Catholic dioceses and Bethany Ashram could work in the dioceses of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church with the proper consent of the bishops. The incardination of a priest to any diocese should be proceeded with proper consent of both bishops. Priests from outside the Syro-Malankara Catholic community need very serious inquiry before the incardination procedures. HB added that those priests who would like to join the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church from other community should undergo proper Malankara formation. Pastoral concerns were

raised about the families who were working in Israel and the response was that the Israel accepts only singles not families for job. HB informed that he would be seeking the possibility of getting some land for our Church in Holy Land from the Patriarch.

6. PARTICULAR LAW

HB said that the renewal of the particular law was a must and it was given to a commission. We should take necessary time for the correction and updation of the particular law.

Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios said that “we have to mention the name of Rev. Fr. Placid Podippara CMI in the introduction of our particular law. He prepared “Fondus Judici cananici Malankaresi” and he took three years to collect all the documents for our canonical foundation.” Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignatios told that “the history of the Syro Malankara Catholic should be updated in the particular law. Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios said that “the original documents which Mar Ivanios wrote to Rome for reunion should be presented in the introduction if it was available. Mar Julios also informed that “*Mooron Koodasha* is a great ecclesial event. When we present the history we should not omit that history. At least we have to present date, place, time of the *Mooron koosadha* and who consecrated it and the name of the bishops who participated in it.” HB shared that the grandson of Fr. Moolamannil has some documents related to reunion. Mar Julios informed that he visited the library of Pazhaya Seminary Kottayam about 30 years ago and the librarian Rev. Fr. Cherian said that some documents written by Mar Ivanios was kept in the library and it was not easy to get access to it. Rev. Fr. Cherian also mentioned to Mar Julios the efficient leadership of Mar Ivanios in the establishment of “Catholicate” in Malankara. Mar Julios suggested that it would be better to go to the Pazhaya Seminary library to get these documents, if possible. HB answered that they would not give any documents related to reunion and if there were some documents in Rome we would be able to get.” HB added that an elderly priest in Vallikkattu Dayara who was his relative told him that the Parumala Synod entrusted Mar Ivanios with the responsibility to seek reunion with Rome. When everything became positive for Reunion only Mar Ivanios and Mar Theophilos accepted the decision and other bishops rejected it.

During the discussion of the particular law the HES unanimously took the following decisions:

1.All the bishops use red cassock during the following celebrations: 1.Priestly ordination 2.Episcopal ordination 3.Mooron Koodasha 4. Mooron Koodasha of a New Church 5. Washing of the feet on Munday Thursday (Pesaha).

2. The Eparchial bishop must inform in writing the Major Archbishop Catholicos about his retirement six months before the completion of the age 75.

3. Only the eparchy from where the eparchial bishop retires has the claim of the possessions of the retired bishop after his death.

4. A bishop Emeritus of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church will have right to vote even after retirement till the age of 80 in some exceptional cases. Thus those bishops emeriti who have not surpassed the age of 80 retain the right to cast the vote in the election of the Major Archbishop Catholicos, the Father and the Head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. However, after retirement they do not have right to vote in other occasions including that of the election of the bishops, erection of new eparchies, etc.

5. The duration of the term of office of the parish committee including Trustee and Secretary (Kaikaran and Kanakkan) will be two years and this will come to effect from 1st April 2023 onwards with the new election.

The revision of the particular law (CPCSMCC) shall be updated and presented in the next HES. There is no need to present it to Ap. See and get the approval unless it is a matter different that of the general discipline in CCEO or other legislations given by the Supreme Pontiff.

7. MAJOR SUPERIORS MEET

HB welcomed all the three major superiors: V. Rev. Fr. Mathai Kadavil OIC, Rev. Mother Ardra SIC, Rev. Mother Lydia DM and each of them spoke briefly.

