

SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH



Diocese of St. John Chrysostom,
Gurgaon

कृपा निधान

Diocesan Bulletin

Mar Ivanios Bhavan
J-Block 61-62, Paryavaran Complex
IGNOU Road, Neb Sarai
New Delhi-110 068

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H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas
The Bishop

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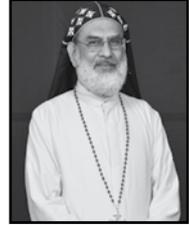
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Message of the Shepherd

December is already here heralding the advent of Christmas and a time to look back at a glance at the past 365 days of God's guidance in our lives before we step our feet into the New Year!



As Oriental Christians and Malankara Syrian Catholics our preparation for the birth of Our Savior is marked by the 25 *Nombu*, a time to make spiritual preparation in our hearts for the Infant Jesus. Our everyday encounter with the events in the world reminds us that this Christmas is marked by an ambience of ever growing concerns regarding family, humanity and environment. The frequent incidents of human malice that is witnessed throughout the globe and is already a grave concern to be the fundamental subject of our reflections on the Birth of Jesus Christ.

I invite you **ALL** wholeheartedly to make the 25 days ahead of us in preparation for Christmas as a time whereby as Baptized members, we all direct our thoughts and minds to pray primarily for the **KING OF PEACE** to reign in all our lives especially of those who have been the direct victims of violence. The Church stands together with them in their longing for an end to violence and discord.

The celebration of the Birth of Jesus holds ever more relevance today than ever before. Amidst the visuals of eroding values of humanity '**Christmas**' challenges all to respond to God's creation with Love. Today when human lives lose importance the Birth of Jesus is a strong reminder of the preciousness and value of Life. The reality before us is a clear indicator that Jesus Christ is still unborn in the hearts of many. The task mandated to our Diocese is nothing different- **Proclamation of Jesus the Christ!**

This mandate becomes all the more active with the declaration of the YEAR OF MERCY by the Holy Father Pope Francis on 8 December 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. Jesus Christ is God's-Mercy incarnate. Hence proclaiming Jesus Christ would definitely signify the divine mercy in and through our lives. This will be the primary mode of Evangelization. In our Diocese we will be inaugurating the Year of Mercy on December 13 (Sunday) 2015 at the St. Mary's Cathedral, Neb Sarai, New Delhi. Let this year and the forthcoming years be a time to live and practice more fervently the mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ into our lives.

The Year that slowly fades behind us blossoms before us the Year 2016. We were blessed to be erected as a Diocese this Year and very particularly as a **Mission Diocese**. We move into the year ahead with this mandate to be evangelizers in Northern India. I exhort each and every member of our Parish belonging MCCL, MCYM, *Mathru Sangam*, *Pitru vedi*, and MCA to integrate this commissioning in them.

The Feast of *Denah* is yet another reminder to the believing community that the Mission of the Church is the Mission of the Lord. Only a Spirit Anointed Church can go forth to proclaim the Message of Peace.

I wish You **All** a Prayerful Season of 25 *Nombu*, **Christmas Greetings** and the **blissful Feast of *Denah***.

Wishing You All a Prosperous and Grace Filled Year 2016 Ahead.

Yours in Our Lord Jesus Christ

+ Jacob Mar Barnabas
Bishop of Gurgaon



The Holy See

**LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
ACCORDING TO WHICH AN INDULGENCE IS GRANTED TO THE FAITHFUL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

*To My Venerable Brother
Archbishop Rino Fisichella
President of the Pontifical Council
for the Promotion of the New Evangelization*

With the approach of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy I would like to focus on several points which I believe require attention to enable the celebration of the Holy Year to be for all believers a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God. It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.

My thought first of all goes to all the faithful who, whether in individual Dioceses or as pilgrims to Rome, will experience the grace of the Jubilee. I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop, and in the four Papal Basilicas in Rome, as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. Likewise, I dispose that the Indulgence may be obtained in the Shrines in which the Door of Mercy is open and in the churches which traditionally are identified as Jubilee Churches. It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.

Additionally, I am thinking of those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the

Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, often confined to the home. For them it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road which gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence. My thoughts also turn to those incarcerated, whose freedom is limited. The Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty, which is intended to include the many people who, despite deserving punishment, have become conscious of the injustice they worked and sincerely wish to re-enter society and make their honest contribution to it. May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of his forgiveness. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence. Hence the commitment to live by mercy so as to obtain the grace of complete and exhaustive forgiveness by the power of the love of the Father who excludes no one. The Jubilee Indulgence is thus full, the fruit of the very event which is to be celebrated and experienced with faith, hope and charity.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.

One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe they they have no other option. I think in particular of all the women who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision. What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that

person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests fulfil this great task by expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence.

A final consideration concerns those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X. This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one. From various quarters, several Brother Bishops have told me of their good faith and sacramental practice, combined however with an uneasy situation from the pastoral standpoint. I trust that in the near future solutions may be found to recover full communion with the priests and superiors of the Fraternity. In the meantime, motivated by the need to respond to the good of these faithful, through my own disposition, I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach these priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins.

