

Annual Report of the Activities of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants-August 2013

We are happy to present a report on the activities of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants (CEPCM) for the period from Sept 2012 to Aug 2013.

Commission Meetings

Between Sept 2012 and Aug 2013, the Commission met three times to discuss the issues related to the pastoral care of the migrants in India and abroad. Besides, the Secretary kept all their Episcopal members informed of all the developments through email regularly. The Commission has been successful in maintaining an effective correspondence with the appointed pastors/chaplains and migrants of the Syro-Malabar Church, principally through e-mail and telephone calls. Christmas and Easter greetings and messages were sent to all the centers through e-mail. Correspondence is regular with almost all the centres/places/countries of the Syro-Malabar migrants.

Annual Report to Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of the Migrants and Itinerant People

An annual report of the Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants was submitted to the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of the Migrants and Itinerant People in the month of July highlighting, activities, the major challenges and concerns of our Church in the pastoral care of the migrants of our Church in India and abroad.

Pastoral Visit of Major Archbishop to Migrant Centers

Major Archbishop visited some of the migrant communities in India and abroad. His visits have boosted the enthusiasm and spirit of the communities. He visited some of the Archbishops and Bishops and discussed matters concerning the pastoral care of our migrants.

Visit of the Commission Chairman, Members and Secretary

The Commission Chairman, members and secretary visited different migrants centers like Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Surat, Aurangabad, Goa, in India and few other centres abroad in connection with various occasions like seminars, orientation classes and celebrations there.

Orientation Classes for Catechism Teachers

As part of the faith formation of the migrant communities the Commission has started contacting the priests in charge and other responsible persons in the respective centres to arrange training programs for the catechism teachers. The training is given by the Synodal Commission for Catechism.

Second Gulf Meet

The Commission in collaboration with the SMCA Kuwait arranged the second Gulf Meet on 30th and 31st May 2013 in Kuwait. Around 250 delegates from different Gulf countries attended it. Mar Sebastian Vadakel, Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt and Fr. George Danavelil presented papers. The participants unanimously decided to work together with common objectives and programmes. A common Bye law is drafted for the functioning of the SMCAs in all Gulf countries. Dr. Mohan Thomas is elected by them to coordinate the activities of the Syro-Malabar communities in Gulf countries.

Orientation Classes for the Chaplains of migrant communities in India

An orientation class was arranged for the chaplains/parish priests taking care of the Syro-Malabar except from Bangalore and Madras migrant communities within India on 26th August 2013 at Bishop's House Rajkot. Rev. Fr. Mathew Moothasseril, Syncellus of the Eparchy of Faridabad gave the orientation classes. Most of the chaplains attended it.

Publication of the Directory of CEPCM

The Commission published a Directory of it with all available datas on migrant communities all over the world in November 2012. An updated version is in the making to be published during the Global Meet 2013.

Global Meet 2013

As per the decision of the January 2013 Synod the Commission is organising a Global Meet of the Syro-Malabar migrants all over the world on 18 Aug 2013 at Mount St. Thomas Kakkanad. Around 250 delegates from migrant communities all over the world are expected to attend it. Shri Vayalar Ravi, honourable Union Cabinet minister of Overseas Indian Affairs will be the chief guest and Padmashree Yusuf Ali MA will be felicitated for his contribution to the Syro-Malabar faithful in Gulf countries.

Developments in the Migrant centers in India

Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar

Pastoral care activities are getting organised under the leadership of, Fr. Kuriachan Paul, the Episcopal Vicar of Syro-Malabar community. Three centers have started regular catechism for the children. The Syro-Malabar community is looking for the erection of one or two personal parishes for proper pastoral care. The Archdiocese of Gandhi Nagar has also started Syro-Malabar Qurbana in two more centers other than in the Cathedral.

Aurangabad

The community has so far no infrastructure of its own and the Holy Qurbana and other liturgical services are administered mostly in rented buildings. The local Church shows reluctance to share its Churches or buildings for the use of the Syro-Malabar community. Our community is in the look out for a plot of land for the construction of a Church.

Bhopal

A community of 350 families plus 1000 students and bachelors has been well organized in Bhopal. The Archbishop has appointed Fr. Hans Puthiakulangara MST as the chaplain on the recommendation of the Major Archbishop. The chaplain is staying in a Latin parish as co pastor with pastoral responsibility of the scattered Syro-Malabar community. Our community has now set up a well furnished office at Shakti Nagar, Bhopal and the parish meetings are held there. They have started regular catechism classes for the children.