Rev. Fr. Mathai Kadavil OIC: suggested to call all the provincials together in the sessions of the HES and to hear them personally. It would also be helpful for understanding common information about the Church and its needs. He also requested for the updation of the canonization process of Mar Ivanios, the servant of God. Canonical visitation to the Ashrams is important and should be considered as part of religious life. All the provincials and the Major Superiors should visit the eparchial bishop officially once a year. Common appointments and

information can be shared to the Superior General and provincials. BBS (Bethany Bible Study) can be promoted to the parishes. Issues related to Bethany and the diocese can be settled as early as possible. He shared that Archbishop Felix Machado, the Apostolic Visitor, visited many Ashrams and heard many priests and he would present the report as early as possible to the Dicastery.

Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas said that the minimum period of parish ministry of the priests in Bethany should be three years. Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios said that Catholicos, the Father and Head of the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church has the right for canonical visitation to the Generalate and provincialate of the Bethany Ashram.

Rev. Sr. Lydia DM: She also shared the same view of calling all the provincials to the synod and it would be a good chance for them to meet personally all the bishops in the Synod. She expressed the joy of working together with the bishops and she added that they are experiencing the freedom of good relationship with the bishops in the various issues and needs. She expressed that HB has been always very friendly to them especially at the time of difficulty. She added that Bava Tirumeni and all the bishops were very close to them and she expressed her joy and she thanked all the bishop for their concern and love. Even though there were some issues with the priests, the cooperation with the priests has been on the whole positive and contributive. About the “Shimo Namaskaram” in English she said that it was a positive step and the sisters found it very helpful, though it is a bit large to hold in the hand. She added the need of the English prayer book for great Lent. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos responded that the work was already done and it would be available in the middle of the Lent. She expressed deep concern over the sharp decline in religious vocation especially in Kerala and these concerns can be presented in the new apostolate “Accompanying Young Families”.

She said that there should be common arrangements for the food allowances of the priests to the respective convents. She also expressed that the need of youth catechesis in the Church and there should be some arrangements for that. She said that there are 986 sisters in DM congregation at present. She informed that various programs were arranged in relation to the Ruby Jubilee of Msgr Joseph Kuzhinjalil and his 40th death anniversary would be commemorated on 23rd August 2023 at Marthandom and she invited all the bishops to participate in the Holy Qurbano.

Rev. Sr. Ardra SIC: shared about the various programs conducted within the Bethany community: Ivanian spirituality retreat, classes related to synodality,

religious spirituality, mission empowerment, motivation classes, etc. She added that Bethany sisters are serving directly in 650 parishes of the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church and mission centers in Bilaspur, Andra, Telegana, Tripura, Aurangabad, kamagiri, etc. As part of the spiritual effects of the Canonization process of Mar Ivanios, various ministries and initiatives were taken for strengthening families. 43000 students participated in the educational programs of Bethany Sisters. Hostel facilities are given to 1500 students for education in Bethany hostels and economically poor students are staying without payments. Hospital ministry is done in 8 centers and pain and palliative care centers are encouraged. Rehabilitation centers, social service centers, centers for differently abled-children are conducted by the Bethany sisters. Helping the poor families, street evangelization ministry, hospital ministry, distribution of food, media ministry are the areas of the service of the Bethany sisters. Rs. 3 Crores rupees were spent for the ministry of the poor. The centenary of the Bethany sisters will be celebrated after 2024 Reunion Day celebrations. She said that there are 818 sisters in Bethany SIC congregation at present.

She shared the crisis in the Ethiopian mission. One convent was closed due to the terrorist attack. She explained about the new vocations in religious life in Ethiopia. HB cleared that there are some canonical procedures to follow for admitting the candidates from Ethiopia (New sisters belongs to whom? Which Church? etc.) and it should be discussed in the higher body of the Bethany Sisters.

8. MEETING WITH THE SYNODAL COMMISSIONS

In the meeting of the Synodal commissions, HB highlighted the fact of the forthcoming centenary of Reunion Movement in 2030. In view of this reunion centenary the whole Church will have to be filled with new enthusiasm, renewal and pastoral eagerness. All the commissions should chalk out programs in this line. HB cautioned all for a genuine introspection as to how the Commissions are functioning. HB proposed to the secretaries to make use of the infrastructure in the Catholicate Centre for the efficient functioning. The Curia bishop pointed out that the cooperation of each commission would be needed.

