

**28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod:  
19<sup>th</sup> February- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024.  
Major Archiepiscopal Curia**

**Report**

**1. Preliminary Part**

The 28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod was held at the Catholicate Centre, Pattom, from 19<sup>th</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. The Holy Episcopal Synod began with half-a-day recollection from 9.00am to 12.30 pm led by Rev. Fr. George Kochuparampil OFM in which all the Synod Fathers participated.

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Father and Head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, convoked the 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Episcopal Synod at 3:00 PM. The following Fathers were present: His Beatitude 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. Mathews Mar Pachomios, 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 Chancellor, recorded the minutes.

His Beatitude warmly welcomed the Fathers of the Holy Episcopal Synod and invoked the assistance of the Holy Spirit for all the sessions. HB extended a special word of welcome to Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios, Bishop of St. Ephrem Khadki - Pune, as this was for the first time that he was participating in the Synod. HB mentioned that Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios was the second superior General who was elected to the Episcopacy. HB appreciated the various Episcopal ministries and hard work of Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, the former bishop and the administrator of St. Ephrem Khadki – Pune.

In the inaugural session, HB pointed out the challenges and threats within and outside the Church, and also the questioning of the traditional systems and values. HB mentioned the loss of the spiritual strength of the Church in our time and the problems made by the ambiguity in the faith matters in our day today life. HB also pointed out the decline of the spirit of asceticism and also the

decline in the number of holy religious in our Church. HB added that each one of the Synodal Fathers should have an extraordinary commitment and dedication in protecting the values of our Church in these days. HB informed that all the challenges related to faith should be dealt with proper conviction and care. HB said that all the bishops should have the awareness about the extreme difficulty of the Episcopal ministry. HB informed about the various prophecies in 2024 and it would be given to the providence of God. Invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Mother of God HB declared the 28<sup>th</sup> Synod open.

## **2. Presentation of the Agenda**

1. Inaugural Address & Welcome: His Beatitude
2. Evaluation on the Report
3. Submission of Catholicos Day Offerings
4. Meeting with Religious Superiors General
5. Discussion on Reunion Centenary Action Plan
6. Meeting with the Secretaries of the Synodal Commissions
7. Liturgical Matters
8. Meeting with the Seminarians
9. Meeting with the Seminary Staff
10. Discussion on Surat Parish issue
11. Meeting with Finance Officers
12. Talk on FCRA & Financial discipline for Bishops & Finance Officers:  
Mr. Johny Pallivathikal CA)
13. The administration & Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia
14. New Secretaries to Synodal Commissions
15. Ongoing Formation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Priests -  
Evaluation
16. Appointment of new Regents
17. Planning of common celebrations
18. 15 July - Mar Ivanios Day
19. Reunion- 20 September
20. Discussion on Youth Catechesis Schema
21. Bethany Sisters' Centenary Celebration

22. Formation of Pastoral Council in Church level
23. Accepting priests from the Believers Church in the eparchy of Puttur
24. Any other subjects with the approval of the President
25. Concluding Address of His Beatitude

The agenda was presented and it was unanimously agreed by the Fathers of the Synod and any new subject could be discussed during the common discussion. The report of the 27<sup>th</sup> ordinary HES was read and discussed and passed unanimously.

Proposed by Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios

Supported by Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas

The report of the extraordinary Synod on 20 September 2023 held at Muvattupuzha was presented and passed unanimously.

Proposed by Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios

Supported by Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos

### **3. Submission of the Catholicos Day offering**

Before submitting the Catholicos Day collection, the HES discussed the tax policy of the Government regarding the contribution from one entity to the other. After the discussion the HES decided to get further clarification from Mr. Johny Pallivathucal CA who is an expert in guiding in income tax issues. HES also decided that the Catholicos day offering of this year would be given after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the end of the financial year. Though some dioceses already presented the cheques, it would be credited after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **4. Discussion on Reunion Centenary action plan**

Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos presented the Reunion Centenary celebration action plan. He mentioned about the Reunion Centenary on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2030. He presented 7 years renewal program from 2024 Sept 20<sup>th</sup> to 2030 September 20<sup>th</sup>.

1. Year of the Word of God (20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025)

The main objective of this year would be *Lectio Divina* emphasizing the meditative reading of the Holy Scripture, Bible studies, memorizing Bible verses, etc.

2. Year of the Sacraments (20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026)

The main purpose of this year would be promotion of sacramental life through liturgical celebrations.