Trusting in the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I entrust the preparations for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year to her protection.

From the Vatican, 1 September 2015

Francis



DEPARTMENT OF CATECHESIS

Diocese of St. John Chrysostom, Gurgaon

Mar Ivanios Bhawan, J 61-62, Paryavaran Complex, Neb Sarai, New Delhi – 110 068

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GD/DoC/2015/03

23 November 2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Headmasters, Teachers and Students of Sunday School,

Prayerful Greetings from the Department of Catechesis, Eparchy of St. John Chrysostom!

The month of November is already half way through and we at the Department are happy that all the units are eagerly preparing themselves for the First Semester Exams. The constant enquiry and communications do encourage us and help us in our better co-ordination.

Let me mention in a special manner that the *JEEVAN DARSHAN CAMP 2015* was conducted for the MCCL of Delhi Region and it was met with a great positive response. Rev. Fr. Vishakam Scaria and Mr. Sunny K. took special efforts to organize the 3 day session. A special word of thanks to Rev. Fr. Jinto John, Very Rev. Fr. Aji T and the Minor Seminarians who led from the front in animating the different sessions for the Children. Thank You Very Rev. Fr. Sam Pathakal, Proto-Vicar, Delhi Region. Please note the following-

Announcements

1. Mr. Sunny K. is being appointed as the **Diocesan Co-Ordinator**. He will work in close coordination with me and the respective Regional Directors. He can be approached on any Departmental related matters. Contact at (0) 8860 078122.
2. Rev. Sr. Amal Jose SIC is being appointed as the **Regional Director of Odisha Region**. The Units of Raipur, Bhilai, Kolkata and Odisha would be under Srs. Catechetical care. Contact at (0) 8658 913829.
3. The official e-mail account of the Department is catechesisgurgaon@gmail.com and a blog has been created catechesisgurgaon.blogspot.in. It is linked to the official website of the Diocese. Mr. Thomas

Youhanon would provide technical support to maintain and keep the blog updated. Do send in mail of photos, news and information to be posted in the blog.

4. Formation of Regional MCCL units to be done soon at a convenient date. Regional Directors are requested to organize, form the same and intimate the Department the names of the Regional Office Bearers.

First Semester Exam Details

1. The Hall Tickets for the exams on December 06 2015 of all the students appearing for the First Semester Catechism Examination 2015-16' of Classes IV to X are attached along with this mail. Every student is assigned with a new **Unique Identification Number (UIN)**. Kindly do make sure that every student has received the Hall Ticket. An Answer paper without the Hall Ticket from the Centre will not be considered for the valuation. The details in the Hall Ticket should be verified by the student him/herself. We have tried our level best to furnish the details even without a spelling mistake. If there is any further correction, kindly do it in the Hall Ticket itself. If any detail is missing in the Hall Ticket, kindly do add it with blue ink. If the Hall Ticket of any student is missing, kindly bring it to our notice at the earliest. If any student has discontinued the studies at your Centre, kindly return the Hall Ticket together with the Answer Sheets marking on top '**DISCONTINUED**'. All the Hall Tickets of absentees should carry the note '**ABSENT**'.
2. The Question Papers for the First Semester Catechism Examination 2015-'16 are being sent from the Centre to the different Parishes. Answer Papers of the children of same class has to be wrapped together (should not staple together) and kept separately while sending. Kindly arrange the answer papers in the ascending order of the **Unique Identification Number (UIN)**. You are requested to send the Answer Sheets in the envelope enclosed with the Question Papers to the following address latest by 07 December.

Mr. Sunny K, Diocesan (0) 8860 078122,
Co –Ordinator, Department of Catechesis,
Syro-Malankara Catholic Bishop's House, Diocese of St. John
Chrysostom, Gurgaon, Mar Ivanios Bhavan, J-61-62, Paryavaran
Complex, Neb Sarai, IGNOU Road-110 068

3. Those sending in Couriers kindly make sure that you are making use of the Authorised Franchise. Please do not send it from some small shops which are working as the internal outlets. All enquiries regarding the couriers, valuation and tabulation have to be made directly to me. As we conducted the earlier exams, Classes 1 to 3 will have Oral Exam with the Question Papers sent from the Centre. Answers are included in the Question Paper itself, for these classes, in order to assist the concerned teachers for conducting the Exam.
4. It is the responsibility of the Headmasters to make sure that the Hall Ticket, which has all the required details furnished, is attached with the Answer Papers. Nothing that reveals the identity of the person or the church should be written in the Answer Papers. Please do not put the seal of the Church on the answer sheets. No one except the Supervisor and the Headmaster or a Teacher appointed by the Unit Director is allowed in the Examination Hall. Any complaint regarding the Exams should be registered at the Centre through email at least by the next day. Complaints are not encouraged after that and will not be considered with due importance.

Once again I remind: Kindly do not open the envelope containing the Question Papers before 10.45 a.m. on 06 December 2015.

Let us join hands to conduct the Examination in a fruitful way!

