



Exarchate of St. Ephrem, Khadki-Pune

Commission for Faith Formation

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

Prayerful Greetings from the Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation!

Long association with the Department of Catechesis, which began in the year 2006 in Muvattupuzha Diocese, continued in MCC ETRI from 2008 to 2015, with the exception of one year in between 2011-12 and extended to the Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune in 2015 is coming to an end with the appointment of new Exarchial Director of Catechesis, Fr Philip Pulipra with effect from 15 April 2018. The long journey from 2006 till today was a time to deeply reflect upon the faith of the Church, closely observe the methodology of catechesis, steadily implement systematic approach and thoroughly maintain strict discipline in the Department of Catechesis. Now the time has come for me to step down as the Director of Catechesis, Exarchate of St Ephrem, Khadki-Pune.

The time to depart is the time to ponder over the warmth and strength of a relationship. It is the time to gratefully acknowledge the support received to fulfil this mission. With a thankful heart, I take this opportunity to appreciate your whole-hearted involvement in the activities of the Department of Catechesis. The able guidance of Rev. Fathers, the active presence of Rev. Sisters, strong leadership of the Headmasters/Headmistresses, the committed service of the Teachers and the sincere motivation of the Parents have helped a lot in nurturing and stabilizing the initiatives of the Department. The timely interventions of our Aboon, His Excellency Thomas Mar Anthonios, have helped to overcome many confusions and go beyond the normal expectations. The genuine support extended by V. Rev. Msgr. Varghese Mattamana, the Proto-Syncellus is worth mentioning. V. Rev. Fr Varghese Kaithon, the Finance Officer was very generous and prompt in the matters concerning finance.

Beyond these, a person who needs special mention is Mr Joel Joykutty, a youth from Baroda Parish in the Diocese of Gurgaon working in Pune. Ever since I took up the responsibility of the Department of Catechesis, MCC ETRI in 2008, when I was the Vicar of Baroda, he has been with me throughout as a close aide in helping me with the systematization of the Department. It was

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

his sincere and strenuous efforts that helped me to translate the vision of the Department into concrete plans and execute the desired plans according to the context of each District. Even when he was caught up with the hectic schedule of his office work and travel, he invariably found time to help me in computerizing the data, printing the Question Papers, arrangement of evaluation and creating the Mark Lists. The Department of Catechesis is indeed indebted to his selfless service!

When I joyfully hand over the responsibilities to Rev. Fr Philip Pulipra, who has done higher studies in Education and Mass Media Communication, the future of the Department is intact. He will be able to take the Department to newer heights. His expertise in the field of education will enable him to introduce new pedagogies in the process of catechesis. His working experience in Mass Media Communication will be an added advantage to efficiently use Communication Media in faith formation. His association with the Department of Catechesis as the Catechism Director of Mumbai District has helped him to have a thorough knowledge of the existing system prevailing in the Department. I wish him all the best in all his endeavours as the Exarchial Director of Catechesis. I ensure him my whole hearted co-operation in making the Department the best in Malankara Catholic Church.

With folded hands, standing before the Almighty Lord, I prayerfully acknowledge the miraculous interventions He has made in bringing about a tremendous change in the Department of Catechesis in the last 10 years. The challenge I took up, through His inspiration, to equip the Teachers through timely Seminars have been fruitful occasions for me in deepening my faith in Christ and the Church. I had many opportunities to learn and form myself. The preparations of Question Banks and Question Papers have helped me to expand my knowledge in the content of faith according to the context of the children.

Let me conclude by reminding the motto of the Department:

‘Grow in Christ; Rooted in the word and guided by the Spirit’.

May the Good Lord bless you all!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Varghese Valikkadath

Secretary

Exarchial Commission for Faith Formation