3. Year of Charity (20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2027)

The main focus of this year would be charity emphasizing the compassionate touch of Jesus to the poor, sick, downtrodden, abandoned, etc.

4. Year of Family (20<sup>th</sup> September 2027 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2028)

The main goal of this year would be family life emphasizing the spiritual and ecclesial life of the Family, the challenges of the modern family, etc.

5. Year of Mission and Vocation (20<sup>th</sup> September 2028 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2029)

The main aim of this year would be Evangelization emphasizing the missionary dimension of the church and religious and priestly vocation.

6. Year of Children and Youth (20<sup>th</sup> September 2028 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2029)

The main focus of this year would be Children and youth emphasizing the ecclesial commitment and the God experience of Children and youth through the Church. Both the Mission and Vocation, Children and Youth would be conducted in the same year 20<sup>th</sup> September 2028 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2029.

7. Year of Reunion Centenary (20<sup>th</sup> September 2029 to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2029)

The main goal of the year would be thanksgiving for Reunion Movement emphasizing the monastic and the holy life of Venerable Mar Ivanios, highlighting the ministries of the pioneers of the Reunion Movement and pilgrim visit to the tombs of Venerable Mar Ivanios and other bishops.

The Synodal fathers discussed the Reunion Celebration project in detail and various suggestions were presented.

- The theme for vocation should be highlighted
- Faith formation could be added to this theme
- The year of Sacrament could be changed into the year of liturgy
- The year of Children and youth could be added
- Devotional piety could be added to the liturgical year
- Studies on Venerable Mar Ivanios should be started in the year 2024 itself
- Three bishops should be in charge of each year one with one Chairman and two vice chairmen
- The history of our Church should be presented in a book and should publish before 2030 and the contribution of our Church, educational, medical, social, spiritual, etc should be included in it
- Lienamenta and Instrumentum laboris should be prepared and published in each year both in English and in Malayalam

- The third Ecclesial Assembly could be in these coming years.
- The activities of each year should be published in print media
- Meeting of Vicar Generals and district Vicars should be conducted in each year
- A priest should be appointed for these seven years to coordinate the programs staying in Catholicate centre
- There should be a team to stay in Catholicate centre to record the day today history both in digital and written mode
- Lineament and *Instrumentum laboris* should be prepared before Easter

The HES appointed Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, the Chairman and Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos vice chairmen to organize the year of the Word of God. The Curia bishop will be the coordinator for the next seven years.

## **5. Meeting with Finance Officers of the Eparchies**

HB invoked a special meeting of the finance offices of each Eparchy of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church during the 27<sup>th</sup> HES informing to present the financial liabilities and bank loans of each Eparchy. All the finance officers of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church except the Eparchy of USA and Canada presented the liabilities and bank loans of each Eparchy before the HES and gave a report to HB. Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos presented the financial situation in his Eparchy. HB informed that this meeting of the finance officers helped a lot to know the real financial situation of each Eparchy.

## **6. Talk on Financial Discipline (Mr. Johny Kalluvathukal CA)**

According to the invitation of the HES Mr. Johny Kalluvathukal CA took a class on financial discipline to all the fathers of the Synod and the finance officers of each Eparchy during the Synod. He emphasized the importance of financial credibility in our Church. He added that financial management and administration should be included in the curriculum of the seminary. He informed the importance of the law of the land and the need of keeping the law. He said that the Church should be accountable to many, especially, the government system and the canon law of the Church. He added that the religious freedom and religious activity should be in accordance with law of the

land. He mentioned that the administration and the accounts of the religious organizations should be in accordance with the law of the land. He informed that everybody should check three things before buying a land: social desirability, technical feasibility, financial viability.

He further explained the new FCRA directions, 12 A registration, TDS, Property tax building tax, Form 9A, Darpan registration. After the class HB thanked Mr. Johny Kalluvathukal CA for his valuable information and his concern to the Syro Malankara Catholic Church.

## **7. Youth Catechesis**

Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos presented a schema for the youth catechesis. The main points of the schema were:

- 1.Existence of God
- 2.Uniqueness of Christ as God and Man
3. The fullness of Church in the Catholic Church
4. The bible
5. The Liturgy
6. Moral issues
7. Church History
8. Practical exercise for God experience

He suggested that the format of the text would be in question answer mode. He added that all these contents would be presented in two separate texts for two years study. The first three themes would be in the first text and the other parts would be in the second text. After the discussion the HES decided to present the text in the extraordinary synod in September 20. The HES appointed Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios to study the text and to present to the Synod. These three bishops would be in charge of the text preparation. The HES opined that to publish the youth catechesis text in 2025 June could be the target.

