



THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MCCL Day 2015

Message

From the Chairman,
Synodal Commission for Faith Formation

Dear Reverend Fathers, Religious, Brothers and Sisters,

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church is celebrating on 8 February 2015, the Sunday following the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple (*Mayaltho*), as the day of its childrens' organization, the **Malankara Catholic Childrens' League (MCCL)**. The Church recognizes the truth that the future of our Church is in its children. Therefore, the Church gives great importance to the faith formation of the children and their Christian personality formation. It is the desire and the dream of the Church that our children grow up like Child Jesus, "who increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour" (Lk 3:52). This is the aim of the MCCL, the organization of the children of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

The decision to form the MCCL is significant in the history of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. By the decree of His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, the Father and Head of our Church, the MCCL was established on 20 September 2010. It was decided that all the organizations of the children in our various eparchies known under different names shall be integrated under the banner of the MCCL. The Church envisages the MCA for the adults, the MCYM for the youth and the MCCL for the children as the three statuses in the tri-level existence of the Church. As the MCA and the MCYM have their own byelaws and activities, so also the MCCL has an approved byelaw and organizational setup.

What is the MCCL? What is the relevance of this organization? What are its aims and activities? These questions are usually asked. The MCCL is an organizational communion of all the children who are in faith formation in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. When the Sunday School shares the academic aspects in faith formation, the MCCL focuses on the practical formation in faith. Therefore, the MCCL gives stress to the practical and ecclesial faith formation of the children. Together with the lessons in catechism, it involves the study on the Biblical personalities, the knowledge about those who took up the challenge of true faith and lived it in their daily circumstances of life, study on the great personalities of saints and martyrs in the history of the Church, formation for the holistic personality development and good of children, activities for the moral and spiritual formation of children, training for Christian life founded on the Gospel values and the Church, social activities that inspire commitment founded on the social teachings of the Church, the nurturing of the talents of arts and culture inherent in children and equipping children to discern the endless potentials and lurking dangers of modern information technology that brings about revolutionary changes. God and faith are estranged from daily life in the modern circumstances of the world that undergoes too much secularization. It is the need of the time that, in an increasing circumstance of dangerous teachings, movements and perceptions that stress only the personal dimension of faith excluding the Church, ecclesial communion and tradition, we open new ways of handing down our ecclesial faith through the movement of the MCCL.

As the two sides of a coin, the curriculum of the catechism and the activities of the MCCL are to be considered complimentary. This is the reason why the activities of the MCCL are brought under the purview of the Synodal Commission for Faith Formation at the ecclesial and eparchial levels. Every year an assembly of the children at the ecclesial level is held at the Reunion Day celebrations.

Therefore the units of the MCCL are to be formed and made lively in all parishes and mission centres. The leadership of the Archieparchial/Eparchial Directors and Parish Priests are solicited towards this. The united efforts of the Headmasters and Teachers of the Sunday School and the parents are essential for the fruitful running of the MCCL.

The provisional byelaw and guideline of the MCCL approved by the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church shall be made available at all Archieparchial/Eparchial centres. Hope that all will endeavour to celebrate well the MCCL Day in all parishes and will try to convince the faithful, especially the children, of the need of the movement. You shall plan the celebration of the Holy Qurbono, meetings, common study forums, the programmes of the children, etc. on that day. MCCL posters are prepared for all parishes.

In the name of the Church, I thank everyone who is painstakingly engaged in the ministry for the children. I request the prayerful cooperation of all.

Yours lovingly in Jesus Christ,

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✠ Philipos Mar Stephanos
Chairman, Synodal Commission
for Faith Formation

27.01.2015
Catholicate Centre,
Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram

NB. This Circular shall be read on 8 February 2015, the MCCL Day, during the Holy Qurbono in all our parishes and mission centres.
