

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH
MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA
CATHOLICATE CENTRE, TRIVANDRUM - 695004, KERALA, INDIA

24th Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod
(02-05 March 2020)

REPORT

1. PRELIMINARY PART:

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Father and Head of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, convoked the 24th Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church at St. John Paul II Synod Hall at the Catholicate Centre, Pattom, Trivandrum. After the three days retreat, the Synod Fathers gathered in the Synod Hall on 2nd March 2020 at 5.00 pm.

The Synod started with the Holy Qurbono and after with the official formal prayer of Synod. 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. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas, Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios, Most Rev. Philipos Mar Stephanos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Makarios, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Theodosius, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom (Emeritus), and Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios (Emeritus)

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

His Beatitude cordially welcomed the Fathers of the Synod and invoked the assistance of Holy Spirit to the entire sessions of the Synod. Quoting Psalm 34:8- "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him", HB said that these words of the Psalmist give us strength to face the present day challenges. HB said that the HES is not a parliament but a "tent experience" where the members reflect everything in the presence of God Almighty. Synod is a responsible coming together which compels all to be united in mind and body so that we could be effective catalysts of evangelization. By the grace of God we could spend three days of Retreat at Carmel Hill Monastery, Panagode, in prayer and reflection. By invoking the assistance of the Holy Spirit and confiding the HES-in-session to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Beatitude declared the Synod open.

2. THE PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA

The Agenda:

1. Inaugural Address and Welcome: HB
2. Presentation of Reports
3. Evaluation on the Report

4. Submission of Catholicos Day Offerings
5. Evaluation on 2nd Ecclesial Assembly & Future Planning
6. Reunion *Navathi* & Centenary Year Celebration
7. Discussion on Education Ministry (Problems- Solutions)
8. Evaluation of Synodal Commissions
9. Liturgy - On going formation of the Clergy
10. Seminary Formation in SMCC
11. Mission Thrust of Religious in SMCC
12. Transfers- (Catholicate Centre, UAE, Ireland, UK)
13. Appointment of New MC of SMCC
14. Territorial extension of Marthandam and Puttur
15. Mission Adoptions
16. Meeting with Religious Superiors of SMCC
17. Superiors of Religious Interaction with the Synod
18. The Administration of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia
 1. Accounts
 2. Regents for the coming year
19. Evaluation of the Major Seminary Academic Year
(Meeting with Staff and Seminarians)
20. Briefing of Eparchies including present financial status
21. *Subsecreto Session*
22. Planning of Common Celebrations: 15 July - Mar Ivanios' Day
20 Sept. – *Sabhasangamom*
23. Discussion on items proposed by the Synod Fathers with the Consent of the President
24. Concluding Address of HB

The agenda was approved by the HES.

3. SUBMISSION OF THE CATHOLICOS DAY OFFERINGS

The fathers presented the Offerings to HB:

1. Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum - Rs. 1, 000,000/-
2. Archieparchy of Tiruvalla -700,000/-
3. Eparchy of Bathery -500,000/-
4. Eparchy of Marthandom -300,000/-
5. Eparchy of Mavelikara -355,000/-
6. Eparchy of Muvattupuzha-200,000/-
7. Eparchy of Pathanamthitta- 400,000/-
8. Eparchy of Puttur -155,000/-
9. Eparchy of Gurgaon -200,000/-
10. Eparchy of USA & Canada - \$12,000/-
11. Eparchy of Parassala -100,000/-
12. Exarchate of Khadki-Pune -200,000/-

4. REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY HOLY EPISCOPAL SYNOD

The reports of the 23rd HES held at the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Pattom from 11 to 15 March 2019, the report of the Extraordinary HES held at Major Archiepiscopal Curia, Pattom on 06 October 2019 and the report of the Extraordinary HES held at St. Johns' Medical College, Bangalore, on 16 February 2020 were read out.

A few corrections and additions were pointed out on the report. Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios proposed the report to be passed and Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas supported. The Reports were passed unanimously.

5. THE PROPOSALS AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE 24th HES

It was proposed that the report (electronic version) of the HES would be sent to the Fathers of the Synod in advance.