## **8. Liturgical Matters**

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos informed about the completion of the printing of the English text for the liturgy of the hour for Lent. He added that the *Perunal Kramam (Andu Thaksa)* was translated into English in USA and this text could be given to the liturgical commission for further correction and study

and this text would be published officially. HB said that all the liturgical texts in all the languages, including transliteration, should be published with the proper approval of the Church. The HES suggested that the *Qurbono* Taksa in English should be presented in the next CBCI meeting for Eucharistic celebration. HB mentioned that all the bishops should be extremely careful about the liturgical matters and the rubrics should be followed diligently. HB informed about the prohibition of small hand cross by priests during the Holy *Qurbono* and added that this message should be communicated.

## 9. Pastoral Council of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church

The HES discussed the matter about the pastoral council of the Malankara Catholic Church and proposed 51 members from various categories of the Church members.

1. Pastoral council secretaries of 12 Eparchies:	12
2. President of MCA:	1
3. President of MCYM:	1
4. President of MCMF:	1
5. Superiors General of Religious congregations: (OIC-1, SIC-1, DM-1)	3
6. Nominated persons from the laity:	5
7. Three Eparchial Priests:	
Trivandrum Province- Vicar General:	1
Tiruvalla Province- Presbyteral Council Secretary:	1
Eparchy of Gurgaon- Delhi, Khadki-Pune:	1
8.Elected Women: Trivandrum Province:	2
Tiruvalla Province:	2
Eparchy of Gurgaon- Delhi, Khadki-Pune:	1
9.Elected members from: Gulf:	1
Europe:	1
Oceania:	1
10.Major Seminary Rector:	1
11. All the Bishops of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church:	16

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Total Members      51

The time period of this Church Pastoral Council would be three years. The first meeting of the Council would be 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Catholicate Centre, Trivandrum.

## **10. Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia**

Rev. Fr. Thomas Madukammootil, Finance officer, presented the accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. After the discussion the Fathers of the Synod opined the need of presenting the accounts of the Curia between the Synod and 31<sup>st</sup> March, the end of the financial year. The account was unanimously approved.

Proposed by: Most Rec. Thomas Mar Koorilos

Seconded by: Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios

HES discussed the salary of the staff in Catholicate Centre. The minimum salary should be 15000/- and 20% hike of other staff who received Rs.15000/- at present. The honarorium for the sisters and the priests should be 8000/-

## **11. Appointments of Regents**

Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignatios agreed to provide one brother from Mavelikara and Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos agreed to provide one brother from Marthandam.

## **12. New Secretaries for Commission**

HES decided to extend one more term (three years) to Rev. Fe. Benedict Moozhikkara as the Executive Secretary of *Suvisesha Sangam*.

HES decided to appoint Rev. Dr. George Thomas Kochuvilayil the president of the Ordinary Tribunal.

## **13. Discussion on the priests and the faithful of the Believers Church in the Eparchy of Puttur**

Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios presented the pastoral issue regarding the priests and the faithful of the Believers Church. He shared that 7 priests and 7 communities (350 families) of the Believers Church wanted to join the Syro



Malankara Catholic Church. HES discussed the matter and decided to receive these communities and the priests, not as priests but as pastors to the Syro Malankara Catholic Church in the Eparchy of Puttur. The status of the priests would be decided later and they could serve as members of Minor Order. The Major Archieparchy offered to pay the salary of three of them, the Eparchy of Bathery two and the Eparchy of USA –Canada 1.

#### **14. Meeting of the Synodal Commission Secretaries**

HB welcomed the secretaries of the Synodal Commission and appreciated their service for the good of the Church. According to his suggestion the following commission secretaries presented their reports before the Fathers of the Synod.