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Rev. Fr. Mathew (Jigmy) Koodaparambil,
Director, Department of Catechesis
Diocese of St. John Chrysostom, Gurgaon

Synod on Family, Rome

The **Fourteenth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops**, popularly referred to as the Synod on the Family, took place from 4 to 25 October 2015 with the theme of “the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world.” It is “reflecting further on the points discussed” at the 2014 Third Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops “so as to formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines” for the pastoral care of the person and the family. The 2014 assembly of the Synod, called to define the *status quaestionis* (current situation) and to collect the participants experiences and proposals, can be understood as a preparation for the 2015 assembly, but they are meant to “form a single organic unity.” It took place in the Synod Hall in the Paul VI Audience Hall in Vatican City. The 2015 assembly included a great part of the episcopate, with as many as 279 participants including bishops and priests alongside 90 experts, contributors, and delegates from other Christian churches who were specially invited to attend and participate in the discussions.

The final document includes 94 points with dozens of proposals. It has a positive tone and it gives a hopeful message to families facing hardships.

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

The document describes some of the challenges families face. It does so by saying that hardships can also be seen as an opportunity. Bishops ask Christians to cultivate a hopeful understanding on painful realities like loneliness and marital failure. The Synod concluded that helping people is not the same as telling them everything is ok. Rather, it means having the courage to listen to their pain, embrace them, and seek ways to heal their wounds.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

One of the ideas that came up in the Synod, time and time again, is that marriage preparation must be improved. There is agreement that offering only six classes before the wedding is not enough. Also, couples who have been married for years, should be more involved in helping younger couples, in some of the challenges they face. The

document also calls for families to foster an ongoing relationship with other Catholic families, not just every now and then, but rather as a firm pillar.

OPEN TO LIFE AND SEX EDUCATION

Bishops suggested that parents must be involved in the sexual education of their children and not leave it up to others to educate them on the matter. This kind of education is key, they say, for their stability and for the success of their future marriage. The document adds that teaching compromise and love is essential. Especially when it comes to understanding that children are the fruit of love.

COHABITATING COUPLES

The document also addresses couples who aren't married but live together in stable relationships. It says that many of them live in fidelity and openness to life, which are elements of marriage. Thus, they call for special attention so they can walk towards the path of marriage.

EDUCATING CONSCIENCES

Here's what the Pope said in his closing speech at the Synod:

POPE FRANCIS

"The Church's first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy, to call to conversion, and to lead all men and women to salvation in the Lord." For divorced people who have remarried and want to return to the sacraments, the Synod proposes that a priest help them develop awareness through reflection, so they can understand their personal situation before God.

Specifically, it says that "conversation with a priest, in the internal forum, contributes to the formation of a correct judgment about what hinders the possibility of a fuller life in the Church and the steps that can favor it and make participation grow." The Synod document recalls what Pope John Paul II said: A person being unjustly abandoned is not the same as someone who has destroyed a marriage.

HOMOSEXUALITY

As for gay people, the Synod states that Christ "loved and died for every person, without exception." Therefore, "every person, regardless of

sexual orientation, should be respected in their dignity, and welcomed with respect, avoiding 'any brand of unfair discrimination. It also says that one "cannot draw analogies between homosexual unions and God's plan for marriage and family."

MIGRANT FAMILIES

The Synod did not ignore the struggles of those fleeing from war and poverty. It discussed the challenges faced by families who had to leave their country to start a new life. The bishops ask that dioceses and parishes work to ensure the dignity of migrants and refugees is respected. It states they must help them while taking into account their culture, beliefs, and traditions. In short, the 94 points of the document are optimistic. It also calls for women to be included in the decision-making processes of the Church; that parents not relinquish protection of their family; that grandparent's role and their care is taken into consideration, and that families can find a proper work- life balance.



DIOCESAN NEWS

MCYM Cleaning Drive on October 2

The Diocesan MCYM decided and implemented a cleaning Drive in line with the National *Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan* in the Diocese which was arranged region-wise on October 2015. The exemplary endeavor from the youth and the animators was highly appreciated. The whole programme was lead from the front by H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas who participated in the cleaning drive all throughout in the Delhi Region.



MCYM Diocesan Inauguration and Leadership Summit



The official inauguration of the Malankara Catholic Youth Movement of Gurgaon Diocese took place on 10 and 11 October 2015 at St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Cathedral. MCYM leadership summit was conducted under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuthirakallil (Director, MCYM, Diocese of Gurgaon) on 10th of October with the theme '*Ignite in Christ*' at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral, Neb Sarai. This summit was aimed at generating and developing dynamic and vibrant leaders amongst the youth of the diocese and also to form the Central Secretariat of MCYM, Diocese of Gurgaon. The first day of leadership summit consisted classes led by Fr. Joseph V.C. (Assistant Director, Divine Retreat Ashram) and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. John Kochuthundil (Chancellor and Vicar General, Diocese of Gurgaon), Central Secretariat Election, Discussion for the Annual Plan of MCYM, Diocese of Gurgaon and Eucharistic Adoration at the end of the day led by the brothers of Girideepam Minor Seminary.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Office bearers | - | MCYM Gurgaon Diocese |
| President | - | Mr. Jinu Mathew Jacob (Delhi) |
| Vice-Presidents | - | Mr. Harish (Odisha) Mrs. Christy (Jaipur) |
| General Secretary | - | Mr. Isaac Thomas (Bhopal) |
| Secretaries | - | Mr. Siju John (Baroda) Mr. Jephin Philip (Delhi) |
| Treasurer | - | Mr. Janson Joy (Delhi) |
| Mar Ivanios Prayer Warrior | - | Mr. Alex Joseph (Delhi) |
| Executives | - | Ms. Manisha Mathew (Jaipur) Mr. Sajo Sunny (Delhi) |
| Animator | | Mr. Bobby Thomas (Delhi) |
| Sister-in-charge | | Rev. Sr. Amal DM (Delhi) |

