

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

**Tenth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod**  
**(29 November – 2 December 2010)**

**REPORT**

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos convoked the Tenth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church at the Bishop Aloysius Benziger Council Hall of *Thirusannidhi*, the Major Archbishop's House, Pattom Trivandrum from 29 November to 2 December 2010.

Thirteen out of the fourteen Synod Fathers - His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos (President of the Synod), Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos (Secretary of the Synod), Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom, Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios, Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios and Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos – were present. Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Timotheos, Bishop Emeritus of Tiruvalla, could not attend the HES due to his health conditions.

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, the Curia Bishop and the Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia, recorded the minutes of the Synod The Holy Episcopal Synod (HES) began with the Holy *Qurbono* in the Aramana Chapel in the morning 9 a.m. on 29 November, 2010. As per the direction of His Beatitude, His Excellency Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios, who celebrated his Patron's day, was the main celebrant of the Holy *Qurbono*.

The First Session of the Synod began at 11 a.m. His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, the President of the Holy Synod welcomed all the Bishops to the Tenth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod. His Beatitude delivered the introductory address and welcomed the newly ordained bishops to the HES which has 14 members at present. His Beatitude prayed for the grace of God for Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom and Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios who were transferred and appointed to the newly erected Eparchies

of Pathanamthitta and Puttur respectively. His Beatitude wished special blessings of God to Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas and Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos who took charge of the Eparchies of Bathery and Marthandom respectively. His Beatitude specially noted the divine providence and the recognition we received in the Universal Church through the enthronement of Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius as the Bishop of the Exarchate in USA, established by the Most Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. His Beatitude conveyed his best wishes to Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios who took charge as the Auxiliary Bishop and the Proto-syncellus of the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum and Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos who took charge as the Auxiliary Bishop and the Proto-syncellus of the Archieparchy of Tiruvalla and as the coordinator of the Pastoral Region of Kattappana. His Beatitude also welcomed Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios who was appointed the Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. His Beatitude shared with the Synod Fathers his experience of attending the Synod convoked, in Rome, in

October 2010, by the Holy Father to evaluate the Catholic life in the Middle East Region and also conveyed the Apostolic Blessing imparted by the Holy Father to the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

After reading Ps 119:74 -79, His Beatitude said that when the passage is reread placing the Church in the position of the devotee who speaks with God, the divine providence enjoyed by our Church is made clear to us. The Psalmist praises the happiness of the devotee, his hopes and his concerns. We shall selfexamine ourselves replacing the devotee with the Church. His Beatitude asked, “What is our happiness? What is our hope? What are our concerns? as a Church.”

His Beatitude reminded that our self-examination shall lead to self-surrender. It is the assurance of the “Immanuel Experience” that the Church, the Bride of Christ gives to the world. His Beatitude asked, “Is not our happiness transformed when God is with us? Hasn’t our hope been confirmed when we live in the presence of God? Will not our concerns change fundamentally when God dwells with us?” His Beatitude appealed to the Synod Fathers to strengthen our Church, as the Church is the presence of the Messiah in the world.

His Beatitude recalled that the Holy See has not, so far, turned down any of our proposals for canonical provisions. It is a sign of the divine grace showered upon us through the Holy See. His Beatitude wished that the deliberations in this Holy Episcopal Synod may help to strengthen the spiritual structures beyond the worldly order, so that the Church remains a spiritual leadership.

Inviting the members of the HES to a renewed commitment, His Beatitude declared open the Tenth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

### **Handing over of the Catholicos’ Day Collection 2010**

The Eparchial Bishops entrusted to His Beatitude the offerings received from their respective Eparchies on the Catholicos’ Day 2010.

### **THE PRESENTATION OF THE AGENDA**

His Beatitude, the President of the HES, presented the agenda of the Synod:

1. Prayer
2. Handing over of the Catholicos’ Day Collection 2010
3. Report of the Ninth Holy Episcopal Synod
4. Decisions of the Ninth Holy Episcopal Synod
5. Report of the Holy Episcopal Synod of Episcopal Election held on 11 December 2009.
6. Matters *subsecreto* if any
7. The Code of Particular Canons of the SMCC
8. The Evaluation of the Functioning of the Synodal Commissions
9. The Planning and Preparation for the Major Archiepiscopal Assembly
10. The Construction of the Catholicate Centre
11. Evaluation of the Common Programmes of 2010 - Episcopal Ordinations, July 15 and September 20
12. Course for Permanent Diaconate and Theology for the Laity, Pastoral Course for the Deacons and New Priests

13. Ecclesiastical and Financial Discipline (of parishes, clergy, etc)
14. The Acceptance and Promulgation of the KCBC decisions
15. The Exarchate of USA
16. The Reorganization of the Synodal Commissions
17. The Offices and Appointments in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia
18. The Rights and Obligations of the Curia Bishop
19. The Ordinations in our Church
20. The Pastoral Care of the Tamil Speaking Malankarites in Tamil Nadu outside the Eparchy of Marthandom
21. Other relevant matters if any with the Consent of the President

To the proposed agenda were added Major Seminary, the pastoral service in the Extraterritorial Regions in India, the Directory of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and *Ad limina* visit. The agenda was approved by the HES.

### **Presentation of Reports**

Reports of the Ninth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod held from 22-23 October 2009 and its decisions and the report of the Extraordinary Holy Episcopal Synod for Episcopal Election held on 11 December 2009 were read out. Some corrections were pointed out. Following this Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios proposed that the report can be passed. It was supported by Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas. The reports and decisions were passed.

### **THE DELIBERATIONS**

#### **1. Election of the Secretary of the HES**

The HES unanimously re-elected Archbishop Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos who completed 5 years as the secretary of the HES, for a further term of five years.

#### **2. The Code of Particular Canons of the SMCC**

The codification of the Code of Particular Canons of the SMCC is completed and further procedure is to be followed up according to CCEO 111 §3. It will be promulgated after finishing the due formalities.

#### **3. *Ad Limina* Visit**

His Beatitude informed the HES that we have received the invitation from the Holy See for the *ad limina* visit, that is, the *quinquennial* visit of the Bishops of our Church along with the Major Archbishop Catholicos to Rome to venerate the tombs of the blessed Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul and to present themselves to the successor of Saint Peter in primacy over the entire Church. This visit is scheduled from 21 March 2011. The *quinquennial* report to be submitted to the Holy See on this occasion is to be sent by the Eparchial Bishops to the Major Archiepiscopal Curia on or before 15 December 2010.

#### **4. The Evaluation of the functioning of the Synodal Commissions**

The reconstitution of the Synodal Commissions was discussed as they complete the term of five years. The functioning of the commission during the last five years was evaluated by the HES. The HES opined that there should be an integral reorganisation of the leadership of the commissions as they are reconstituted. The following Bishops were elected chairmen of the commissions:

1. Synodal Commission for Liturgy: Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Koorilos
2. Synodal Commission for Bible Apostolate: Most Rev. Dr. Samuel Mar Irenios
3. Synodal Commission for Evangelization: Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas
4. Synodal Commission for the Pastoral Care of the Faithful outside India: Most. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius
5. Synodal Commission for Theology and Publications: Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Julios and Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius
6. Synodal Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue: Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Stephanos
7. Synodal Commission for the Clergy: Most Rev. Dr. Geevarghes Mar Divannasios
8. Synodal Commission for the Religious: Most Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios
9. Synodal Commission for the Laity: Most Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignathios
10. Synodal Commission for the Youth: Most Rev. Dr. Vincent Mar Paulos
11. Synodal Commission for Family: Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom
12. Synodal Commission for Catechism (Faith Formation): Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Stephanos
13. Synodal Commission for Vocation: Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Julios
14. Synodal Commission for Seminary Formation: Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Julios
15. Synodal Commission for Education: Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thomas
16. Synodal Commission for Social Apostolate and Dalit Christians: Most. Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignathios
17. Synodal Commission for Health Services: Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom
18. Synodal Commission for Communication Media and Public Relations: Most. Rev. Dr. Samuel Mar Irenios

In-charge of common celebrations: Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC

The following persons were nominated as the secretaries of various Synodal Commissions. They will be appointed with their and their respective Major Superiors' consent.