1. Synodal Commission for Liturgy: Rev Dr. Issac Parappallil
- 2 Synodal. Commission for Theology: Rev. Dr. Jolly Karimpil
- 3.(a) Synodal Commission for Evangelization : Sr. Dr. Mary Prasad DM  
(b). Suvisesha Sangam: Rev. Fr. Benedict Moozhikkara OIC
4. Synodal Commission for Bible: Rev Dr. Cyril Anand OIC
- 5.(a) Synodal Commission for Eccumenism and Dialogue: Rev. Fr. George Thekkadayil  
(b) Commission for Dialogue: Rev. Dr. Prasobh OIC
6. Synodal Commission for Clergy: Rev. Fr. Thomas Mukalumpurath
7. Synodal Commission for Religious: Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Kuttyil
8. Synodal Commission for Laity: Mr. Jacob Punnose
9. Synodal Commission for Youth: Rev. Dr. Prabheesh George Mekkarikkath
10. (a) Synodal Commission for Family: Rev. Fr. Mathew Arackal. In the absence of Fr. Mathew Arackal, the report was presented by Mrs. Gigi Mathai, the president of MCMF.  
(b) Accompanying Young Families: Rev. Fr. Thomas Madakammoottil
11. (a) Synodal Commission for Faith Formation : Rev. Fr. Joseph Valliyatt  
(b) Apostolate of MCCL : Rev. Fr. Samuel Pazhavorpadickal
12. Synodal Commission for Vocation: Rev. Dr. John Kuttyil
13. Synodal Commission for Seminary Formation: Rev. Dr. Gigi Philip Charivupurayidam
14. Synodal Commission for Education: Prof. Benedict. Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, the Chairman presented the report in the absence of the Secretary.
15. Synodal Commission for Social apostolate: Rev. Fr. George Vettikatt

16. Commission for Health: Rev. Sr. Theres SIC

17. Synodal Commission for Communication and Media: Rev. Fr. John Thottathil

18. Synodal Commission for Migrants: Rev. Fr. Thomas Madukkammoottil

After the presentation of the report HB delivered his concluding message. HB said that the commission members should go with positive energy in each meeting of the Synodal secretaries. HB said that every commission should have a consultative body in a bigger group and a body of commission members less than 15. The members of the commission should be selected by the chairman and secretary and the list should be approved by the Synod. HB informed that the members of the commission should have a positive approach in all the decisions. HB mentioned that the qualified laity of our Church should be promoted and accepted. More over the women leaders should get a respectable position in the Church. Each member of the commission should empower the Church by his or her service in the commission. HB suggested that more focus should be given to the diocesan program than the central programs. He urged that the office of the Catholicate centre should be utilized. He shared that the theology of our Church should be taught thorough our official channel and website not through private channel. HB presented the Reunion centenary renewal programs and action plans for the next 7 years. H B informed that the Reunion centenary renewal programs of each year should be under the guidance of the Coordinator, Curia Bishop, Chairman and the two vice chairmen. HB added that the year of the Word of God would be from 2024 September 20 to 2025 September 19 and the inauguration would be during the reunion celebration at Parasala. HB advised that each commission should involve in the programs of the Year of the Word of God. HB informed of the need for regular meeting of the commissions and its seriousness. HB thanked all the secretaries for their commitment and service and concluded the meeting with prayer and with his apostolic blessing.

### **15. Meeting with the Staff and the Seminarians**

HB and the Fathers of the Synod visited the St. Mary's Malankara Major Seminary and met the staff and the students. During the meeting with the staff HB welcomed the Rector and the staff. Rev. Fr. Gigi Philip Charivupurayidam, the rector, presented the report of the seminary. He shared about the academic excellence of the seminary. He shared regarding the 11 resident priests, two

sisters and 37 visiting professors in the seminary. He mentioned that after completing the term Rev. Fr. Sunny Mathew Kavuvila returned to his diocese and the new Rector Rev. Fr. Gigi Philip Charivupurayidam, took charge. He informed about the three spiritual fathers namely Rev. Fr. Jim Thomas OCD, Rev. Fr. Godjoy, Rev. Fr. Michel Ouseph. He told about the 100 seminarians in this academic year 2023-2024. He mentioned the various social, cultural, and the spiritual programs conducted in this academic year. He thanked the HES for the care and support to the seminary.

Rev. Fr. Raju Parukoor, the finance officer, presented the financial report. After the discussion the report was approved by the HES. Rev. Fr. Rector conveyed his concerns about the lack of the resident professors in the seminary. He suggested that there is the need of four resident proffers in canon law, moral theology, Sacred Scripture and dogmatic theology. He mentioned that he realized the lack the proficiency of English language among the seminarians and need of improvement. He thanked the HES and the meeting concluded with the blessing of the HB.

HB addressed the seminarians in the seminary chapel and all the bishops and the staff participated in the gathering. HB explained the seven year action plan of the reunion centenary. HB urged the seminarians to cooperate and work together with the action plan of Church for Reunion centenary. He thanked all the seminarians and the staff and concluded the meeting with prayer and the apostolic blessing.

