

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

**THE SYRO-MALANKARA
CATHOLIC CHURCH ASSEMBLY**

GUIDELINES

**The Malankara Church:
the Proclaimer of Good News**
(Suvisheshakayaya Malankara Sabha)

21 to 23 September 2011

Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum

Introduction

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church Assembly (SMCCA) is a representative organ of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church (SMCC). It is a consultative body to deal with matters of major importance of the Church. It also deals with the mission in the pluralistic context of India with its several Churches and religions. It assists the Major Archbishop-Catholicos and the Holy Episcopal Synod of our Church to harmonise the forms and methods of the apostolate as well as ecclesiastical discipline, adapting them to the current circumstances of time and to the common good of the Church (CCEO c.140).

Topic

**The Malankara Church:
The Proclaimer of Good News**
(Suvisheshakayaya Malankara Sabha)

Date of Convocation

21 to 23 September 2011.

Venue

Catholicate Centre, Pattom, Trivandrum

Levels

SMCCA is organized at two levels. The first, the preparatory level is the assembly organized by each eparchy/exarchate/ETR/religious congregation. In the eparchies, this coincides with the eparchial assembly stipulated by the CCEO cc. 235-242. The second level is the assembly organized by the Holy Episcopal Synod for the entire Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

President

Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis, the Major Archbishop-Catholicos is the President of the Assembly. His Beatitude convokes the Assembly, declaring its date, venue and theme.

Core Committee

Chairman and Vice Chairmen: The Holy Episcopal Synod, with the consent of the Major Archbishop-Catholicos, elected Most Rev. Abraham Mar Julios, as the chairman and Most Rev. Vincent Mar Paulos and Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos as vice-chairmen of the Core committee for the preparation of the Assembly.

General Secretary: In the same way Rev. Fr. John Vaipil of the Eparchy of Mavelikkara was designated as the general secretary of the Core Committee. He shall prepare the minutes of the meetings, make the documents of discussions and other relevant matters and prepares the conduct of the Assembly.

Lineamenta

As per the decision of the Holy Episcopal Synod a *Lineamenta* is prepared, expounding the theme of Malankara Catholic Church Assembly

Expert Committee

1. This committee studies the *Lineamenta* and prepares the *Instrumentum Laboris* (Working Paper) of the SMCCA and hands over to the Core Committee.
2. These should be sent to the First Level of SMCCA.
3. The report and proposals of the First Level must be submitted to the Core Committee as scheduled by it.
4. The Expert Committee studies the proposals of the First Level and shortlists the main concerns to be presented and discussed in the SMCCA.

First Level : EPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY

This symbolizes the vitality of the eparchy. Although points for the discussion and general sharing are important the ecclesial-life-celebration is the focus of this assembly. It shall be convoked and presided over by the eparchial bishop. This assembly shall be convoked for 2 working days. There has to be a general secretary to coordinate the discussions and other activities in the first level.

Members

(As per CCEO c 238) Proto Syncellus, Syncelli, Cor-episcopoi, Rambans, Chancellor, secretaries of Presbyteral and Pastoral Councils, Proto Presbyters, one member from each parish (a minimum of 25% should be women). *Instrumentum Laboris* must be sent to all members of this assembly in advance.

Opening Session

- ✧ Presidential Address and inauguration shall be by the eparchial bishop.
- ✧ One of the members of the Expert Committee shall present the theme and help the members for an effective discussion.

Sessions

- ◆ Participants must be grouped in an ideal number so as to discuss the questions given to them by the general secretary.
- ◆ The secretaries of various groups will have to present their report in the common session. This could be moderated by Proto-Syncellus or any priest of the similar rank.
- ◆ There has to be a zero hour session where the general aspirations and problems of the faithful could be addressed.
- ◆ Everyone should follow strict discipline.
- ◆ No sharing should last more than three minutes and personal remarks should be strictly avoided.

Concluding Session

- ☞ There must be a brief statement highlighting the salient points of the eparchial assembly.
- ☞ A detailed report must be presented to the General Secretary of the SMCCA immediately after the eparchial assembly.
- ☞ A brief report must be presented in the SMCCA and a person must be designated for this task.

Arrangements

- Sufficient leaders and volunteers must be employed for the various services (food, accommodation, medical care, etc.).
- All the participants must wear the name tag (if possible with photo).
- All will have to participate in the spiritual services (Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Qurbono, Adoration, etc.).

RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLY

For the religious they should conduct this assembly as per the guidance of the major superior of the respective congregation.