1. Synodal Commission for Liturgy : Rev. Dr. Isaac Parappallil
2. Synodal Commission for Bible Apostolate : Rev. Dr. Devadas Thenguvilayil
3. Synodal Commission for Evangelization : Rev. Dr. Sr. Namitha SIC
4. Synodal Commission for the Pastoral Care of the Faithful outside India: Rev. Dr. Saji Mukkoottumannil
5. Synodal Commission for Theology and Publications: Rev. Dr. Cheriyan Kottayil (Theology) and Rev. Dr. James Puthuparambil OIC (Publications)
6. Synodal Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue: Rev. Dr. Varghese Madathikkunathu
7. Synodal Commission for the Clergy: Rev. Fr. John Thundiyath
8. Synodal Commission for the Religious: Rev. Fr. Thomas Sajeev Thekkecharuvil OIC
9. Synodal Commission for the Laity: Dr. Thomaskutty Panachickal

10. Synodal Commission for the Youth: Rev. Fr. Thomas Kayyalackal
11. Synodal Commission for Family: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Chacko Thadathil
12. Synodal Commission for Catechism (Faith Formation): Rev. Dr. Thomas Kanjiramukalil
13. Synodal Commission for Vocation: Rev. Fr. Joseph Poovathumtharayil and Very Rev. Dr. Mother Ardra SIC
14. Synodal Commission for Seminary Formation: Rev. Dr. John Kochuthundil
15. Synodal Commission for Education: Dr. Thomaskutty Kaimalayil
16. Synodal Commission for Social Apostolate and Dalit Christians: Rev. Fr. Varghese Mattamana
17. Synodal Commission for Health Services: Rev. Sr. Lilly Thomas DM
18. Synodal Commission for Communication Media and Public Relations: Dr. Abraham Joseph

Publication of Catechism Text: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Antony Kackanattu

Master of Ceremony of Common Liturgical Celebrations: Rev. Dr. Kuriakose Thadathil

His Beatitude will coordinate the activities of all Synodal Commissions.

## **5. The Rights and Obligations of the Curia Bishop**

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios submitted a study on the rights and obligations of the Bishop of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the SMCC. A committee consisting of Archbishop Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos, Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom, Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios and Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas is entrusted to do further study and to submit the proposals on the same. This committee will submit its report in the coming HES.

## **6. The Offices and Appointments in the Major Archiepiscopal Curia**

The HES opined that the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church should develop a system of functioning of its own. Through it, we give importance to a structure that is in accordance with the traditions of our Church and for the efficacy of the apostolic activities. The activities of the Curia shall be for strengthening the ecclesial life of the Eparchies, Exarchate and the Extraterritorial Regions together with the common vision of the Church.

It is opined that the second convocation of the two ordinary HES every year, should be conducted in a participatory nature, making it a forum for consultation with various synodal commissions and with major superiors.

## **7. Evaluation of the Common Programmes of 2010**

**Mar Ivanios Day:** The HES evaluated that the commemoration of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios and the *padayatra* were, in general, a divine blessing.

The Bishop of Marthandom informed the HES that the *padayatra* from the Eparchy of Marthandom will start from Kanaykumari every year. The HES welcomed the proposal of the Bishop of Pathanamthitta to make convenience for the *padayatrees* who arrive the previous day to prepare prayerfully to join the *padayatra* that begins from Ranni-Perunnadu. *Padayatras*, starting from various places, can reach the Tomb as per their arrangements. At the same time, the Synod Fathers proposed that there shall be greater coordination in this regard. *Padayatrees* need not be given special reception.

**Episcopal Ordination:** The Synod Fathers welcomed with happiness the general opinion that the Episcopal Ordination service on 13 March, 2010 was devotional and a divine blessing. The members of the HES congratulated all, especially His Beatitude, who worked hard for it.

All expressed happiness in the simple and devotional Episcopal Ordination conducted on 21 September 2010, the day of the anniversary of the Reunion Event.

**Reunion Day Celebrations:** The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reunion Movement celebrated in Trivandrum was a source of great blessing. The simple and meaningful celebrations were a living witness of the presence of our Church in the capital city of Trivandrum.

The HES agreed upon the places of annual celebrations of the Reunion Event in the coming years: 2011- Catholice Centre, 2012- in the Eparchy of Mavelikara, 2013 - in the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta, 2014-in the Eparchy of Bathery, 2015- in the Eparchy of Puttur.

## **8. The Construction of the Catholicate Centre**

Very Rev. Fr. Jose Kizhakkedathu, the Finance Officer of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia presented in the HES, the income and expenditure of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia and that of the construction of the Catholicate Centre.

The HES approved the accounts. The HES discussed the ways and means to raise the funds for the completion of the construction of the Catholicate Centre.

## **9. The Acceptance and Promulgation of the KCBC Decisions**

The HES discussed how to implement in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church the decisions of the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council on feasts and celebrations. Such decisions shall be informed and promulgated through circulars by the Eparchial Bishops.

When a Bishop of the SMCC officiates in any programme of a parish of the Syro-Malabar or Latin Church, the respective Eparchial Curia shall be informed of it.

The HES gave special direction that the celebration of the sacrament of marriage on Sunday shall not hinder, in any way, the celebration of the Holy Qurbano and other services and the faith-formation programmes of the parish.

The official invitation of the parish priest is sufficient for our Bishops to celebrate the Holy Qurbano and to bless marriages in parishes of any Eparchy of our Church. However, to celebrate liturgical functions, such as blessing of shrines, chapels, churches, etc., reserved to the Eparchial Bishop, one has to do it with the knowledge and permission of the Eparchial Curia/Bishop.

## **10. The Priestly Ordination**

The HES took up for consideration the timings of the priestly ordination in our Church. It reaffirmed the existing decision that the priestly ordination shall be conducted after Easter. Considering the special circumstances of this year, each Eparchy can, if necessary, anticipate the date of ordination.

## **11. Malankara Seminary and Priestly Formation**

The HES expressed satisfaction at the progress of the atmosphere conducive to the pastoral and intellectual formation in our Major Seminary. The HES opined that our Major Seminary shall give thrust to the formation and discipline of the students along with their academic excellence. It is urged to increase the number of Spiritual Fathers, who serve the seminarians.

A committee consisting of Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas and Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos was authorized to study the ways of making the formation in the Minor Seminary more fruitful. The committee was asked to submit the guidelines to implement a common formation programme for the fourth year students of all Minor Seminaries of our Church.

The formation programmes of our students studying in Rome and in other foreign countries were evaluated. The HES decided that after the priestly formation, proper training in Liturgy shall be given in their respective Eparchies and then they be given priestly ordination and appointed for pastoral work.

The respective Eparchial Bishop shall ask for a written annual self-evaluation report from our priests studying abroad.

## **12. Permanent Deacons**

Though the curriculum for the formation of the Permanent Deacons was prepared, due to certain technical reasons, the course couldn't get started. There are technical difficulties for the candidates who lead family life, to stay in the seminary and complete the required formation as demanded by Canon Law. For those candidates in the ETRI the formation can be arranged at a convenient place. The candidates have to live in the seminary since they have to become proficient in the liturgical services and canonical prayers that could be lead by the Deacons.

The Eparchial Bishops shall decide on the number of Permanent Deacons depending on the need of the Eparchy. A prospectus containing the nature of the ministry, the description of the course, the nature of the formation programme, the eligibility of the candidates applying for the course, etc. has to be prepared and given. The eligibility certificate issued by the Rector of the Seminary or other competent authority is a prerequisite for diaconal ordination. Candidates will be raised to Minor Orders before diaconal ordination. Since the service is purely voluntary, the permanent deacons will not be given any remuneration.