All the secretaries of the 18 commissions participated the meeting and presented brief reports of their functioning and proposals for the coming year. HB thanked the secretaries and urged all to work hard so that the Church might benefit from these efforts.

9. ST. MARY'S MALANKARA MAJOR SEMINARY

The Fathers of the Synod visited Malankara Major Seminary and met the staff and students together in the chapel. V. Rev. Fr. Sunny Kavuvila welcomed HB and all the Fathers of the Synod. HB said that the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church was going to celebrate the centenary of the Reunion Movement. HB said that we came here because we wanted you to know what the Church was thinking about the formation. Formation is nothing other than of being and becoming. Each one should personally start to form oneself with the help of the Holy Spirit. Formation should begin from oneself. Formation is a personal commitment which comes from each person. If one is open enough to form himself he will be formed. We have the spiritual, academic and human formation.

HB said that the bishops were here to listen to you. Last time you did not speak in common, but this time you could write to me personally without mentioning your name. HB said that the rector should guide seminarians according to the Tukasa of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in matters related to the liturgy. HB added that nobody should add anything to the Thookasa. The matter of the spiritual father would be considered immediately. Regarding the mission, HB mentioned to follow the rules of the seminary and individual exceptions could be given by the Rector. Regarding the personal evaluation, new report was given each year. Regarding the appointment of a psychologist in the seminary would be considered positively.

Regarding the vacations, HB said that both the Christmas vacation and Summer vacation the seminarians get enough time to visit their family and only in summer holidays the students have some programs. HB added that intellectual formation was not for the sake of examinations but for the personal understanding of mysteries of salvation and the church. Renewal of the syllabi and the curriculum could be discussed with the commission.

Regarding the seminary day collection HB added that the faithful of our parishes responded very positively to the needs of the seminary. Speaking the centenary of the Reunion movement, HB said that everybody should strengthen the Church with new vigor and vitality. HB shared his joy for the personal commitment of the seminarians to the Church. HB thanked the seminarians for their personal responses and HB assured good results regarding the concerns. HB congratulated the seminarians for the collection of Rs. 455000/- for the mission Sunday.

HB expressed his gratitude to the rector and the staff for their generous service in the seminary. HB shared his gratitude for the service of the sisters in the seminary. He showed his appreciation to the seminary commission.

10. MEETING WITH THE STAFF IN THE SEMINARY

HB cordially welcomed all the teaching staff in the seminary. The rector informed the details of the seminary. He shared that last year the seminary day collection was 59,67,143/00. POC conducted a meeting of the rectors of various seminaries in the context of the renewal of the Church in Kerala. He told that a group of mission people from Nagaland visited our seminary. He added that the diploma course in the seminary for the outsiders was for two years and Fr. Jolly Karimpil was in Charge. This year 117 persons completed the course and it was conducted online.

He presented the report to the HES and the report was approved by the HES.

Rev. Fr. Raju Parukoor, finance officer of the seminary presented the financial report from 2022 April 1st to 2023 January 31st. He commented that the financial situation of the seminary was not positive and the big help through last years' seminary day collection should be continued. He requested for the immediate basic maintenance of the seminary building.

A proposal about the English language course for the fourth year students of the minor seminary was presented and proposal was that it could be conducted in the major seminary. Everybody shared the opinion that it was a burden for the major seminary and a suitable place could be found for the language course.

Proposals and decision:

1. The seminary day collection from the parishes could be continued.
2. In order to be qualified for the B.Th. degree, a student has to attain a minimum of 70% marks both in comprehensive and oral examinations. A student who fails in these examinations at the first appearance may be given one more chance after one month. To award BTh Degree the minimum requirement of 70% marks was upheld.
3. Those who passed in the second attempt in this academic year 2022-2023 would also be considered for BTh Degree.
4. New spiritual fathers and professors for the Major Seminary would be appointed this year.
5. The decision to restructure the seminary curriculum was approved. Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose, the chairman of the seminary commission would be in

charge of the infrastructure, construction of the building alongside with all other related matters. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius would be in charge of the academic affairs. Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios would be in charge of spiritual matters in the seminary. The chairman would coordinate the commission.