Goa and Daman, Silvassa

The Archbishop of Goa is positively supporting the three Syro-Malabar priests appointed in the Archdiocese. They are celebrating regular Sunday Holy Qurbana in six different centers and conduct Sunday catechism classes for the children. The community also publishes bulletin named shalom with news and articles.

The community under the leadership of Fr. Mathew Kizhakkearanjaniyil is organising various activities for the faith formation of the faithful in Silvasa and Daman. The construction of the second floor of the parish hall is complete.

Hyderabad

The Syro-Malabar community at Thumgunda (Secundrabad) has constructed a beautiful Church and the construction of another Church is in progress at Mallapur. The community at Kukattipally has purchased another plot of land adjacent to the present one. The faithful had approached the Archdiocese several times to get their newly constructed Church blessed. The Commission had four meetings with the Archbishop of Hyderabad, but the Archdiocese is still reluctant to make necessary arrangements for the pastoral care of Syro-Malabar migrants. Now the Archbishop

of Hyderabad has agreed to endow all the priests serving there with canonical faculties.

Kolkotta

The community is organised into a well knit parish through the committed work of the CMI fathers. The community has purchased a plot of land for the construction of a Church at Behala and another plot of land at Mominpur for a common cemetery for the use of our community.

Pondicherry

The community in Pondicherry is getting organised into a well knit Church. They have regular catechism classes and family prayer units.

Salem

There are around 105 families and more than 2500 students in Salem. With the local contribution a beautiful Church has been constructed and consecrated. Three religious Congregations (CMC, FCC and CHF) are extending their service in the pastoral ministry. Jesus Youth is very active in Salem. They try to help the students who succumb to drugs and other related evils.

Surat

The community under the leadership of Frs. Gracious Pulimoottil MCBS and Joshy Joseph Valliamthadom is getting organized but the division is still existing. Hence, more is to be done to organize the community into a single parish. We place on record our sincere thanks to the MCBS Emmaus Provincial, Fr. Francis Kodiyan for his support to the Surat community.

Vadodara

The Syro-Malabar community at Vadodara is spread over a 25 km radius. There is regular Sunday liturgy and catechism in three centres. The local Ordinary is not much in favour of developing our own separate structures for the Syro-Malabar Church.

Outside India

Australia

The population of the Syro Malabar migrant faithful is steadily increasing in Australia and hope that the same phenomenon will continue in the upcoming years. Our community has purchased landed property of 15 acres in Melbourne with help of the local Church and the Syro-Malabar faithful. The faithful are eagerly waiting for the erection of a Syro-Malabar Eparchy in Australia.

Ireland

The population of the Syro Malabar migrant faithful has fallen considerably since last two years due to migration to Australia and the same phenomenon would continue in the upcoming years. There are some Syro-Malabar communities without proper pastoral care. We have initiated contact with some dioceses for appointment of Syro-Malabar chaplains. The Commission sincerely thank Fr. Mathew Arackaparampil who returned to India after seven years of dedicated service to the Syro-Malabar faithful in the Archdiocese of Dublin. The community in Dublin is on the look out for our own infrastructure.

Singapore

Most. Rev. William Goh, the new Archbishop of Singapore is more positive towards the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful there. The Commission chairman had discussion with him and the Major Archbishop has officially written to him in this regard. The Commission Chairman attended the installation ceremony of the Archbishop in the month of April. The Secretary celebrated Holy Qurbana in the community for New Year and Dukrana.

New Appointments

The following priests have been appointed in the last year as chaplains with the recommendation of the Major Archbishop for the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar migrants in the following Dioceses.