## **16. Discussion on common celebration**

The HES decided to celebrate July 15 as the day of commemoration of Venerable Mar Ivanios as usual. The Celebration would start from 1<sup>st</sup> July onwards and Syro-Malabar and Latin *Qurbano* should be included as usual. HES decided to invite Mar Raphael Thattil , the father and the head of the Syro-Malabar Church and the reception should be given from the front gate. HES mentioned that the *padayathra* should be emphasized in the context of the elevation of Mar Ivanios as Venerable.

HES discussed the reunion day celebration and decided that it would be on September 20,21 as usual. The HES suggested that the meetings of the various apostolates would be in the morning from 8.30 to 10.30. am. The Holy *Qurbano* would begin from 10.30 am and the program could finish at 1.30.pm. MCYM, MCA and MCCL should arrange their meeting in the morning

session. HES opined that the *Suvisesha Sandhya* could be conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> September evening. HES suggested declaring the centenary of the Bethany sisters during the concluding meeting of the Reunion celebration. HB informed that the centenary inauguration of the Bethany congregation of the sisters would be in Tiruvalla and the concluding ceremony would be in Trivandrum. HES decided to inaugurate the year of the Word of God on 21<sup>st</sup> September during the Reunion day celebration. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, explained the details of the Reunion celebration at the higher secondary school ground, Vengannor in the Eparchy of Parasala.

HES decided the Reunion celebrations till 2030 as follows:

2025: Eparchy of Pathanamthitta

2026: Eparchy of St Ephrem Khadki –Pune

2027: Eparchy of Bathery

2028: Eparchy of Mavelikkara

2029: Archieparchy of Tiruvalla

2030: Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum

## **17. Ongoing Formation of Priests “*Hudotho*”**

Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, the curia bishop, presented the report of the ongoing formation of the priests conducted in Catholicate Centre. He shared that the Synodal Commission for Clergy and the Curia bishop together took the responsibility of the ongoing formation. He informed that four batches were completed with 190 participants from the year of ordination 2010- 2018. He said that the next batch would be from the year of ordination 2019-2022 and from 2000-2009. HE added that there would be 7 batches in the year 2024.

## **18. Fourth Year Seminary Formation**

The HES decided that the fourth year formation of the seminarians in various Eparchies should be together in Kattakada boys home in the Eparchy of Parasala with intention of improving the quality of their English language. The HES also discussed the financial needs and suggested asking contributions from well wishes in USA, Gulf and various cities in India. HES proposed to present projects in various agencies.

## **19. Meeting with the Major Superiors**

The HES invited all the major superiors and provincials of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church for a meeting together with the Synodal Fathers. HB welcomed the Superior General of the Ashram and the mother provincials and provincials. The first session was with the religious congregation of sisters and with the representative of Franciscan Brothers. Mother General Rev. Sr. ArdraSIC and other 5 provincials participated in the meeting from the congregation of Bethany sisters. Mother Lydia and 6 provincials participated in the meeting from the DM congregation. Rev. Sr. Annama, provincial of the Holy Spirit congregation, participated in the meeting. Rev. Bro. Dominic participated as the representative of the Franciscan Brothers.

### **Rev. Sr. Mother Ardra SIC**

She presented the report of the Bethany congregation of sisters. She informed the details of the province: Provinces 5, convents 180, sisters 798. She reported that for the preparation of the Bethany centenary, various renewal and spiritual programs were initiated. She shared the theme for the centenary “Renew, Unite and Evangelize”. She mentioned the pastoral ministry of Bethany sisters in 489 parishes. She told the mission activities in India and outside. She reported the educational ministry in 77 schools and the involvement in the education of 49353 students. She informed that the Bethany congregation paid Rupees 9 Core for social activities in the last year through the generalate and the provinces. She explained the present challenges posed by lack of vocation, the old age of sisters, lack of commitment of the young generation.

### **Rev. Sr. Mother Lydia DM**

She presented the report of the DM congregation. She informed the details of the convent: Provinces 6, convents 200, sisters 910 and candidates 67. She told about the pastoral ministries in 643 parishes and missions and she reported various ministries also. She mentioned the involvement of 252 sisters in 39 schools and 25226 children were benefited through their educational ministry. She reported the involvement of 156 sisters in hospital ministry in 5 hospitals and 7 dispensaries under the DM congregation. She also informed various ministries in social service, running old age home, special schools, boys and girls home etc. She added that 19 new houses were built and 16 houses were partially built in this year. She reported the involvement of 71 sisters in

*Suvisesha Sangam*. She requested for the publication of the death anniversary of Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjalil, in the liturgical calendar.