6. The seminary day collection could be continued every year and it would be a collection for both minor seminary and the major seminary.

7. In order to pass the BTh. examination each student should get 60% of marks for both oral and written examinations. Those who fail in the first chance, may get second chance after one month. If they fail second time the local ordinary would take further decisions. If there would be a third attempt, the examination should be conducted in the seminary itself. The matter would be communicated to the concerned parents of the students.

11. Presentation of the annual accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia

Rev. Fr. Thomas Madukammoottil, finance officer, presented the accounts of the Curia till 2022 December 31. Some clarifications were asked and he gave the necessary explanations. Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius proposed the report to be passed and Most Rev. Mathews Mar Polycarpos supported. The financial report was passed unanimously.

12. Decisions and Proposals on Reunion Celebration

1. Mar Ivanios day would be held on July 15th Saturday 2023. HES shared the plan of inviting His Beatitude Pitzabella, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem for the Mar Ivanios Day of this year. HES decided to start Ivanian Padayatra again this year. HES suggested that there would be no Kaivaipu of Suviseshasangam during the Mar Ivanios Day. HES proposed to conduct seminars and talks on the life of Mar Ivanios in all the institutions of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in connection with Mar Ivanios Day July 15th.

2. HES decided to celebrate the Reunion Day on 21-09-2023 at Muvattupuzha and reduced the celebrations to just one day. HES resolved to invite the prefect of the Oriental congregation as chief guest. HES decided to celebrate Holy Qurbano and the addressing of HB to the faithful in the morning session, the meetings of MCA, MCYA, MCCL could be conducted in the afternoon and Eucharistic adoration could be conducted at the end.

13.Common Matters

-Accompanying young Families: During the discussion of the apostolate of accompanying young families, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius said that it would be better to appoint a priest exclusively for this rather than letting the director of the Family Apostolate hold both offices.

-Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, chairman of the Suvisesha Sangam shared that the formation of the Suvisesha Sangam in the Ecclesiastical Districts were going on and the number of participants were around hundred in each districts.

-Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas agreed to provide one seminarian for regency at the Catholicate centre 2023-2024 year.

-Most Rev. Thomas Anthonios presented the financial situation in the diocese of Gurgaon. He appointed PM George Pune to study the financial situation. PM George shared that there was no adequate income and expenditure documents till 2015. About the audit report from 2015 to 2022 he observed that there was mismanagement in loan repayment. Even though there was enough flow of money in every year, the repayment of loan was attended to.

Regarding the huge financial debt of the Eparchy of Gurgaon, the request of Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios to sell the new property of Gurgaon along with school was approved by the HES. HES authorized Mar Anthonios to expedite the matter and clear the bank loan at the earliest and HB would give the official letter of authorization.

14.Liturgical Matters

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos, the chairman of the Commission for liturgy, informed that the liturgical text of the disparity of cult was ready for printing and liturgical text for a shorter form of marriage (especially for marriages which were declared null and void by the ecclesiastical tribunals) was also ready. He added that the text for the Mooron Koodahsa in one day was already completed and the new Shimo Namaskaram with more Psalms was also prepared. He said that guidelines must be given for the use of sound system in the church.

15.Proposals and Decisions:

1.Carrying Statues of Saints during processions as part of the parish feast is strictly prohibited.