Abroad:

Rev. Fr. Fredy Eluvathingal (TCR)- Diocese of Adelaide, Australia
 Rev. Fr. Jose Bharanikulangara (EKM) - Archdiocese of Dublin, Ireland
 Rev. Fr. Joseph Pinakatt (KLM), Diocese of Aberdeen
 Rev. Fr. Biju Mathew Kottanalloor CST, Archdiocese of Southwark, UK
 Rev. Fr. Francis Neelamkavil (TCR), Diocese of Cork and Ross, Ireland
 Rev. Fr. Biju Kunnakatt, ((PLA), Diocese of Nottingham), UK
 Rev. Fr. Wilson Mecheril MCBS, Austria
 Rev. Fr. Sebastian Naduthadom (PLA), France
 Rev. Fr. Paul Vettikattu CST, Diocese of Clifton, UK

India

Rev. Fr. K.P Vincent SJ - Diocese of Ahmedabad
 Rev. Fr. Joshy Mayamparampil CMI- Archdiocese of Kolkatta
 Rev. Fr. Thomas Parampy (PKD)- Diocese of Salem, Tamil Nadu

Proposed Names for Ministry Abroad

The following priests are presented by the Major Archbishop for ministry abroad.

Rev. Fr. Abraham Kunnatholy CMI-Archdiocese of Melbourne
 Rev. Fr. Joseph Anthiamkalam MCBS- Diocese of Brentwood, UK

Our Major Concerns

Most of our priests are doing well in their ministry but in some cases personal issues and problems like accusation of financial irregularities and division in the community create unhealthy situations in the centers. The pastoral ministry among the migrants is a very demanding and difficult ministry. The Commission expresses its deepest gratitude to the /Archbishops/Bishops and Major Superiors who have lent the service of some of their best priests for the pastoral care of the migrant faithful.

Inflow of Unauthorised Preachers to migrant Centres:

Inflow of unauthorised preachers to migrant centres still continues to be a matter of serious concern in some of the migrant centres and communities.

Mushrooming of Lay Associations

The mushrooming of rival lay associations claiming to represent the Syro-Malabar Church is of serious concern in many of the countries. Wherever we are able to act in a unified manner these problems decrease.

Arabian Gulf Countries

Though there are sizeable number of (estimated 450000) Syro-Malabar faithful living scattered in the Arabian Gulf countries distributed in the two Vicariates of Arabia and Kuwait, there is still no organised pastoral care provided to our people in any of these places. The Vicars Apostolic are opposing the idea of appointing Syro-Malabar priests proposed by the Major Archbishop. The situation in Saudi Arabia is still worse in pastoral care provide to our faithful in the Syro-Malabar rite and tradition. The three Syro-Malabar priests sent by the Synod is called back due to the resistance of the Vicar Apostolic and the *Propaganda Fide*. The extensive presence of the Syro-Malabar faithful calls for the creation of a Syro-Malabar juridical set up for the whole of the Arabian Gulf countries. On-going dialogue is necessary to reach a permanent canonical solution.

Australia and New Zealand

Most of the Dioceses in Australia and New Zealand have, at the request of the Syro-Malabar Church, appointed Syro-Malabar priests recommended by the Major Archbishop as chaplains to the migrant communities. Still there are number of

dioceses in Australia with large Syro-Malabar faithful without proper arrangement for their pastoral care. What the Syro-Malabar Church now looking forward in these countries is a more stable canonical structure for the proper pastoral care.

Europe

In countries like Germany, Switzerland, no Syro-Malabar priest is officially appointed as parish priest or chaplain with proper recommendation of the Major Archbishop. In Italy pastoral care of the migrants is well organised by the a national Co-ordinator and a few chaplains are appointed for the Syro-Malabar faithful. Fr. Sebastian Naduthadom is appointed as pastor in France in one of the city parishes with full responsibility of the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful. He has collected full data of our community and is planning to start regular catechism for the children.

In many dioceses in UK Syro-Malabar chaplains have been appointed with proper recommendation. What the UK and other European countries urgently need is the appointment of national Co-ordinators with some canonical standing to co-ordinate the pastoral activities of the chaplains. The Bishops' Conference has not yet accepted the request of the Major Archbishop to appoint a National Co-ordinator for the Syro-Malabar Church in the UK.

African Countries

There is a sizeable number of our people in the African Countries of Nigeria, Libya, Tanzania and South Africa. We have sent one priest to the Archdiocese of Pretoria, South Africa. The Commission has also established contact with the Syro-Malabar community in Nigeria, and Kampala in Uganda. We look for the erection of personal parishes and other arrangements for effective pastoral co-ordination of our migrants in these countries.

Asian Countries

Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong Other Cities of Asian Countries

In Singapore alone there are around 1000 Syro-Malabar families settled there. People are very eager to get the service of Syro-Malabar priests for their pastoral needs. The Major Archbishop and the Chairman of the Commission have discussed with the newly appointed local Bishop the possibility of appointing a full time Syro-Malabar priest for the pastoral care of our migrants in Singapore. The new Bishop has more favourable approach to the Syro-Malabar community.