The Holy Qurbano in Hindi celebrated by H.E. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas along with other priests marked the beginning of the second and concluding day of the summit. Thereafter, the newly elected Office Bearers of the Central Secretariat took oath in the presence of the Aboon and received Apostolic blessings. A public meeting was conducted under the Chairmanship of H.E. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas wherein the Chief Guest was Adv. Abraham Pattiyani (Member of the Delhi Minority Commission). The annual plan was released by Aboon inaugurating the Central Secretariat of MCYM, Diocese of Gurgaon. 85 youth participated in the two-day summit which included members from the parishes of Bhopal, Jaipur, Baroda and Odisha besides the youth from those of the Delhi Region

Rt. Rev. Aprem Ramban's Commemoration

A holy Qurbano was concelebrated by H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas on 27 October 2015 in the cathedral. Other Priests of the Delhi Region and seminarians from the Girideepam minor Seminary participated in the Holy Qurbano to remember in prayer the prayerful and ecclesial personality of the humble and erudite priest who untiringly served the erstwhile ETRI irrespective of his age.

New Diocesan Office Blessing

With the erection of the new Diocese, the administrative activities required a better office facility. Following this need a Diocesan official setup was prepared adjacent to the Bishop's House in Neb Sarai,

New Delhi. The providence of God made it fortunate that the office structure was blessed and inaugurated by the head and father of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos on the late evening of 7 November 2015. Several priests and lay leaders were present during the brief ceremony. This Diocesan Office for the Eparchy of Gurgaon includes the offices of the Chancellor, Procurator and Social Service Director including other official dealings so as to facilitate the administration as well as the mission activities of the young Diocese.

Diocesan Finance Advisory Board Meeting



The Diocesan Finance Advisory Board Meeting of the Diocese was held on 17 November 2015 at St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Neb Sarai from 9:00 am - 4:30 pm in the presence of His Excellency Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas, President, Very Rev. Monsignor John Kochuthundil, Fathers and members from the different Parishes. Rev. Fr. Mathew Kalarakalayil led the gathering in Prayer songs followed by Bible Reading by Mr. N.C. Philip. Rev. Fr. Monsignor on behalf of the Bishop welcomed the entire gathering for their presence and positive response to the invitation. Rev. Fr. Mathew (Jigmy) Koodaparambil and Mr. T. Thomas were elected as Secretaries of the Council Meeting.

The Bishop, in the inaugural Address, reminded the gathering that as baptized members we are a redeemed community and the Parish is the basic, concrete and vivid expression of the same. The members are obliged to stimulate and usher a new mindset within the Believing Community to widen the perspective of our horizons whereby no one limits himself/ herself to the hitherto activities of the Parish but moreover are constantly conscious of the Call as preachers of the 'Joy of the Gospel'. The Bishop cautioned the gathering that finance and its constraints should never be an hindrance towards the Mission Mandate bestowed upon all the Church member very particularly upon the new Diocese. The Bishop's address was followed by the presentation of report on the Financial status of the Diocese

by Rev. Fr. Procurator. A few clarifications were sought on the details provided after which the gathering listened to a class on Accounting and Financial Discipline by Mr. K.K. George, CA.

The Following Major Decisions have been taken during the meeting:-

1. Every established Parish adopts Villages/ Units /rural areas in the Missions and actively involve in the Spiritual and Socio-Cultural uplift.
2. All Parishes to close old accounts and start new accounts. The amount of the previous account is not to be transferred to the new account.
3. No accounts are to be maintained by Units/Parishes without the knowledge of the Rev. Fr. Procurator. In any case of deviation the Vicar and the Unit would be responsible for the obligations of holding the account.
4. A society to be formed with individuals being allowed to hold many shares as possible. Rev. Fr. Procurator along with Mr. K.K. George to form a committee to study and design the details of the Society.
5. The Society to have members as of the initial stage from within the Malankara Catholic Community.
6. Diocesan Support Fund to be maintained as early as possible
7. The First Phase of the Collection of the Mission Box to be done December
8. Formation of Social Service wing in each Unit to be done without delay
9. All are encouraged to be on the lookout for a Land for the purpose of a Seminary
10. The Feast of the Bishop is to be celebrated with the sole purpose of supporting our Missions
11. Evangelization to be the priority of the Diocese and all are requested to seek help from anyone and everywhere for this purpose

