

SYRO-MALABAR MISSION YEAR 2011-2012

The XVIII Synod of bishops (session/2), held in August 2010 decided to declare the celebration of the “Mission Year” , for the entire Syro-Malabar Church from 15 August 2011 to 15 August 2012, in the context of the Golden Jubilee of the eparchy of Chanda, the first mission territory for the Syro-Malabar Church. The Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants was entrusted the task of preparing the action plan for the year and the XIX Synod Bishops held in January 2011 fixed the programs for the celebration and formed the Organizing Committee for the conduct of the same.

A. Name for the Mission Year: *Preshitavarsham* 2011-2012

B. Motto: “Be my witnesses to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1,8)

C. Objectives:

1. To awaken the missionary consciousness in the Syro-Malabar Church
2. To promote missionary vocations in the Church
3. To mobilize spiritual, human and material resources for the mission
4. To rekindle the missionary zeal and enthusiasm among all the members of the Church, especially among the missionaries

ACTION PLAN FOR THE MISSION YEAR

In order to make the mission year an event of the entire Syro-Malabar Church, various modes of celebrations and programmes are proposed by the Synod at various levels of the Church (Major Archiepiscopal Level, Archdiocesan/diocesan level, Forane/parish level and family units level. It should primarily serve as a year of spiritual renewal for the entire Church focused on *ad gentes* missionary mandate.

MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL LEVEL

Following are the items of celebration at Major Archiepiscopal level, involving the representatives from every organized center of the syro-Malabar Church:

1. Solemn inauguration and conclusion of the Mission Year
2. Pastoral Letter by the Major Archbishop
3. A Logo for the Mission Year
4. Publication of a special prayer to be recited in the families and another prayer as part of *karoazutha* during the Holy Qurbana and Liturgy of the Hours.
5. Retreats, renewal programmes and prayer sessions for all the sections of the Church, focused on the *ad gentes* mission.
6. Organizing a Mission Congress outside Kerala
7. Seminar on the evangelization to be organized
8. Conduct a mission meet of the members (mostly children) of Mission League
9. Prepare and publish a book on our missions for the use of 'mission quiz and other studies on mission (It shall contain the details of the Syro-Malabar Missionary enterprises)
10. Prepare promotional materials like posters and other literature on our missions
11. Honour the veteran and pioneering missionaries of the Church during the Mission Congress
12. Make a mission anthem in different languages
13. Organize a research seminar to explore the unique missionary style of the ancient Saint Thomas Christians
14. Organize 'Mission Quiz' programmes with the help of diocesan catechism directors
15. Start an organization (Funding Agency) to help the needs of the mission.
16. Organize essay competitions with mission as theme, for the youth, the adults, the priests, etc.
17. Form expert committees to appraise the present mission methodologies and develop new ones.
18. Make a systematic research and documentation on the Syro-Malabar Missions and develop a Syro-Malabar mission theology
19. Develop a section for the various mission eparchies of the Syro-Malabar Church in the museum at Kakkanad
20. Contact Shalom channel to give wider publicity and attention to the mission year, and to broadcast meaningful programmes of the celebration

21. Use the retreat centers to promote mission awareness by preaching and prayers
22. Publish series of articles in our magazines and journals on the *ad gentes* mission of the Syro-Malabar Church

METROPOLITAN/DIOCESAN LEVEL

(Applicable also for every organized center for migrants)

1. Prepare a detailed plan of action for the mission year celebration in the dioceses in consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the Pastoral Council
2. Prepare an year planner and diary for mission year celebration
3. Give a focused coverage on missions in the diocesan publications especially in the diocesan website.
4. Arrange Mission Retreats in parishes
5. Organize sharing by missionaries in as many parishes as possible
6. Take steps to strengthen the Mission League in every parish
7. Organize 'missionary-meet' in every Diocese/Forane, Parish to honour the missionaries
8. Form a resource team in every eparchy/ parish to give orientation to the youth and Mission League members on mission
9. Organize 'Mission Quiz' programmes with the help of catechism directors
10. Launch a series of preaching on Mission in TV channels and introduce the apostolates in the mission centers
11. Arrange a mission-fest (rally, exhibition and tableau) at least for a day in every eparchy.

PARISH AND FAMILY LEVEL

(Applicable also for every parish/mass centre for migrants)

1. Have Parish level mission day celebration for mission, with exhibition, mission retreat etc.
2. Organize a 'get-together' of missionaries at parish level
3. Encourage prayer campaigns for vocations
4. Collect information of the faithful who study and work outside
5. Make different pious associations (Mathru vedi, Pitruvedi, CML, Jesus Youth, Vincent de Paul etc) mission minded and encourage them to promote missionary vocations
6. Every pious association in the parish be asked to draw out its own action plan for the celebration of the mission year
7. Prepare themes based on missionary nature of the church and missionary vocation of the christians, for discussion and meditation in family units and prayer groups during the year.

RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS

1. Organize renewal programs for the members to revive their missionary spirit and promote the studies of the magisterial documents on missions during the mission year

2. Honour the veteran and pioneering missionaries in their respective institutes.
3. Organize Mission fest at least for a day in every province, formation house and institution.
4. Conduct special spiritual exercises, devotions and, liturgical celebrations for the success of the missions

➤ **Major Seminaries and Formation Houses of the Institutes of Consecrated Life**

1. Have sessions of experience sharing by missionaries in the major seminaries and other formation houses.
2. Allot a special prayer day for each member
3. Organise mission exposures programmes and seminars on the mission magisterial documents
4. Study of the mission history of the church and biographies of great missionaries

➤ **Mission Eparchies/Centers**

1. Publish biographies of pioneer missionaries
2. Allot prayer day for mission to each parish/ mission station
3. A day of celebration with people of other faith
4. Celebrate a mission week in every parish/mission station
5. Focus on family visits in the mission centres.
6. Start a common centre in North India to co-ordinate the missionary activities of the Syro-Malabar Church
7. Circulate biblical verses related to *ad gentes* mission
8. Start a department for mission in every diocese
9. Prepare troops of artists or performers from the missions with a cultural programmes depicting the missionary endeavours and present the programmes in parishes and dioceses in the home eparchies
10. Make literature and audio-visual materials available for creating missionary awareness
11. Study the mission history of the eparchy, critically apprise the missionary apostolate and mission methodologies and the effect of mission involvements
12. Diocesan level mission seminar for different groups, for priests, religious sisters, youth, seminarians, women, lay representatives etc.
13. Conduct celebrations inviting even the migrant communities in the neighborhood of the mission dioceses
14. Honor pioneering missionaries in every mission diocese
15. Conduct Mission Fest at the diocesan level
16. Prepare a musical album on the theme of mission, with the experts in all mission dioceses for use in every diocese.
17. Document the history of the mission eparchies of the Church.

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