2. Bishops should wear the golden Masanapsa during Holy Qurbano.
3. When the bishop is present he alone says Shuboholabo...
4. Black cassock (Puram kuppayam) should be used during the divine offices, sacramentals and confession and Eucharistic Adoration.
4. Priests are not allowed to use the hand sleebe during the Eucharistic celebration.
5. A guide line for Church choir and the use of loud speaker and mikes should be published and the choir masters should be called together and given directions about the choir and the moderate use of the sound system and instruments.
6. The service of Sr. Grace SIC who has PHD in psychology could be utilized in the seminary for counseling.
7. New spiritual fathers and professors for the major seminary would be appointed this year.
8. Rev. Fr. Gigi Philip Charivupurayidoam would be the next Rector of the Malankara Major Seminary..
9. Rev. Fr. Godjoy would be appointed as spiritual father of the Major seminary in the new academic year.
10. Rev. Fr. Thomas Poovannal could be appointed professor for counseling in the Major Seminary.
11. A new name for Malankara Caritas would be proposed and there should be 7 members from 7 states: 1. Bp. Thomas Mar Anthonios (Maharashtra) 2. Bp. Antony Mar Silvanos (Kerala) 3. Bp. Geevarghese Mar Makarios (Karnataka) 4. Fr. George Vettikattil (Tamilnadu) 5. (Delhi) 6. (Haryana) 7. (Punjab)
12. A three day initiation course would be conducted for the first year philosophy students in the Catholicate centre after May 20th 2023.
13. HB proposed Rev. Fr. Philip Dayananth, Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Nediath to the status of Ramban, Rev. Fr. Varkey Attupuram, Rev. Fr. John Karavila, to the status of Corepiscopo.
14. Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios proposed Re. Fr. Jose Chamakala to the status of Ramban, Re. Fr. Augustine Pulimattom, Rev. Fr. Kurumpileth, Rev. Fr. John Thundiyath to the status of Corepiscopo.
15. Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios proposed Rev. Fr. Eldo Puthenkandathil and Mathew Karuvallil to the status of Corepiscopo.
16. Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose proposed Rev. Fr. Premkumar and Rev. Fr. S. Varughese to the status of Corepiscopo. The other dioceses may propose the names at their convenience.

Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos presented the present status of the Eparchy in USA and Canada. He said that the school and the auditorium attached to the bishop's House in New York were purchased with 2.5 million Dollars.

17. Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose explained the details of the pilgrim centre of St. Devasahayam Pillai at Marthandom where he was persecuted. The diocese has 7 cents of land there and a small Church.

18. Most. Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios and Most. Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos were appointed by HB to study and submit the report on the issue related to the Surat Parish and the Bethany Ashram.

19. The remuneration for priests in the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church could be decided by the concerned Eparchy and it might be opportune to know the salary system in the other eparchies.

20. The priests having food from the convents should pay a minimum of Rs. 3000/ per month from April 2023.

21. The guidelines for the Family Apostolate and the Mothers Forum were presented in the HES and a decision would be taken in the next synod.

22. The followings themes were discussed during the Synod for press release: Buffer Zone issues, Religious freedom, Drugs and Narcotics, Family relationship, Greenfield highway, Religious harmony, etc.

23. The Malankara Catholic TV could be utilized to give formation and clarification on liturgical and other pertinent issues.

The next extraordinary Synod will be held at Muvattupuzha on 20th September 2023 at 6.00.pm.

16. Subsecreto Matters

17. Concluding Message of HB

At the concluding message HB expressed his concern over some tendencies seen in the life of the present Church, esp., in the field of liturgy – some extremist tendencies on the one hand and some liberalist and free attitude on the other. In the present scenario many social media postings were coming and disturbing the life of the Church. In regard to the sections on Popular Piety, HB said that the Church has been imbibing in an organic manner some of the common and popular pious practices from other Catholic Churches with our own adaptations synchronization. The Church does not share these extreme views. HB mentioned that the Malankara Catholic TV could give some clarifications about the doubts related to the liturgical matters.

HB shared the personal pains and the struggles of each bishop and thanked all for the cooperation, especially at the time of difficulties. HB wished all a wonderful lent and anticipated Easter greetings. Thereafter the Synodal Secretary congratulated HB on his Consecration Day, the 5th of March on behalf of the entire church for HB's unique leadership and place in the society at large.

Invoking God's blessings through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God on all and the Church, HB declared the HES closed. With a short prayer HB imparted his Apostolic blessing.

+Thomas Mar koorilos
Secretary

+Antony Mar Silvanos
Chancellor and Curia Bishop