### **Bro Dominic (Fransiscan Brothers)**

Bro. Dominic presented the report. He shared about the 40 brothers in Kerala province and four communities in Parasala and Trivandrum Eparchies. He participated in the meeting as the representative of the superior.

### **Rev. Sr. Annamma: Provincial Holy Spirit**

Rev. Sr. Annamma presented the report and she shared the details of the two provinces and 266 sisters of the Holy Spirit community in India. She mentioned various activities like hospital ministry, pastoral ministry, old age home, family renewal, education, youth ministry, social service, children home, rehabilitation and mentally challenged etc. She said that the Holy Spirit community was started in 1950 May 28 by Rev. Fr. Bernard Bendal with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. She mentioned about the 15 communities working in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

HB urged the Mother Generals and the provincials to publish the social commitment details of the congregation in every year together with the social apostolate of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church. The provincials mentioned about the updating of the burial service of sisters and its translation into English. HB thanked all and concluded the meeting with his apostolic blessing.

### **Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Kuttiyil OIC : Bethany Congregation**

The meeting with the Provincial General and the provincials was arranged separately with the HES. Rev. Fr. Geevarghese kutiyil, the Provincial General presented the report. He mentioned about the Apostolic Visitor appointed by the Holy See on 25 August 2022. Archbishop Felix Machado, made contact with 178 members directly and indirectly. In 2023 January Archbishop Machado presented the report to the Holy See. In December 12 Rev. Fr. Mathai Kadavil was appointed as Bishop St Ephrem Khadki- Pune and Rev. Fr. Geevarhese Kuttiyil was appointed as the new Superior General. Rome appointed Rev. Fr. Thomas Charthparampil CMI as pontifical delegate. The superior General explained the issues regarding the appointment of the apostolic delegate from Rome. He said that the delegation meant for renewal.

## **20. Report of the Surat Issue**

HES appointed Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignatios as president and Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos as secretary to study and present report to the HES on the issues regarding the Bethany school, Surat and the Syro Malankara Catholic Parish, Surat. After careful study and the discussion with both parties Most Rev. Antony Mar silvanos presented the report to the HES. After the discussion HES authorized HB Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis to solve the issue on the basis of the report.

## **21. Discussion on Common Subjects**

Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas informed about a seminar on education at MACFAST College Tiruvalla on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024. He informed that HB Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis would inaugurate the seminar and he suggested participation of at least 10 from each diocese. He mentioned that members should be the representatives of intellectuals.

Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas shared that some priests who were in America returned to the Eparchy built personal houses for their stay and it was being criticized by other priests. HES suggested that after retirement all priests are supposed to stay at clergy home and only those priests would be taken care of by the Eparchy. HES suggested that each bishop could arrange the salary of the priests from the parishes of the Eparchy and each bishop could decide the salary of the priests in his Eparchy.

-The HES decided unanimously to raise the St. Chrysostom Gurgaon-Delhi Eparchy as Teritorium Proprio. All the 16 bishops voted unanimously in this regard.

- The HES discussed (CDF) same sex blessing and expressed deep concern in our country regarding this matter. Syro Malankara Catholic Church should not encourage such kind of blessings.

- The HES decided to give Rs. 350,000/- from Catholicate Centre to Nilackal Trust as contribution

- Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios expressed his gratitude to all the bishops who participated in the ordination and installation ceremony. He also mentioned his concern over the financial situation and the lack of the clergy for pastoral ministry and mission. HES suggested him to ask each bishop personally for the available priests. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius informed to HES to declare a day for the Sunday school teachers on the death anniversary day of Cheppatt

Philipos Ramban. HES had the opinion that it would need some more time to decide. Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos suggested to declare a Sunday for *Suvisesha Sangam*, HES rejected the opinion showing the overcrowded situation of many such Sundays. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios shared his need for more priests in various apostolates in his diocese.

- HES decided that the fourth year formation would be in Kattakada boys home and it should start on June 2024.