The candidates have to bear the expenses of the formation. However, those who are not economically well-placed could be given scholarships by the Eparchy.

## **13. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Assembly**

*Suviseshakayaya Malankara Sabha* (Malankara Church, the Evangelizer), the study material prepared by the committee led by Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios for the preparation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Assembly was presented in the HES. It was decided that the Assembly shall be convoked along with the anniversary of the Reunion Movement in September 2011 and the blessing of the Catholicate Centre where in functions the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The Major Archbishop-Catholicos shall soon make the official declaration of the canonical convocation of the Assembly. A core-committee consisting of Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios as Chairman, Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos and Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos as Vice-Chairmen and Rev. Dr. John Vaipil as General Secretary was constituted. The Committee can co-opt others to help it.

Before the Syro-Malankara Catholic Assembly, the Eparchial Bishops shall convoke the Eparchial Assemblies. The members of the core-committee shall visit all Eparchies and give guidelines to conduct Eparchial Assemblies in line with the theme of the general assembly. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Assembly will be held from 6 p.m., on Wednesday, 21 September to 4 p.m. on Friday, 23 September, 2011. Thereafter, the Twelfth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod will be convoked to discuss the proposals of the Assembly and to give common guidelines to the Church. This Synod will begin at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, 23

September and end in the evening on Saturday, 24 September 2011. Tuesday, 20 September will be a day of recollection for the Bishops.

#### **14. The 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Reunion Movement**

The 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Reunion Movement will be celebrated under the auspices of the Catholicate Centre, in Trivandrum. The blessing of the Catholicate Centre and the public meeting shall be held after the solemn Holy *Qurbano*. The yearly global meetings of the MCYM and MCA have to be arranged at convenient time by the respective organizations.

#### **15. The Cause of Canonisation of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios**

The HES evaluated the progress of the Cause of Canonisation of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. It was decided that the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church shall become a co-petitioner along with the religious congregations, the present petitioners of the Cause. His Beatitude the Catholicos will follow up the matter.

#### **16. The Pastoral Care of the Tamil Speaking Malankarites in Tamil Nadu, outside the Eparchy of Marthandom**

A good number of the Faithful of the Eparchy of Marthandom lives elsewhere in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai and Madurai. The HES authorised Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos, the Bishop of Marthandom to provide pastoral care to these Faithful in collaboration with Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas, the Apostolic Visitor to the ETRI. The HES suggested to form a parish for the Tamil-speaking Malankarites in Chennai in accord with our present canonical status there. Arrangements are to be made for this when a new church is built for the parish of Chennai-Padi. The HES observed that the land in Chennai belonging to the Eparchy of Marthandom shall be in exclusive possession of the Eparchy of Marthandom, except for the fifteen cents of land allotted to the parish and that can be relocated in the plot, for the sake of convenience.

#### **17. The Exarchate of USA**

Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, the Bishop of the Exarchate erected in USA presented in writing the details of the pastoral service of the Exarchate. He shared with the HES the warm welcome he received and the recognition of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church received in the Bishops' Conference of America. The HES evaluated the participation of the priests now in America in the pastoral care of our parishes and the relationship of our priests working in the Latin Parishes of America with our parishes. His Excellency informed the HES that we have received four youth born and brought up in America, as candidates to priesthood. The HES determined that the term of service of the Rev. Priests working in the Exarchate shall be three years.

#### **18. The Pastoral Activities in the ETR outside India**

The pastoral activities of our Church in Canada and Europe were presented to the HES by Most Rev Thomas Mar Eusebius, the Apostolic Visitor to these regions. He informed the HES that the number of Syro-Malankara Catholics in Ireland is increasing. The activities of our Church in England have progressed and soon a new community will be formed.

In the discussions that followed, it was suggested that a preliminary study has to be conducted on the pastoral care of our faithful in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and nearby countries. His Beatitude the Catholicos appointed Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios to conduct the study of our Faithful in New Zealand and Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios, for the same, in Singapore, Australia and Malaysia.