Similarly in Hong Kong and Malayasia and other cities of Asian countries there is a sizeable number of our migrants. It is an urgent need to have at least one Syro-Malabar priest, appointed as official chaplain in each of these countries. If Singapore and New Zealand could be included in the proposed eparchy of Australia it would be ideal.

India:

Hyderabad/Secundrabad

The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secundrabad have a big Syro-Malabar concentration, which is about 30000. But not even a personal parish has been erected for the Syro-Malabar Church there. Besides, no Syro-Malabar priest is officially appointed as parish priest or chaplain with proper recommendation of the Major Archbishop. What is urgently needed is the appointment of a Co-ordinator with some legal standing to co-ordinate the pastoral activities of the chaplains.

Trichy:

In Trichy there is no officially appointed Syro-Malabar chaplain, but the pastoral activities are coordinated by student priests. Now Fr. Lino Immatty from the Diocese of Palghat is coordinating the pastoral activities there with the help of other student priests there.

Vapi and Umergaon

There are 23 families at Umergaon, and 120 families at Vapi, in the Diocese of Baroda. Recently the local ordinary has entrusted the pastoral care of the Syro-Malabar faithful to the MCBS fathers working in Surat.

Programmes Planned

- Orientation classes for chaplains
- Orientation classes for catechism teachers in collaboration with the Commission for catechism
- Follow up programmes of the Mission Year in parishes, formation centers, Institutes of consecrated Life and mission Eparchies
- Preparation of source book in simple language on matters of faith in view of catechumens and faithful in mission areas
- Gujrat Meet in October

Finale of the Mission Year Celebration 2011-2012

The year long celebration of the Mission Year 2011-2012 was officially concluded on 17th and 18th November 102 at our capital city New Delhi under the auspices of

the Syro-Malabar Central Organising Committee for Mission Year and the mission eparchy of Faridabad.

As a hallmark of the conclusion an International Seminar on “The role of the Syro-Malabar Church in the Nation Building” was organized on 17th November 2012 at Constitution Club New Delhi. The seminar was inaugurated by Shri Kapil Sibal, honourable Minister of Communications and Information Technology. It was presided over by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, in the presence of many bishops and other dignitaries including Shri. KV Thomas, honourable Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Msgr John Kozar, president of CNEWA. The Syro-Malabar mission year, especially concluding programme was an impetus for the Syro-Malabar Church to continue its spirit in the Year of Faith.

Audience with the President of India

On 17th Major Archbishop and a group of 6 other bishops from the Syro-Malabar Church had a special audience with Shr. Pranab Mukherjee, the honourable President of India

The Grand Finale

The grand finale of the concluding programme was with the solemn Qurbana followed by a public meeting on 18 November 2012 at DDA Ground Dwaraka Sector 10. The Holy Qurbana was presided over by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry and concelebrated by 15 Syro-Malabar Bishops and about 150 priests in which hundreds of religious and thousands of the faithful participated. The chief Guest of the public meeting was Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio the Apostolic Nuncio of India and guests of honour were Rt. Rev. Franco Mulackal, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Delhi and Msgr. John Kozar, President, CNEWA.

Publication of the Souvenir of the Mission Year

The souvenir of the Mission Year was released by the Major Archbishop during the January Synod 2012. It has recorded all the major programmes and events of the Mission Year.

Conclusion

During the year 2012-2013 the Commission was trying to systematize the pastoral care activities for the migrants. Besides, we were also exploring new ways for mission animation in the mother Church as a follow up of the Mission Year. May we take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop, all the members of the Synod of Bishops, members and staff of Mount St. Thomas, the Major Archiepiscopal Curia for the support and encouragement that they extended to the Commission in the year 2012-2013. Sincere thanks also go to the Major Archbishop, Archbishops/Bishops and Superiors General and Provincials who have generously lent the service of some of their best priests for the pastoral care of the migrants. The Commission also place on record with sincere gratitude the dedicated service of Sr.Savidha Raphael CHF for the last three years as Office Secretary of the Commission.



Bishop Sebastian Vadakel
Chairman
 Mar Stock Palathara CMI
 Mar Antony Chirayath
(Episcopal Members)



Fr. Jose Cheriampanatt
 Secretary