### **Concluding Message of His Beatitude**

In his concluding message HB mentioned that the acceptance of our Church by the public was based on our unity and solidarity and we are bound to keep that unity without interruption. HB reminded that various ideas in social media should not affect us and our relationship with the sister Churches, and relationship with other religions should also be maintained well. HB said that the Church had anxiety over the increasing religious fundamentalism and terrorism in our land. HB highlighted the need of religious freedom and the importance of practising democracy. HB shared about the anxiety of the farmers in high range and Malabar and forest areas. HB expressed the solidarity of the Church to the affected people in this area. HB urged the protection of the government for their life and wealth. HB shared condolences and prayers of the Church to the families who lost their dear ones during the attack of the wild animals. HB congratulated Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas for the timely intervention, in the name of the Church, in the context of the attack of the wild animals in that area. HB thanked God for the immense grace of God to our Church in its growth. HB wished that these seven years preparation program would be a time of renewal and purification of our Church. By invoking the intercession of Mother Mary and Venerable Mar Ivanios HB thanked all the Fathers of the Synod for their support and encouragement. HB wished and prayed that all the ministry of our Church should be for the betterment of all the people in the society. HB declared the closing of the 28<sup>th</sup> HES at 5.00 pm on Thursday with his apostolic blessing.

### **Decisions of the 28<sup>TH</sup> Ordinary Episcopal Synod**

1. To execute 7 years action plan for the preparation of the Reunion Centenary celebrations from 2024 to 2030 with the following focus.



Year for the Word of God: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025;  
Year of the sacraments: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026;  
Year of Charity (Mercy): 20<sup>th</sup> September 2026 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2027;  
Year of Family: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2027 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2028;  
Year of Mission (religious and priestly vocation): 20<sup>th</sup> September 2028 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2029.  
Year of Reunion centenary: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2029 to 20<sup>th</sup> September 2030.

2. Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios was nominated as Chairman and Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius as vice chairmen for this year of the Word of God in 2024-2025. Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Curia Bishop, would act as the coordinator of the pastoral action plan. HES also decided to appoint a priest as secretary, staying at Catholicate centre, to execute this action plan.

3. HES decided to prepare and present a youth catechism text on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and the HES authorised Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius and Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios to proceed with this task.

4. HES decided that all the liturgical books (translation/transliteration) used for services should be published with proper approval and the imprimatur of the Father and the Head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

5. HES cautioned that vigilance in liturgical matters, especially by the Eparchial Bishops is utmost importance and nothing may be introduced in the Eparchy which is not in the *thookasa*. Bishops must pay extra care when they celebrate the liturgy. Priests who create discord in the Church must be strongly dealt with and those among the faithful who create confusion in liturgical discipline must be corrected.

6. Two brothers from Mavelikara and Marthandam Eparchies would help next year in the Catholicate Centre as Regents.

7. HES decided to appoint Rev. Dr. George Thomas as president of the Ordinary Tribunal.

8. HES authorized the Bishop of Puttur to initiate the work of Evangelisation among those who approached him. HES suggested that the move should be cautious but proper.

9. HES agreed to appoint new resident professors in Malankara Major Seminary. It also authorized the procurator to do the needful to renovate the toilets. HES suggested the presentation of a yearly budget of the Seminary.

10. HES decided to commemorate the death anniversary of Mar Ivanios on 15<sup>th</sup> July as usual with *Padayathra*. His Beatitude Mar Raphael Thattil would be the chief guest.
11. HES decided to celebrate the reunion anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> September at Parasala. The diocese of Parassala would host the event. The gatherings of MCCL, MCYM, MCA would be conducted from 8 am. to 10.30 am. The Holy *Qurbano* of the Reunion celebration would be held at 10.30.am. The *Suvisesha Sandhya* would be conducted on 20<sup>th</sup> evening.
12. HES decided to form Syro-Malankara Catholic Pastoral Council which would be the Pastoral Council of the Church, consisting of 51 members from Bishops, Priests, Religious and Laity. The first meeting would be on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at Catholicate Centre.
13. HES decided various places to celebrate the Reunion anniversary in the coming years such as 2025-Pathanamthitta, 2026-St. Ephrem Khadi-Pune, 2027 – Bathery, 2028-Mavelikara, 2029 – Tiruvalla, 2030- Trivandrum.
14. HES decided to conduct the fourth year course of the minor seminary at Kattakada giving emphasize to English language. The costs would be shared by each Diocese according to the number of the students.
15. HES decided to publish a common report of social activities of the Congregations and the Dioceses from next year on.
16. HES decided to include the date of the death anniversary of Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjalil in the liturgical calendar of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.
17. HES decided to revise the order of the funeral service of religious sisters and to publish it in English also.
18. HES decided to settle the issue of the Surat Parish and the Mary Matha School Surat. H.B. Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos shall also do the needful on the basis of the report of the Commission constituted by the HES.