With regard to the issue of appointment of teachers in aided schools, HE Joshua Mar Ignathios stated that a proposal was drafted in consultation with advocates and forwarded to all Bishops for further study and evaluation.

6. Evaluation of Synodal Commissions:

Rev. Fr. Sunny Mathew, the Secretary of the Synodal Commission for Clergy proposed the following plans: (i) to organize a three days meeting for all priests of SMCC ordained in the last five years, (ii) to organize a gathering of Jubilarians, (iii) to organize a refresher course for priests once in six months and (iv) to conduct a charismatic convention for those interested in as a preparation for the centenary celebration of reunion day. As an observation the Fathers of the Synod opined that all such programs should be oriented to evangelization. Considering the current disturbing socio-political situation we have to take special efforts for the renewal of Seminary formation and priestly life.

Rev. Fr. Isaac Parappallil, the Secretary of the Synodal Commission for Liturgy reported that Commission was doing its best to make available all liturgical texts according to the need of the Church. He said that the work of Penkitho Prumion –Sedro for Sundays and Feast Days, publications of English version of S'heemo, Pontifical, Consecration of the Church, brief version of Koodasakramom etc. were under progress. The bishops expressed the need for a shorter version of the liturgy of Easter, Denho, Hosana and Christmas by avoiding repetitions. The other proposals were: liturgical texts should be user-friendly; aberrations in liturgical services were to be noted and corrected by the respective bishop, the Gospel Passage for House blessing could be varied, and the liturgical calendar should be published in the month of July itself. It was also felt by the fathers in the synod that HB should send a letter in connection with the celebration of mixed marriages to the entire SMCC. The Lectionary published by the Commission in 3 volumes have not reached all parishes and religious institutions of SMCC. The Curia Bishop was asked to send a letter to all Vicars General in this regard and the payment.

Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Thadathil, the Secretary of the Synodal Commission for Seminary Formation after presenting a brief report stated that St. Mary's Seminary was in dire need of good professors and model formators. Seminary also needs trained spiritual directors. As a whole the physical and internal conditions of the class rooms, library, and staff room require quality improvement. Students lack proficiency in English language. The training of regents are under planning. The pastoral ministry on Sundays by seminarians needed thorough scrutiny as there were some unlawful things happening, like non deacons distributing Communion, Homily etc.

Rev. Fr. Mathai Kadavil OIC presented the report of the Theology Commission from 2018 March to 2020 March. As per the present data, we have 173 theologians (127 priests, 43 sisters, 3 lay people). Besides these there are 20 priests who have completed MA Syriac at SEERI. In collaboration with St. Mary's Malankara Seminary, a theology seminar was conducted. Diploma course in theology has been going on since 2010. So far 48 people have completed the certificate course. Re-launching of Malankara Academy is under progress. During the discussion it was said that the ideological influence of Servant of God Mar Ivanios in the current circumstances has to be explored further. Liturgical theology has to be developed with reference to its sources. Extension of diploma course in other eparchies could be thought of. *Aikysameesksha* should treat themes of SMCC as far as possible so that it may become a reference to our Church.

Sr. Namitha SIC presented the report of the Synodal Commission for Evangelization. The following proposals were made by the Commission: (i) to constitute members in the diocesan level, (ii) to prepare a *lineamenta* in tune with the sacred tradition of SMCC and in accord with mind of Mar Ivanios by the HES, and (iii) to constitute a resource team for taking classes for various groups.

Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatt presented a brief report of *Suvishesha Sangham*. In his brief report Fr. Antony mentioned about ministries of the members of the Suvishesha Sangham during the previous year such as house visiting, publication of Reeho D'Evangelion, Mar Ivanios Prayer Ministry, hospital ministry etc. As a proposal he said that it would be beneficial if all our Sunday School Teachers could be included in the *Suvishesha Sangham* in view of the centenary of Re-union Movement. This could be made practical within the period of next ten years. There was also a brief discussion about the special Suvishesha Sandya. There was also a discussion on the modality of *Suvishesha Sandhya* during the Reunion celebration. Fr. Antony said that they would think of a different form of *Suvishesha Sandhya*. He also proposed that the Catechism Teachers if encouraged could be members of Suvishesha Sangham and that way in 10 years time would get a complete formation.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Poovathumtharayil, the Secretary of Bible Commission presented the report: reading of the Bible in family has to be encouraged, the works of the Bible Commission has to be extended to mission territories, and a renewed interest in reading the Bible has to be ensured among our seminarians.

Rev. Fr. Varghese Vinayanand OIC presented the report of the Commission for Religious. Proposals: to convene a meeting of the Superiors General of SMCC; to build up connectivity

between the various Synodal Commissions; to establish the Malankara Catholic Religious Conference as envisaged in CPCSMCC nos. 356 and 357.

HES reaffirmed the names of Congregations and Religious Orders belonging to SMCC. The following are the names:

- A. Order of Imitation of Christ (OIC)
- B. Sisters of imitation of Christ (SIC)
- C. Congregation of the Daughters of Mary (DM)
- D. Religious Orders belonging to SMCC
 1. Kurisumala Ashram
 2. Dhyana Ashram, Nambiarkunnu
 3. Santhi Ashram, Bhoothapandy (Pious Association)
 4. Holy Spirit Sisters (OSS), Tiruvalla Region
 5. Tabore Adoration Monastery, Thattathumala, Trivandrum
 7. Sisters of Gethsemane, Thekkemala
 6. Servant of Unity (AMU)

The names of the **Religious Congregations working in the SMCC are the following:**

For Men

1. Order of the Minor Capuchin (**OFM**)
2. Salesians of Don Bosco (**SDB**)
3. Franciscan Missionary Brothers (**CMSF**)
4. The Order of the Discalced Carmelites (**OCD**)
5. Missionaries of Faith

For Women

1. Congregation of the Sacred Heart (**SH**)
2. Dina Sevana Sabha (**DSS**)
3. Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul (**SCV**)
4. Snehagiri Missionary Sisters (**SMS**)
5. Little Sisters of Jesus
6. Sisters of John the Baptist (**CSJB**)
7. Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (**FMM**)
8. Franciscan Servants of Mary (**FSM**)
9. Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco (**FMA**)
10. Basilian Sisters (**BS**)
11. Sisters of Charity of St. Jeanne Antide
12. Fervent Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (**FDSHJ**)
13. Congregation of St. Joseph of St. Marc

The report of the Commission for Laity was presented by Dr. Thomaskutty Panachakel. The following programs were conducted during the year 2019: Career Guidance, Guidance for Higher Education, Global Laity Convention, formation of different forums, Advocate's convention Global migrant's day, Global women's meet and mission visit. Moreover, the Commission made several interventions in several areas like flood rehabilitation, protest against the decision of the Government of Kerala to give an award to a cartoon which tarnished the image of the Church in the public, and interventions in the education field where Govt. policies

were detrimental to the community. The Commission also made concerns regarding the decreasing academic quality of our students, low birth rate in our community, discontinuity of students registered for career guidance course, no mention of Laity Commission in the statutes of MCA, etc.

Rev. Fr. Sebastian John Kizhakkethil, the Secretary of the Commission for Youth mentioned in his report that the motto last year was “Holiness of Family and Happiness”. Among the activities main ones were: MCYM Golden Jubilee Celebration at Mavelikkara, protest against Church Act, observed of Green Sunday, prepared a liturgical calendar with pictures, and prepared mobile application of liturgical prayers etc., Difficulties pointed out: organization of youths in various campuses, financial constraints, lack of ongoing formation, and lack of thorough understanding of our faith and traditions, etc. The need of an ecclesial orientation in all its planning and action of MCYM was pointed out. Prior information and consent from HB are required for all events which affect the entire Church.

The report of the Health Commission was presented by Sr. Dr. Ancelet DM. Activities: organized a class in connection with labour issues and health care. In several hospitals especially in Pushpagiri Medical College, the Suvishesha sangam is very active. It is involved in Pro-life activities. Special mention of the activities of the Commission during the recent floods in Bathery was made.

Rev. Fr. Samuel Pazhvoorpadickal presented the report on MCCL. He mentioned that the Statutes of MCCL was prepared. As a proposal he said it would be beneficial if we could conduct MBOC under the banner of MCCL. The Fathers of the Synod opined that for the moment status quo would be maintained. The Commission also requested the Synod to approve a flag for MCCL.

Report of the Synodal Commission for Education was presented by Prof. Thomaskutty Kaimalayil. The Commission organized international seminar on Cross Road Disciplinary Literacy, organized training program for teachers, conducted seminar on scientific learning and the art of memorizing etc. Action Plan: Seminars related to transformative change in the society, to make necessary interventions against the harmful educational policies of the Government, to use modern technologies in teaching pedagogy etc. The Synod also thanked Prof. Kaimalayil for his commitment in this Commission.

Rev. Fr. George Thomas Kochuvilayil while presenting the report of the Commission of Faith Formation stated that all the textbooks from 1-12th standards are available, existing annual question papers of Catechism were collected; published Hand Book for standard 1 to 7 etc. Future plans: Catechism in computer animated format, a hand book for teachers, and a text book for First Communion.

The report of the Commission for Vocation was presented by Sr. Ardra SIC and Rev. Fr. John Kuttiyil. It was noted that challenges in this field are innumerable. Counter witness on the part of priests and religious has been a major issue. Camps for vocation promotion should be done with greater earnestness. It would be better if we could have animators for Vocation Promotion in every Presbyteral districts.

Rev. Fr. Sheen Thankalayam, the Secretary presented the Media report. He highlighted the need for a more creative and professional approach. The official website is effectively managed, very active in social networking, alert in anti-church posts, give technical supports to various dioceses in several ways, and tried to give live stream broadcast of some of our main events. Certain proposals of the Commission were: conduct media awareness programs in every diocese, prepare a guidelines for media persons, organize an online Bible study course etc.

The Secretary of Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue was absent due to valid reasons and he was granted leave by HB. Though the report was not read it was included in the file. There was not any specific activity other than the usual ones like Unity Octave and International Ecumenical Dialogue between Catholics and the two factions of the Malankara Church.

6. Suggestions and Decisions:

A flag for MCCL is not deemed necessary at this point.

HB would send a circular to the entire SMCC regarding protocol in precedence, attire and addressing Proto-syncellus and Syncellus; similarly for the Corepiscopoi in SMCC regarding their dress code and other insignia.

Fathers felt it necessary to have ongoing formation of clerics especially concerning liturgical life of the Church, liturgical texts of the prayer, and rubrics in the liturgy.

Considering the present day challenges and counter witnesses in clerical life, the HES decided to bring out a charter for priestly formation with the help of good pastors, field experts, and exemplary lay faithful. A Commission to prepare *lineamenta* for this purpose with HG Thomas Mar Koorilos (Convenor), HE Thomas Mar Eusebius (Member), HE Jacob Mar Barnabas (Member) and HE Abraham Mar Julios (Member) was formed.

A special meeting of the Bishops for this purpose was fixed for 01 April 2020 from 9.00 am at the Catholicate Centre. Further, it was decided to send best students for higher studies from seminary itself.

The canonical stipulation of getting prior permission from the Local Ordinary for the Religious Congregations or Orders to work in any of the eparchies was reiterated.

7. Meeting with the Religious

It was felt that before meeting the entire religious section the HES would meet the Bethany Fathers, Sisters and DM sisters. Thus a short meeting with Very Rev. Fr. Jose Kuruvila OIC, the Superior General of Bethany Ashram with two Provincials was held. The Superior General shared in the meeting their gratefulness in celebrating their centenary along with the Reunion Day Celebrations at Girideepam Kottayam. He expressed his serious concern regarding the lack of vocations to religious life. He also said that chances given to Bethany fathers to serve in the parishes were also getting reduced. He also sought guidelines for what was called Zero

Tolerance. During the discussion there was a proposal to conduct the MBOC as a joint venture in SMCC. Then there was a short meeting with the Bethany Mother General with 3 provincials and DM Mother General with four provincials They mainly highlighted lack of vocations to women religious life. DM Mother reminded the request to for beginning the canonization process of Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjalil. HB informed them that we would think of the same after the completion of the process of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios.

Then there was a Common session with all Religious Orders, Congregations, and Pious Associations at the Patriarch Mousa Davood Conference Hall. The moderator of this session was HE Joshua Mar Ignathios, the Chairman of the Commission for Religious. Rev. Fr. Sevanand Ennamprayil, the Abbot of Kurisumala Ashram, Swamiji Crispin Acharya - Superior, Santhi Ashram, Bhoothapandy, Rev. Sr. Mary Sosamma OSS - Regional Superior, Holy Spirit, Tiruvalla, Bro. Benny Appanchiriyil - the Provincial of CMCF, - delegate of Abbess Mary Veronica SMT, Tabore Adoration Monastery, Tesita Mary AMU -General Servant of Unity, and Rev. Sr. Mariam Clare GSS -Superior, Sisters of Gathsemane, Thekkemala presented brief reports about their respective life and mission as Religious men and women.

HB thanked all the participants and asked them to face the present day challenges with deep faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer. He suggested that holiness in thoughts and action would be the best solution to overcome all difficulties. We are all called to build his holy Church and for that we should be holy. HB asked all the participants to chalk out certain plans in their own respective religious communities in view of the centenary of reunion. The moderator, Mar Ignathios said that the presence of all these religious communities in SMCC tell upon the spiritual richness of this Church. He advised that a radical commitment among religious is the need of the hour.

8. 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. After the prayer Very Rev. Dr. Kuriakose Thadathil, the Rector of the Seminary proposed the word of welcome. HB invited HE Jacob Mar Barnabas to address the community on behalf of HES. HE Mar Barnabas made moving witness highlighting the need to be evangelizers. HB in his concluding words said that if we wish to be a good missionary we should imprint the image of the Good Shepherd in our heart. HB said that the HES look at you all with great expectation and we could see in you the future of our Church. He also expressed his thanks to the Seminary Commission, Rector, the Staff, the Students, and the Auxiliary Staff for their great support for formation in the Seminary.

There after a special meeting with the entire Staff was held. The Rector read out the brief report. During the discussion with Staff the following items were presented:

- Rev. Fr. Jolly Karimbil the Registrar shared about the works done for the renewal of affiliation of the Seminary with Urbanian University, Rome.

- Rev. Fr. Varghese Thannickakuzhy, the Dean of Studies said that a study book for the Diploma Course is under preparation. HB reminded that such kind of texts have to be verified and

scrutinized by the Seminary Commission. It was also brought to the notice of the Staff to take solid steps to keep the medium of English in the Seminary. Both the professors and students are bound by this rule of medium.

- Though the Sunday Pastoral Ministry is useful, certain inaccurate practices were brought to the notice of the Fathers, like preaching homilies and distribution of Communion by seminarians who were not deacons, or reading part of the Sedro, etc. This was felt very unbecoming and the Rector was asked to handover the list of the students who were going for pastoral ministry to the concerned Bishops in advance and the bishops in turn are to give sufficient directions to the priests who make use of the services of the seminarians. At no point preaching or reciting prayers of the Taksa could be done by seminarians. Distribution of Communion may be considered after due blessing by the bishop in case of great necessity. The possibility of sending first year theologians to some other activities like jail ministry, social work etc., could be thought of.

- Further there were discussions on the topics of the use of library, social action and sports and games in the Seminary. The Rector said that there has been much improvement in these areas than previous years.

- Rev. Fr. Louis, the Finance Officer of the Seminary presented the financial report. With a few clarifications, the report was passed.

- HB informed the Staff that the Superior General requested the service of Rev. Mathai Kadavil OIC for their Congregation and therefore he would not be there in the faculty for the coming academic year. The Synod acknowledged with gratitude the dedicated service of Fr. Kadavil OIC to the Malankara Seminary during the past three years.

- At the end HB asked the Staff to conduct the Orientation Course for the Regents (first Year Theology) this year also. He also asked the Staff to publish serious articles in international publications and write books. In his concluding words HB thanked Rector and all the staff members for their selfless and challenging service in the Seminary.

9. Accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia

The accounts of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia was presented by Rev. Fr. Varghese Angadiyil. He informed the HES that with the approval of HB, Eparchies who did not have FCRA have been using that of the Curia. Hence one might see the significant growth in the account. The report was passed with few corrections. The Fathers of the Synod suggested that it would be better to send them a balance sheet of the accounts every year in advance.

- Regarding the sale of liturgical and other books published from the Curia it was proposed that they have to be reached in the eparchies and religious institutions in time. The Pro-syncellus of the Eparchies should be informed of the same and the payment.

- HB acknowledged with gratitude the selfless service did by Rev. Fr. Varghese Angadiyil, the Finance Officer and thanked the Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos for lending his service to the Curia.

10. Regency Brothers for the service of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and the Orientation Programme

For the coming year, the Archieparchy of Tiruvalla and the Eparchy of Marthandam agreed to send one regent each from their respective Eparchies for the service of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

- The Orientation Course of the present Regents has to be conducted at the Catholicate Centre under the leadership of Seminary Commission and Rector of the Malankara Major Seminary.

- Diaconate ministry, though very useful, was left to the discretion of each Eparch.

11. Extension of the Eparchies of Marthandam and Puttur

HB mentioned about the official letter which he had received from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches regarding the territorial expansion of the Eparchy of Marthandam and Eparchy of Puttur. The Congregation had entrusted HES to do the needful in this regard while it was a matter of *territorium proprium* of the SMCC. After the canonical restructuring, the HES will intimate the date of announcement to the Holy See. HB informed the members that he would be sending a circular letter regarding this to the entire SMCC at the earliest. The Bishops of Marthandam, Puttur and St. Ephrem of Khadki-Pune were asked to prepare a geographical map of their own respective eparchies.

12. New Appointments & Other Information

- HB stated the approval of HES for the appointment of Rev. Dr. Sunny Mathew as the new Rector of the Major Seminary.

- Rev. Fr. Kurikaose Thadathil, would be appointed as the new Coordinator of United Kingdom.

- Rev. Fr. Thomas Madukummoottil would be appointed as the new Finance Officer of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

- HB informed the Synod that it would take some time to actualize the transfer of Rev. Fr. Thomas Madukummoottil due to technical reasons. Hence, Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatt would take the responsibility of the Finance Officer of the Curia during the interim period.

- Rev. Fr. Benedict Perumattathu from the Eparchy of Mavelikara would be appointed Coordinator of UAE.

- Rev. Fr. George Vettikattil would be appointed as the Synodal Secretary for the Commission of Social Apostolate. He will also coordinate the Central Office for Social Apostolate in New Delhi.

- The name of Mathrusangam is changed into “Malankara Catholic Mothers Forum” (MCMF).

- Rev. Dr. Fr. John Kuttiyil is appointed as the new MC for common celebrations in SMCC.

- For the effectiveness and smooth functioning of MCYM a new method of election was proposed which the competent fora should discuss and the Chairman should bring it to the next HES. The proposal of the HES: Let the competent forum propose 3 suitable candidates for President, Secretary and Treasurer each and HB and the Chairman of MCYM would approve one from each group. This model could be used even in the Eparchies. This was it would avoid all unhealthy practices.

- HE Jacob Mar Barnabas explained the following in connection with the mission at Plot Blair. At present there are twenty families. There is scope but in order to do something we need a priest and necessary financial assistance. HG Thomas Mar Koorilos was asked to do necessary consultation with the person in Port Blair.

- Regarding the Central office for social apostolate it was decided that Delhi or any northern city would be ideal. Thus Delhi was approved and HES wanted the term Malankara to be avoided from the nomenclature.

-Regarding the Commission for Migration HE Philipos Mar Stephanos wanted to know the scope of the Commission. At present there are some kind of juridical structures all over the world which have been taking care of the pastoral needs of these migrants. HB would speak to H.E. Mar Stephanos regarding this matter.

- For the mission preaching of the Major Seminarians, at least about 100 parishes would be identified by the Eparchs. Thus

1. Archieparchy of Tiruvalla- 20 Parishes
2. Eparchy of Bathery - 7 Parishes
3. Eparchy of Marthandom - 7 Parishes
4. Eparchy of Mavelikara - 12 Parishes
5. Eparchy of Muvattupuzha- 7 Parishes
6. Eparchy of Pathanamthitta- 15 or 20 Parishes
7. Eparchy of Puttur - 5 Parishes
8. Eparchy of Gurgaon - 3 Parishes
9. Eparchy of Parassala - 5 Parishes
10. Eparchy of Khadki-Pune- 3 Parishes
11. Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum – The rest of the requirement will be filled by HB.