Second Level: THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH ASSEMBLY

The ecclesial-life of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church is celebrated in this Syro-Malankara Catholic Church Assembly (SMCCA). Therefore, the spiritual activities like, Liturgy of the Hour, Holy Qurbono, Adoration, etc. are very important and must be attended by everyone. Special care must be taken to make everyone feel at home.

The Expert Committee should study the reports sent from the

eparchial assemblies and shortlists the main concerns to be presented and discussed in the SMCCA. It is the responsibility of this committee to prepare the questions to be discussed in the group sessions of SMCCA.

Sufficient time must be provided for each member to express his/her views on the theme. To the extent possible the techniques of multi media shall be utilized in the presentation to avoid monotony.

Members

Ex-officio Members

- ❖ Eparchial Bishops, Exarch, Apostolic Visitors, Curia Bishop, Auxiliary Bishops and retired Bishops. (14)
- ❖ Superiors General and Provincial superiors of religious Congregation of SMCC (3+2+5+6=16)
- ❖ The Chancellor, Finance Officer, and Secretaries of the Synodal Commissions of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia of SMCC (18+2=20)
- ❖ The Proto-syncelli of the Eparchies and Exarchate, one representative of Proto-presbyters of each eparchy. (16)
- ❖ The Ecclesiastical Coordinators of the Extra Territorial Regions of SMCC (2).
- ❖ Rector and Deans of the faculties of theology and philosophy of the Major Seminary of SMCC.(2)
- ❖ Secretaries of the Presbyteral Council and lay secretary of the Pastoral Councils of the Eparchies, Exarchate and ETRI (18).
- ❖ Two representatives of those who received the special honours in the Church (Chevalier and *Bar Itho Kashiro* and *Barz Itho Kashirtho*)
- ❖ The Directors of the MCA, MCYM and MCCL.(3)
- ❖ The president and secretary (one should be woman) of the MCA, MCYM and MCCL. (6)
- ❖ 4 members from the dalit/socially backward communities of SMCC be nominated by the Major Archbishop-Catholicos (4)

- ❖ Maximum of Ten members nominated by the Major Archbishop Catholicos.

Elected Members

- ❖ One for each 50 priests from each eparchy, Exarchate and ETRI who are parish priests.
- ❖ 5 representative of the religious who belong to the congregations from other Churches and engaged in the ministry of the SMCC (The Chairman of the Synodal Commission for Religious presents these members).
- ❖ Lay persons elected from the Eparchial Assemblies of which one should be a woman in the following way: Trivandrum – 5; Marthandom 4; every other eparchies and exarchate and ETRI 3 each.

Opening session

- ❖ It is presided over by the Major Archbishop-Catholicos.
- ❖ His Beatitude gives the inaugural address and declares the Assembly open.
- ❖ There has to be a powerful key note address.
- ❖ The participants must be introduced briefly by the Chairman of the Core Committee.

Sessions

- ◆ With the approval of the Major Archbishop-Catholicos the Core committee has to prepare the order of procedure of the assembly with different sessions.
- ◆ The code of conduct, general arrangements, facilities and time table of the assembly are explained by the General Secretary.
- ◆ The representatives of the eparchial assemblies shall present the brief report of each eparchial assembly at the designated session of the assembly.
- ◆ It shall be followed by the presentation of the collated report of the eparchial assemblies, prepared by the expert committee. This shall be moderated by a Proto Syncellus or a Superior General.
- ◆ Participants must be grouped in an ideal number so as to discuss the questions given to them by the general secretary.

- ◆ The report of the group discussion is presented in general session. This is moderated by a lay person.
- ◆ Cultural events relating to the theme may be presented in the evenings.
- ◆ There has to be a zero hour session presided over by President/ Vice-President of the Assembly, where the general aspirations and problems of the faithful could be addressed.
- ◆ Everyone should follow strict rules. No sharing should last more than three minutes and personal remarks should be strictly avoided.

Concluding Session

- ☞ There must be a concluding statement highlighting the salient points of the SMCCA, prepared by the Expert Committee and presented in the concluding session.
- ☞ The Major Archbishop-Catholicos makes the concluding address and declares the assembly closed.

Follow-up

- ◆ A detailed report along with the concluding statement is to be presented to the HES.
- ◆ The Holy Episcopal Synod shall study it and with the approval of the president of the Holy Episcopal Synod, the Secretary of the Synod and the Chancellor of the Major Archiepiscopal Curia publish the document of the SMCCA.
- ◆ The acts of the assembly will be published.
- ◆ There shall be a general evaluation of the SMCCA.

Arrangements

- Sufficient leaders and volunteers must be incorporated for various services (food, accommodation, medical care, etc.).
- All the participants must wear the name tag (if possible photo card).