12. An amount of Rs. 50,000.00 can be spent by the Parish / Unit for its activities. However, any expenditure above this needs an individual permission from the Bishop
13. An Action Plan Committee is to be formed the members of which are as follows:
 - a) Rev. Msgr. John Kochuthundil
 - b) Rev. Fr. Philip V
 - c) Rev. Fr. Visakh Scariah
 - d) Mr. T.J. Thomas
 - e) Mr. Benjamin
 - f) Mr. J. Cheriyan
 - g) Mr. T. Thomas

Presbyteral Council and Presbyterium

The Diocesan Presbyteral Council and Presbyterium Meeting took place on 17 and 19 November 2015 at the Bishop's House, Neb Sarai. The meeting took up issues regarding the enhancement of mission efforts and also discussed in detail regarding the work of the various Diocesan departments. Various suggestions were put into improve the progress of the mission and the Diocese.

Girideepam Minor Seminary day

The first ever Seminary Day of the Girideepam Minor Seminary took place on 17 November 2015 at Girideepam Minor Seminary, New Delhi. A solemn Holy Qurbano was celebrated on 17th morning by H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios and H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas along with other priests. Later in the day H.E. Thomas Mar Anthonios met the Seminarians. In the evening, after the solemn evening prayer, cultural programmes were performed by the seminarians.

Sahkari Chintan

Social Animation & Master Planning Program for the Diocese of Gurgaon

Sahkari Chintan: Social Animation & Master Planning Program was organized with support from Caritas, India by Prachodana Social service society from 17th to 18th November 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral. The social animation and master planning program

was conducted for the achievement of the following objectives:-

1. To create a vision for the future on the various ways and activities through which Prachodana will work with the marginalized and the needy all across these 22 states.
2. To devise a state wise strategy on the kind of programs that the states could take up keeping in mind the socio-economic background of these states.
3. Capacity building of participants in operation of a social work organization.
4. To form DPSC (Diocesan Projects Selection Committee) in the meeting and the team and all activities and projects of Prachodana will be discussed and finalized by DPSC.



Fr. Visakh Scariah welcomed everyone to the programme. His E. Jacob Mar Barnabas gave a brief introduction regarding the whole programme and different mission works of Gurgaon diocese. Regional Directors shared about their mission work and Social service activities in evening and by 10.30 pm the 1st

days programme came to an end.

On the next day Mr. Sasikumar C, Director, Centre for Research and Development, Kasargod, Kerala conducted Orientation and Animation session on Church and Different Social Work Perspectives. The role of church in Social Work /Service setting and its perspectives were discussed. Noon session was about Reporting & General Evaluation Master Planning by Mr. Sasikumar C. Future projects and activities were discussed. Other sessions were conducted by Fr. Johnson Pallipadinjattethil and Fr. Jinto John regarding Mission work and NGOs.

Major Activities

Participants were trained through need analysis, presentations, group activities, deliberations, debates, plenary sessions, round table discussions, SWOT analysis led by three experienced resource people A SWOT (Strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis. DPSC (Diocesan Projects Selection Committee) was formed to discuss and finalize about the projects and activities of Prachodana. (*The DPSC*

contains Bishop, Vicar General, Director of Prachodana, representatives from regional forum of Prachodana (Priests), 2 representatives from Governing board of Prachodana, one women representative & one lay man, one staff representative.)

Major achievements of the program

- a. Master Plan and road map for the next five years for Prachodana in different states prepared.
- b. Different strategies for fundraisings per state requirements prepared.
- c. 60 participants trained in conducting need analysis and different assessment strategies in their respective states.
- d. Participants made aware of the working strategy to be adopted in their respective states as per the Master plan.
- e. Participants trained to understand the link between Prachodana Social Service activities to various governmental agencies and programmes and how to utilize these linkages.

Programme came to an end by 5.00 pm with the vote of thanks by Fr. Sam Pathackal and the final blessing by H. E. Jacob Mar Barnabas.

Bishop's News

29th Priestly Ordination Anniversary

It was the 29th Priestly Ordination Anniversary on 2 October 2015. There was a small gathering was arranged in the Bishop's house where the *Aramana* family wished Aboon on his anniversary.

German Unity Day

H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas participated in the German unity day celebrations on 8 October 2015 in the German Embassy, New Delhi. A host of diplomats and senior government officials attended the gathering.

Consecration of Bishop Basil Bhuria

The Episcopal Consecration of the new bishop H.E. Basil Bhuria

of the Diocese of Jhabua (Madhya Pradesh) took place on 10 October 2015. H. E. Jacob Mar Barnabas participated in this consecration ceremony which was held in Megh Nagar in which several Bishops from different dioceses participated.



