



## Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

# Commission for Faith Formation

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**CFF / 2015 / 01**  
**26 June 2015**

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

*Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation!*

A new era has begun in the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church with the erection of the Eparchy of St. John Chrysostom, Gurgaon-Delhi and the Exarchy of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune. With this announcement, our Church is bestowed with all-India Jurisdiction. His Excellency Jacob Mar Barnabas and His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios, the two proud sons of the Bethany Ashram have taken up the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News over the entire Indian Sub-continent. Let us join hands together with these two pillars of the Church in visualizing the dream of Mar Ivanios Pithavu, in materializing the mission of Mar Gregorios Pithavu and in extending the thoughts of Mar Baselios Pithavu.

By the grace of God and the appointment of the new Apostolic Exarch, I have taken up the responsibility of the Director of Catechesis and MCCL, Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune from 11 June 2015 onwards. The Department of Catechesis and MCCL will work under the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation of which I am appointed the Secretary. Taking into consideration the present scarcity of personnel, my appointment in the Exarchate is a distinctive one with the responsibility of co-ordinating the various Exarchial Commissions. The details of the appointments in the Exarchate will be communicated to you through the circular of the Apostolic Exarch.

The structure and the activities of the Department of Catechesis will be in continuation with the MCC ETRI. MCCL (Malankara Catholic Children's League) has to be initiated in all the parishes of the Exarchate and a working arrangement has to be drawn at the central level in order to evolve and facilitate the activities of the MCCL in the parishes and zones. A higher body, the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation, will be constituted in the Exarchy for evaluating, planning, executing and monitoring the various activities of these two Departments in the Exarchate; the details of which will be communicated to you very soon.

The Exarchate Centre for the Department of Catechesis will work from St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Cathedral, Khadki-Pune.

In the Pastoral Council of the Exarchate on 11 June 2015, the following points were proposed as an immediate measure to initiate and promote the activities of the Department of Catechesis and MCCL in the Exarchate. A detailed plan will be proposed, discussed and implemented by the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation which is proposed to be constituted in the month of August itself. Kindly go through the following proposals and revert back as early as possible after discussing with the Teachers, Students and Parents of Sunday School.

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*Grow in Christ; Rooted in the Word and Guided by the Spirit*

## **Department of Catechesis**

- The existing academic structure to be continued
- The academic year begins on the FIRST Sunday of June and ends on the SECOND Sunday of April
- The First Semester Examination to be conducted on the First Sunday of November and the Second Semester Examination to be conducted on the Second Sunday of April
- The Grade System to be continued with little modifications
- Apart from the academic evaluation, derive an Internal Assessment pattern to motivate the children to live the faith
- The valuation process of the Semester Examinations to be brought under strict scrutiny
- Constitute the Zonal General Body and Zonal Executive before 31 July 2015
- The Director will oversee the Zonal General Body and Zonal Executive
- The Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation will be constituted in the month of August itself

## **Malankara Catholic Children's League (MCCL)**

- MCCL is the Association for the children, till the age of 15, which has a working arrangement to inculcate moral values, spiritual vision and leadership qualities in the children
- Constitute MCCL in all our Parishes before 31 August 2015
- Constitute Zonal Level MCCL Committees before 31 October 2015

The Syllabus for the First Semester is attached herewith this Circular. Kindly note the first Semester Examination is proposed to be held on the First Sunday of November 2015. A new website for the Department will be launched in this month itself. Please do the necessary to constitute MCCL in all our Parishes before 31 July 2015. The parishes, which already have MCCL Committees, kindly forward the details of the office bearers through email. The Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation has a new email id [catechesis.exarchate@gmail.com](mailto:catechesis.exarchate@gmail.com).

A new website is under construction. You can directly download circulars, syllabus, question bank, question pattern and transliterated version of liturgical hymns from the website once it is launched. There will be provisions in the website to access Catholic resources, spiritual talks, orientation classes and Holy Qurbono of different denominations.

I humbly submit myself for your earnest prayers to fulfill the mission entrusted to me. If you all are with me and if God is for us, nothing is impossible! Let us trust in the abundant mercy of God and believe in the infinite love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Protector.

Wish you all a Blessed Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul!

*Yours in Christ Jesus,*

*Fr. Varghese Valikkodath*

**Secretary  
Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation**