



MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

VOCATION DAY 2025

Message from the Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Vocation

Most Rev. Bishops, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rt. Rev. Rambans, Rev. Priests, Deacons, Religious, Dear faithful in the Lord,

In the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church, we celebrate the 25th of May as Vocation Day. This year, our Vocation Day falls between the Ascension of our Lord and the Feast of Pentecost. Season of Pentecost - Just as the Holy Virgin Mary and her disciples waited and prayed for the Holy Spirit during these ten days, let us also wait and pray that God will enrich the Church with many vocations during this period.

I bow before the blessed memory of the late Holy Father Pope Francis. Through this circular, I would like to share some of the reflections on vocations that the Holy Father has given in his teachings on the Church from time to time:

First of all, consecrated life is a gift. A gift that God gives to the Church. God chooses men and women, it is a gift. It is not a matter of adding to a list those who want to take that path. It is a gift to one's heart. If we want to follow Jesus Christ through the priesthood or through monastic life, we must enter through that door. Christ is the door, he is the one who calls, he is the one who initiates, he is the one who acts. So let this be clear: Jesus is the one who calls. When he calls, responding quickly is an expression of respect and love for him. It is a call to follow him.

Second, Jesus does not consider the quality of those chosen, but their faith; the faith that, like Simon, confesses, “I will let down the nets at your word” (Luke 5:5). The call of God is the work of God. No man is responsible for his own call; but it is he who must respond to that divine call. Human weakness should not be a hindrance to God’s call. What is needed is faith that His power is revealed in weakness. We must rely more and more on the transforming and renewing power of His mercy. We must not be discouraged by failures or difficulties. Our only duty is to cast our nets with faith. The Lord will take care of the rest. The Holy Mother, who responded to the Lord’s call with confidence, saying, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” (Luke 1:38), is a role model for us.

Third, a consecrated life is possible only if we are willing to execute. Every call to God has a level of renunciation that is part of the experience of faith. It means, like Abraham, leaving our homeland and moving forward with the hope that God will guide us to a new land. This moving forward should not be seen as a sign of hatred for one’s life, feelings, or humanity. On the contrary, those who set out to follow Christ are dedicating themselves completely to the service of God and his kingdom. Jesus says: ‘Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for my name’s sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life’ (Mt. 19:29).

Fourthly, every vocation in the Church begins in the compassionate gaze of Jesus. Vocations are born within the church, vocations grow within the church. Vocations are sustained by the church.

Fifthly, priesthood and religious life are not a profession or a means of personal advancement. It is a ministry, a share in Christ’s own sacrificial love for his flock. The Lord is still calling everyone to live with him in a special relationship and to follow him. If he makes us aware that he is calling us to give ourselves completely to his kingdom, we need not be afraid to follow him. It is beautiful, a great grace, to be completely and forever dedicated to God and to serving our brothers and sisters.

Pope asks: So young people, do you feel a desire to follow Jesus

more closely? Think, pray, let the Lord speak to you. Have you ever heard the voice of the Lord? Has He invited you to follow Him closer? Have you wanted to be a disciple of Jesus? We should dedicate our youth to great ideals. Ask Jesus what He wants for you.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who heard, received and experienced the Word made flesh, protect us and accompany us always on our journey. Let us invoke the intercession of Mary, the woman of consent.

I pray for the success of all the activities carried out in the Church as a whole, and especially in consecrated communities, to promote vocations. I remember with gratitude and congratulate His Beatitude, His Excellencies, Priests, Religious and the Lay faithful who work towards this goal. May God grant each of you his mercy and blessings.

May God shower his mercy and blessings upon each of you and upon our Church. Let us pray fervently that the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church may be enriched with priestly and monastic vocations. I wish everyone the blessings of the feast of Pentecost.

sd/-

✠ **Samuel Mar Irenios**

Chairman, Synodal Commission for Vocations,
Bishop of Eparchy of Pathanamthitta

01.05.2025

Catholicate Center

Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

NB: This circular should be read during the Holy Mass in all our churches, mission centres and places of worship on Sunday, May 25, 2025 and should be communicated to the people through appropriate channels.