World Peace Flame



On 16 October 2015, H. E. Jacob Mar Barnabas participated in the lighting of the Peace Flame, Delhi conducted by the World Peace Flame Foundation, Netherlands, an initiative for World Peace. The event was organized by Birla Vidya

Niketan, Pushpa Vihar, New Delhi. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr. Manish Sisodia (Deputy Chief Minister & Education Minister, Delhi Govt.) Several eminent religious leaders, educationalists, media persons and armed forces personnel participated in the programme which also displayed several talent shows prepared by the School Children depicting the importance of World Peace. The World Peace Flame is a symbol of peace, unity, freedom and celebration. This endeavor is initiated with a goal of unity and peace endorsed by the millions of people who have lit The World Peace Flame as a symbol of this dream.

North East Mission Visit

From 21 – 25 October 2015, H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas along with Rev. Fr. Jigmy Thomas visited some of station in North East including Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim where they explored the immense possibilities of Evangelisation across the states in this region.

Jaipur Parish Visit

On 22 October 2015, H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas visited St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Parish in Jaipur. A solemn Holy Qurbano was offered during which three children from the parish received their first Holy Communion.

National Eucharistic Congress, Mumbai



The curtains came down on the 4-day National Eucharistic Congress of India on Sunday, in Mumbai, with delegates from all of the country's dioceses pledging themselves to nourish others having been nourished by the Eucharist. The theme of the Nov. 15-12 Eucharistic congress, held in the Pius X Seminary, Goregaon was, "Nourished by Christ, to Nourish Others". Each single day saw a solemn Holy Qurbano in the three different Catholic Rites of India. On the third day, 14 November 2015, H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas offered the Holy Qurbano in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Rite.

A Eucharistic Congress gathers together the clergy, religious and laity to promote the awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Catholic Church. It helps improve the understanding and celebration of the liturgy and draws attention to the social dimension of the Eucharist.

Delhi Region

MCYM Delhi Region Cleaning Drive

As part of the Diocesan Cleaning Drive, the MCYM Delhi Region arranged the programme on the morning of October 2. The Youth gathered near the South District Collector's office in Saket where the initiative was inaugurated by H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas in the presence of some 50 youth and local Municipal



cleaning Employees. The group cleaned the foot paths and road sides from the collector's office till the Saket Metro Station and then in the IGNOU Road till the St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church.

Suvisheshasangham in Delhi



The Regional *Suvisheshasangham* Meeting took place in Delhi on 3 and 4 October 2015 at St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral, Neb Sarai. The meeting was led by Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkannattu and

Priests, Sisters and members of the Delhi Region *Suvisheshasangham* participated in the two day meeting.

Jeevan Darsan Camp.

The diocesan MCCL camp, Jeevan Darshan was conducted for the Sunday school students from 22-24 October 2015 at St. John's School, Faridabad. The three day stay camp was led by Rev. Fr. Visakh Scariah and Rev. Fr. Jinto John, Rev. Sisters of the Delhi Region and a few seminarians from the Girideepam Minor Seminary. A total of 170 children participated in the camp which included children from Punjab as well for the first time. The Sunday School Teachers and parents supported the arrangements for the camp wherein a spiritual orientation as well as integral and balanced approach to life was aimed at through the Holy Qurbono, Adoration, classes, games and songs etc.



Delhi region team election



The Delhi Region MCYM executive body election was held on 11 November 2015 at St. George Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Mayur Vihar. Rev. Fr Benedict OIC (Delhi Region Director), Rev. Fr Sam Pathakal, Fr Jinto John, Gurgoan diocese President Mr Jinu Jacob, Animator Bobby Thomas were

present for the meeting, after the welcome, Rev. Fr Benedict OIC

and V. Rev. Fr Sam Pathakal gave short messages to the youth, there were around fifty youth from eight units including Gurgaon diocese executives, elected regional representatives and unit office bearers. Rev. Fr Mathew Kochupurackal, Vicar of St Mary's Syro Malabar Church, Mayur Vihar, gave a brief talk for the youth gathered about leadership qualities, the necessity of spiritual life, and guidance of Holy Spirit etc which was followed by the election and oath talking.

Elected members of MCYM Delhi Region

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Director | - Fr. Benedict Moozhikara OIC |
| Asst. Director | - Fr. Jinto John |
| Sister Animator | - Sr. Nirmal SIC |
| Male Animator | - Mr. K. K. James (Mayur Vihar) |
| Lady Animator | - Mrs. Sheela Benzon (West Delhi) |
| President | - Mr. Prince Philip (Faridabad) |
| Vice Presidents | - Mr. Shijin P Jose (West Delhi) & Ms.Nimmy George (Neb Sarai) |
| General Secretary | - Ms. Alphy Philip (West Delhi) |
| Secretaries | - Mr. Tiju Thankachan (Gzbd) & Mr. Jinu M Saji (Mayur Vihar) |
| Treasurer | - Mr. Vinu Jacob (Dilshad Garden) |
| Mar Ivanios Prayer Warrior | - Mr. Nitin Jacob (Neb Sarai) |

Executive Members

Ms. Melvi Mammachen (Dilshad Garden)
Mrs. Sajini Prince (Faridabad)
Mr. Jeffin T Kaleekal (Jasola)
Ms. Tessy Simon (Mayur Vihar)
Mr. Rubin Varghese (Burari)