#### **19. The Pastoral Activities in the ETR in India**



The ecclesial service in the 42 parish centres spread across the country is progressing. A prayer service in Jabalpur and the celebration of the Holy *Qurbano* once in a month in Gudgaon are recent developments. We have achieved progress in the domain of faith formation. More than 500 youth participated in the Youth Convention conducted in Delhi. The convention inaugurated by the Apostolic Nuncio in India was a grand success. The need of exploring the possibilities of evangelisation in the North-Eastern regions of India was highlighted. As the number of priests to work in the ETRI is small, the difficulties in pastoral activities are great.

Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas informed the HES of the details of the land and churches under the ownership of Bethany Ashram in the Mumbai-Pune region to be handed over to the ETRI and the amount to be given to Bethany Ashram in this regard.

The HES decided to resubmit the written “Proposal for a Malankara Catholic Eparchy Outside the *Territorium Proprium* in India”, submitted on 11 April 2009, to the Holy See, on the canonical status of the ETRI, as we have not received any official information on the matter.

## **20. Discipline in Ecclesial Life**

The HES reiterated the rights and obligations of the Eparchial Bishops and other Major Superiors to discern and evaluate the trends detrimental to Christian life, faith and witness of parishes, laity, religious and the clergy and to take disciplinary action against them. The decisions canonically taken by the Holy Episcopal Synod is binding on all. In this context, on certain matters concerning parishes, institutions and persons that came in for the special consideration of the HES, the respective authorities were directed to take appropriate decision in accordance with the provisions of Canon Law.

## **21. Priests’ Meet**

The **Malankara Catholic Vaidika Sangamam** 2010 proposed by the Synodal Commission for the Clergy as part of the celebration of the “Year of Priests” did not materialise due to the erection of new Eparchies and Episcopal ordinations. It was decided that this *sangamam* shall be conducted from 1 to 2 March 2011 at St. John’s Cathedral Tiruvalla.

## **22. Publication of the Directory**

The HES discussed the need of publishing a new version of the Directory of our Church published in the year 2006. It was observed that the content of the Directory would become irrelevant after January 2011 due to transfers of priests and religious. However, it was decided that the directory shall be published in January 2011.

## **23. Publication of the Report and Decision of the HES for the People**

The HES pointed out that the important deliberations and decisions of the HES have to be published for the knowledge of all the Christian faithful of our Church. Hence it was decided that the approved report and decisions of the HES, that are not *subsecreto* matters, shall be published, as early as possible, through our publications.

## **CONCLUSION**

The concluding session of the Holy Episcopal Synod began at 11:00 a.m. on 2 December, 2011. In his concluding message, His Beatitude conveyed gratitude to all Bishops who participated in the HES. In the context of the convocation of the HES at *Thirusannidhi*, His Beatitude thanked all the officials of the Major Archbishop’s House. His Beatitude reminded the members of the HES that in ecclesial life, while correcting the individuals, our approach shall combine discipline and mercy. His Beatitude invited the members to nurture all gifts of

the Holy Spirit that we received through this HES. His Beatitude reminded the members of the HES to foster devotion to the Blessed Mother through the promotion of the intercessory prayers according to our liturgy and the universal prayer of the Rosary. His Beatitude wished that the Holy Episcopal Synod may help everyone to respond, together with the Blessed Mother, to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. His Beatitude also conveyed greetings to Most

Rev. Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos who celebrates the silver jubilee of his sacerdotal ordination. His Beatitude declared the Tenth Ordinary Holy Episcopal Synod closed.

The Secretary of the HES, Most Rev. Thomas Mar Koorilos thanked His Beatitude for his inspiring leadership. On behalf of the Synod Fathers he also conveyed jubilee greetings to His Beatitude who is also in the Silver Jubilee Year of his priestly ordination.

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos led the noon prayers and imparted the apostolic blessing.

**✠ Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos**

Secretary

**✠ Thomas Mar Anthonios OIC**

Chancellor