- During their mission visits the seminarians would read out a written request prepared by the Seminary Commission and the Staff of the Seminary. In the the appeal there would be a call for promoting vocations. It was suggested that the money could be transferred on the same day.

- Currently there are no catechetical texts books for degree students. Each eparch was to look into the matter for the time-being and with the help of POC such a text could be made available.

13. Adoption of Missions- Reports

The following Eparchies presented brief reports of the initiatives taken in the mission stations adopted: Major Archdiocese adopted Karnur mission of St. Ephrem of Khadki-Pune and Bilaspur in Gurgaon. Archdiocese of Tiruvalla: Daivadanapotty of Marthandam. Eparchy of Muvattupuzha: Rajasthan of Gurgaon. Pathanamthitta: Odisha of Gurgaon, and Anakuzhy of Parassala and Kamagiri of Khadki-Pune. Parassala: Anpunagar mission of Marthandam. St. Ephrem of Khadki-Pune: Njalam mission of Marthandam. Puttur: Arunachal Pradesh mission of Gurgaon. Marthandam: Kaikallooru –Andhra mission of Khadki-Pune. Gurgaon: Killi mission of Marthandam. Bathery: Andhra Mission of Khadki-Pune and also Tripura of Gurgaon. Mavelikara: Mogamission Punjab of Gurgaon. St. Mary Queen of Peace NY, HE Mar Stephanos requested some more time to study the matter in consultation with various parishes over there.

14. Reports of the Financial Status of Eparchies

All the Eparchies in the SMCC presented a brief report of the present financial status of their respective eparchies. HB informed the Synod that this would be our future custom of the HES. He suggested that Bank loans and its reimbursement are to be clearly mentioned in the final balance sheet.

15. Housing Project for Reunion Centenary

Brief sharing about the project was done. The volume seemed to be huge in each Eparchy and in some of the southern eparchies, a sizable number of faithful even do not own a piece of land for constructing a house. The survey report was not presented by the Eparchies. HB said that by 2030 we should have this dream realized and we together have to find the way and the means.

16. Safe Environment Commission

Each Eparchy has to constitute a Safe Environment Cell before 9 June 2020 in connection with the zero-tolerance policy of the Church related to abuse of children and the vulnerable. The next gathering of SMCC Bishop on 1 April 2020 would discuss this and the Eparchial Bishops were asked to bring with them the name of persons included in this commission. HG Thomas Mar Koorilos was asked to prepare a draft in this respect and send it to the Bishops at the earliest. HB suggested that it would be better if we could appoint a woman as the president of this official body and everybody agreed to that.

Sharing regarding the 90th Reunion celebration was done. The Eparchy of Mavelikara would be hosting. All the Eparchies in the SMCC would contribute benevolently for the smooth running of the celebration.

HB released the Qurbano Taksa in Kannada language which included three Annaphoras.

“Symbols in the Bible” a book written by HE Abraham Mar Julios was also released by HB.

HB said that a Residence in Rome was identified. The matter would be presented to the Holy Father.

17. Conclusion

His Beatitude thanked all for the wonderful experience of the Synod and mutual strengthening. HB thanked HE Mar Chrysostom and HE Mar Julios for their presence in the entire sessions of the Synod.

HB added by stating that unity is our internal energy which helps to work together for His Kingdom.

His Beatitude said that the Synod-in-session was very special and fruitful. The sharing on the life and activities of the Eparchies helped us to think and evaluate together. His Beatitude thanked all the Bishops for their love for the Church and solidarity with him in the exercise of his ministry in the Church as its Father and Head. He also thanked the officials of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the arrangements of the Synod. Invoking God's blessing through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, on all and the Church, His Beatitude declared the HES closed.

With a short prayer HB imparted the apostolic blessing.

✠ Thomas Mar Koorilos
HES Secretary

✠ Yoohanon Mar Theodosius
Chancellor.