Ex-officio Members

Mr. Jinu Jacob (DG) (President, Gurgaon diocese)
Mr. Jephin Philip (WD) (Secretary, Gurgaon diocese)
Mr. Janson Joy (NS) (Treasurer, Gurgaon diocese)
Mr. Sajo Sunny (WD) (Executive, Gurgaon diocese)
Mr. Bobby Thomas (NS) (Male Animator, Gurgaon diocese)

Delhi Region Sunday School Kalolsavam

The MCCL Kalolsavam took place with much enthusiasm and vigor on 25 November 2015. Sunday School children from all the parishes of the Delhi Region participated which included several competitions so as to present and nurture the talents of the young faithful. St. Thomas Parish, West Delhi Parish bagged the overall championship this year for the third consecutive time. St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Neb Sarai became the first runners up and St. Mary's Parish, Faridabad were the second runners up.

First Holy Communion

Nine children from the St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Neb Sarai received first Holy communion on 29 November 2015. H.E. Jacob Mar Barnabas celebrated the Holy Qurbano on the occasion.

Bhopal Region

Basketball Tournament

The 10th Basketball Tournament was organized by St. Thomas Convent Sr. Sec. School, Bhopal. It was inaugurated by Smt. Reshmi Kharya CSP. A total of 12 schools participated in the event.



Clean India Drive in Bhopal



Under the leadership of Bhopal MCYM unit the parish members cleaned the public road with the help of Nagar Nigam on 14 November 2015. Approximately 20 members from the unit participated in the work which was followed by Children's Day celebrations.

Ecumenical Quiz Competition

A Bible Quiz competition was conducted by Bhopal Ecumenical Association on 30 October 2015. MCYM members of the St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Bhopal came out to be the winner of the contest.



Minor Seminary Rector's Visit to Bhopal

Rev. Fr. Aji Thannimootil, Rector of Girideepam Minor Seminary offered the Holy Qurbonoin Bhopal on Sunday 22 November 2015. He also met the Sunday school students and youth the parish as discussed about vocation and missionary attitude.

Bhopal MCYM regional election

Bhopal MCYM regional election was conducted at St. Thomas Malankara Catholic Church, Bhopal on 1st November 2015

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | - Anoop Thomas Abraham (Bhopal) |
| Binu Omman | - Vice president (Jaipur) |
| Sibin Thomas | - Vice president (Ahmedabad) |
| Shijo Shaji | - General Secretary (Vadodara) |
| Sini Thomas | - Secretary (Ahmedabad) |
| Jerin Kunjumon | - Secretary (Vadodara) |
| Leena Rachel Samuel | - Treasurer (Bhopal) |
| Rincy Mathew | - Prayer Warrior- (Jaipur) |

Suvisheshasangham in Bhopal



The *Suvisheshasangham* meeting for the Bhopal Region took place from October 5 -11, 2015 at St. Thomas Syro - Malankara Catholic Church, Bhopal V. Rev. Fr. Antony Kakkanatu led the meeting along with V. Rev. Fr. Johnson Pallipadinjattethil (Diocesan Director of *Suvisheshasangham*). The

weeklong meeting ended with house visit on Sunday 11 October 2015.

Odisha Region

Cleaning Drive

As part of the Diocesan Cleaning Drive, the MCYM Odisha Region arranged the programme on the morning of 2 October 2015 in the Nabarangpur district. It was inaugurated by Mr. Manohar Randhari MLA (Nabarangpur district). This was continued later on October 22 as well in the village of Mynapathar.



Village Literacy Program (VLP) in the Odisha Mission



USHA – Towards a New Dawn

As per the Village Literacy Program of the Gurgaon Diocese, Social Service Wing (Prachodana), non conventional education session (***USHA – Towards a New Dawn***) was inaugurated in the village of *Koigaon* on 12 October 2015. The

classes are intended mainly for adults who gather every evening on week days from 6-8 p.m. after their daily work.

Prabhati Tara - Called to Shine Bright

Similarly, tuition classes for the school-going children (***Prabhati Tara - Called to Shine Bright***) in three different centers were started on the same day at Koigaon, Nirundi, and Khanakhot. Rev. Fr. Jigmy, Rev. Srs. Alice, Tomsina, and Pastor Paul organized the entire program under the guidance of V Rev. Fr. Johnson P, the Mission Director.



Children's day celebration - New slate distribution



On the children's day, 14 November 2015, new slates were distributed for the children to felicitate their education. This endeavour was undertaken at Mynapathar village and Rev. Fr. Devasya KT along with Rev. Fr. Biju, Rev. Srs. Anjali, Amal Jose,

Anashwara and Pastor Arjun led the initiative.

Odisha Rosary Procession

A solemn candlelight Rosary Procession was held at three villages, viz. Mynapathar, Similimunda and Dongriguda. Around 300 people participated in the procession. The children sang Odiya hymns in honour of our Blessed Mother Mary.



Special Information from the Diocesan Curia

1. The Centenary celebrations of Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios should take place in all the individual parishes of the Diocese before 30 January 2016 wherein there must be one Sunday set apart to the commemoration Holy Qurbano and meeting to pay homage to the great Shepherd of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. A report of the same should be sent to the Chancellor soon after the programme.