Antony Mar Silvanos  
Chancellor

Thomas Mar Koorilos  
HES Secretary

10.02.2025



**Extraordinary Holy Episcopal Synod  
of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at St. John's Metropolitan Cathedral**

The extraordinary HES of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 at 10. am at St. John's metropolitan Cathedral conference hall. The members who participated in the Synod were: His Beatitude 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. Mathews Mar Pachomios, Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Most Rev. Mathews Mar Polycarpus, and Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios (Emeritus). The absence of Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Re. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mor Chrysostom was approved legitimate. Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, the Curia Bishop and Chancellor, recorded the minutes. HB started the Synod with a prayer and cordially welcomed all the fathers of the Synod. HB thanked Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos for inviting all the bishops for participating the Archdiocesan Day. HB explained the context of the extraordinary Synod at Tiruvalla on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. HB shared that the HES discussed many times the pastoral situation in Europe, especially that of UK. HB explained further the details of the Pastoral situation in Europe. Out of the sixteen bishops 9 were present for the session and other 7 bishops would give the voting in mail.

**Sub secreto Matter**

After the Subsecretto Matter HB presented the need of appointing the new chairman, managing Trustee and secretary, Procurator and Treasurer. HES unanimously resolved to constitute the governing body of the St. Mary's Malankara Major Seminary consisting of the following persons to administer the affairs of the seminary from this day onwards:

1. Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulose (Chairman)
2. Rev. Fr. Jolly Philip Karimpil (Managing Trustee and Secretary)
3. Rev. Fr. Raju Parukoor (Procurator and Treasurer )

HES resolved further that the authorized signatories for the bank account in the name of St. Mary's Malankara Seminary will be Fr. Jolly Philip Karimpil and Fr. Raju Parukkoor and the authorized signatories be and are hereby authorized to honor cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments signed drawn, accepted or made on behalf of the trust.

HES resolved further that the bank account will be operated by the authorized signatories, any one of them individually or jointly (as the case may be)

These officers shall hold office until the Synod appoints another person in their place. This specific session of the HES is concluded by 11.30 a.m. with a concluding prayer and the apostolic blessing of HB.

Antony Mar Silvanos  
Chancellor

Thomas Mar Koorilos  
HES Secretary

10.02.2025

**Extraordinary Holy Episcopal Synod  
of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
at Catholicate Centre , Pattom.**

The extraordinary Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church was held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 8.30 pm with a prayer at the Synodal Hall of the Catholicate Centre, Pattom. The members who participated in the Synod were: His Beatitude 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. Thomas Mar Anthonios, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Mathews Mar Pachomios, Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, Most Rev. Mathews Mar Polycarpos, and Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios (Emeritus) Most Rev. Yoohanon Mor Chrysostom (Emeritus). The absence of Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios was approved legitimate. Most Rev. Antony Mar Silvanos, the Curia Bishop and Chancellor, recorded the minutes.

HB welcomed all the fathers of the Synod and HB shared his experience of the *Padayathra* Pilgrimage of Venerable Mar Ivanios from Mundanmala to Trivandrum. HB said that he could experience the enthusiasm of the young people during pilgrim walk from Mundanmala to Pattam *Kabar*. HB added that many young people participated in this *padayathra* with deeper hope in the intercession of Venerable Mar Ivanios.

HB presented the matter related to Teritorium Proprio of the Eparchy of St. John Chrisostom Gurgaon- Delhi. HB said the HES already presented all the details regarding the Eparchy of St. John Chrysostom Gurgaon-Delhi for the Teritorium Proprio to the Dicastery of the Oriental Churches. The Dicastery of the Oriental Churches again asked for a detailed report of the involvement of other Eparchies and congregations in the area of finance and other pastoral help by proving the priests. HB again explained this matter asked to vote again in this cause. All the 14 bishops voted unanimously in favour of this cause and HB said that the opinion of the other two bishops could be collected through mail. HB said that he would present all these matters again to the Dicastery. HB read the letter of His Eminence Cardinal Claudio Gugerotti, the prefect of the Dicastery for the Oriental Churches, regarding the pastoral provisions in Europe.

### **Sub Segretto Matters**

The synodal fathers requested to the president HB to convey the gratitude of the HES to your eminence, Cladio Gugerotti, the prefect of the Dicastery for the oriental Churches. The HES discussed a few other items regarding the reunion celebration on September 20,21 at Parasala. HES is concluded by 10.pm with a concluding prayer and the Apostolic blessing of HB.

Antony Mar Silvanos  
Chancellor

Thomas Mar Koorilos  
HES Secrtary

10.02.2025