

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH
MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA

CATHOLICATE CENTRE, TRIVANDRUM - 695004, KERALA, INDIA

Extraordinary Session of the Holy Episcopal Synod

(06 October 2019)

REPORT

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Father and Head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, convoked an extraordinary session Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church at St. John Paul II Synod Hall of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at the Catholicate Centre, Pattom, Trivandrum on 6 October 2019. The session started with a prayer invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Blessed Virgin Mary.

The members present at the Synod were: HB Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos (President of the Synod), Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos (Secretary of the Synod), Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom, Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Rev. Philipos Mar Stephanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios and Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC.

Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, the Bishop Emeritus was absent in this session of the Synod. Being a retired bishop his absence was found legitimate.

Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, the Curia Bishop and the Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, recorded the minutes.

His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Major Archbishop-Catholicos, cordially welcomed all the Fathers of the Synod and proposed the following topics for further deliberation:

1. In the wake of the call for an Extraordinary Mission Month by the Holy Father Pope Francis, the SMCC should rise to the occasion to do something extraordinary in the mission field. It would be meaningful if the Eparchies could adopt at least one mission parish in the

Exarchate of St. Ephrem Kadki-Pune, in the Eparchy of Gurgaon, Marthandom, Parassala or Puttur. Bishops may freely select any mission in consultation with the respective Bishops and inform HB.

2. Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas was asked to look into the request of the faithful from Plot Blair for opening mission there.

3. The present Education policy of the Kerala Government, basing on a High Court Judgment, was very critical and damaging for our Church members. The word 'community' includes all Christian communities, denominations and sects - (anybody baptized and believes in the Bible and Jesus Christ). HES felt that the Malankara Catholic Community was the main loser. Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios was asked to study the matter carefully with the help of advocates and other experts so that we could initiate necessary legal steps in order to resolve it.

4. The term of the service of Rev. Fr. Varghese Angadiyil as the procurator of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia was going to be over by March 2020. A suitable candidate to substitute him was a must. The Synod requested HB to find an apt person.

5. Rev. Fr. Mathew Kandathil, the Coordinator of Gulf Region has done excellently well and the HES he could be replaced by a suitable person. HB agreed to do the needful.

6. As part of the centenary celebration of the Reunion Movement, it was felt that all who do not have a proper inhabitable house in the Church must have one. Hence the bishops were asked to bring statistics of such families in their eparchies in the forthcoming HES.

7. It was also felt that a two-days Retreat for Bishops prior to the HES might be highly useful and as such from 28 February to 2 March 2020 a short retreat would be arranged.

8. The next HES would be from 2 to 6 March 2020.

9. Since the process for appointing a new Curia Bishop and an Auxiliary Bishop for the Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum were under way, HB told that he would conduct inquiry regarding the candidates as per the norms.

The Extraordinary Synod closed at 7.30 pm with a short prayer.

✠Thomas Mar Koorilos
HES Secretary

✠Yoohanon Mar Theodosius
Chancellor.