2. The sacrament of Matrimony is a blessing as well as a special occasion to every individual. However there are many poor girls who are unable to receive this blessing in a decent way. Hence the Diocese has established a support fund for the marriage of girls who lack any financial aid. As per the endeavour, Rs. 20,000 is to be deposited to this Fund through the Diocesan Procurator for all the weddings in which the Eparchial Bishop is invited to bless the Marriage. The amount will be particularly used for the support of the wedding of the girls in need. Voluntary contributions for the same are also welcome.

Days to be Remembered

December

- 1 Beginning of the 25 Days Nombu
- 3 St. Francis Xavier
- 4 St. John Damascene
- 5 Mar Sabas & Mar Clement of Alexandria
- 6 Mar Theophilos of Antioch, Birth of John the Baptist
- 8 Immaculate Conception of the Bl. Virgin Mary
- 13 Apparition of the Angel to St. Joseph
- 14 St. John of the Cross
- 16 Erection of the Eparchy of Marthandom
- 18 The Miraculous Cross of Mylapore
- 25 *Yaldo*(Christmas)
- 26 Exaltation of Mary, the Mother of God
- 27 Bible Sunday
- 28 King & Prophet David

January

- 1 Erection of the Eparchy of Mavelikara
- 3 St. Chavara Kuriakose
- 6 Denho
- 15 Erection of the Eparchy of Muvattupuzha
- 18 3 Days Nombu Begins, Com. Moran Mor Cyril Baselios
Catholicos, Com. Bp. Joseph Mar Severios
- 21 End of 3 Days Nombu
- 24 Kohne Sunday
- 25 Erection of the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta & Puttur
- 26 Indian Republic Day
- 31 Aneede Sunday

Birthdays

December

- 7 H.E. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas
- 15 Fr. Christy John Karimarathinal OIC

January

- 5 Rev. Fr. Binoy OIC
- 6 Rev. Fr. Sam Pathackal
- 26 Rev. Fr. Visakh Scariah

Feast days

December

- 25 Fr. Eldo Baby Pallithazath OIC
- 25 Fr. Christy John Karimarathinal OIC
- 27 Fr. Biju Edayalikudiyil

January

- 1 H.B. Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos
- 8 H.E. Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos
- 17 H.E. Most Rev. Thomas Mar Anthonios
- 20 Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuthirakkallil
- 22 H.E. Most Rev. Geevarghese Mar Timotheos
- 29 H.E. Most Rev. Joshua Mar Ignathios

Prayerful Rememberance



H.B. Moran Mor Cyril Baselios
Catholicos (Jan. 18)

*If we live, we live to the Lord,
and if we die, we die to the Lord;
so then, whether we live or
whether we die, we are the Lord's.
(Romans 14:8)*



H.E. Joseph Mar Severios
(Jan. 18)

Bishop's Diary

December

- December 4 - Monthly Recollection
- December 10 - Christmas Gathering at Apostolic Nunciature, New Delhi
- December 13 - Inauguration of the Year of Mercy, Cathedral Meeting at Marthoma seminary, Faridabad
- December 14 - Ecumenical Forum Meeting, New Delhi
- December 16 - Christmas Gathering, CBCI, New Delhi
- December 19 - Christmas Gathering, New Delhi
- December 20 - Christmas Gathering, Dilshad Colony
- December 24 - Christmas Service, Cathedral
- December 25 - Christmas Gathering, Honbl'e Minister run Jaitely's Residence
- December 31 - New Year Service, Cathedral

January

- January 1 - New Year's Eve, New Delhi
- January 4 - Feast of H.B. Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, Trivandrum
- January 5 - Monthly Recollection
- January 7-8 - *Suvisheshasangham*, Trivandrum
- January 9 - Parish Visit, Ahmedabad
- January 10 - Christmas and New Year Gathering, Delhi Region, New Delhi
- January 11-15 - North-East Mission
- January 16 - Mar Gregorios Centenary celebrations, Trivandrum
- January 21 - Wedding, Kerala
- January 23 - Meeting, Nursing College, Bhopal
- January 24 - Parish Visit, Bhopal
- January 29-30 - *Suvisheshansangham*, Trivandrum

ARCHBISHOP MAR GREGORIOS BIRTH CENTENARY - THOUGHTS OF A LUMINARY

- Motto “LOVE IS MY LIGHT”
- Second Metropolitan Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church
- Archbishop of Trivandrum for 41 years
- Projected the face of the Church in India and abroad
- Formed large number of parish communities/ mission stations
- Loved nature, birds, animals and stood for the ultimate worth of human beings
- Propagated agriculture, quality education, socio-economic development and preservation of the environment
- Known for his dedication and service for the human society
- Left his indelible mark in the social and religious fabric of India.
- Champion of religious harmony
- Reinstated peace and concord in society during social calamities & religious unrest
- Initiated various projects for the uplift of the poor irrespective of cast and creed
- Known educationalist, member of Education Board, established several colleges, schools
- His mortal remains now rest adjacent to the tomb of his guru Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios.