
MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

SYNODAL COMMISSION FOR THE YOUTH

Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos
Chairman



Major Archbishop's House
Thirusannidhi
Pattom, Trivandrum – 695 004

MALANKARA CATHOLIC YOUTH DAY **5 OCTOBER 2008 SUNDAY**

MESSAGE

Most Rev. Fathers, Coepiscopoi, Rambans, Rev. Fathers, Religious,
dear youth and Faithful in the Lord,

October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the heavenly Patron of the Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (MCYM), is celebrated as Youth Day in the Malankara Catholic Church. Since 4 October is a working day, I cordially invite all the Rev. Fathers, the Faithful and especially the members of the MCYM to celebrate the Youth Day befittingly in all our parishes and mission stations on Sunday, 5 October 2008. I remind all of you to conduct on that day after the celebration of the Holy Qurbano, Assisi Study Seminar and meetings that highlight the mission and involvement of the Youth in the Church and to extend all sorts of encouragement to the activities of the youth.

I congratulate and felicitate the activities of the Malankara Catholic Youth, who, along with the Church, work in the ecclesial, diocesan and parish realms, either in the organizational level or otherwise. The youth, full of vitality, is the strength and hope of the Church. It is the duty of the youth, more than all others, to build up the Church, to keep alive the message of the Church in the society and to renew the Church continuously. Every Malankara Catholic young man and woman is called to be the custodian and carrier of the vision and interests of the Malankara Catholic Church in the community of the faithful. The youth should be able to stand firm like rock along with the Church, participating in the missionary activities of the Church and without any wavering amidst crises.

This is an epoch when the Church and the society at large confront with various oppositions. In India where values of secularism and democracy are upheld, human and religious lives have become unsafe. Christian missionaries and communities are being persecuted and brutally massacred and churches are destroyed in Orissa, Mangalore and in several other places. The poor faithful are being hunted after just for being Christians. Under these circumstances of insecurity, our youth should be able to instill in these people self-confidence, strength, consolation and hope. The youth-Church should be prepared to give witness to steadfast and courageous faith. It is the path of love and suffering that lie ahead of us; the way our Lord Jesus Christ has shown us. One who takes weapon is a coward. We need the boldness of faith which shuns weapons. Violence is not our way.

This is also a period when atheism and materialism are gaining strength. Atheistic movements are trying to insult the Church and her authorities through overt and covert means. Greed for wealth, extravagance, corruption and nepotism are destroying this society. Here, our youth should become the symbols of divine faith, love, justice and fidelity. Let the members of the MCYM be the spokespersons of peace, renunciation and commitment like St. Francis of Assisi.

Dear Youth,

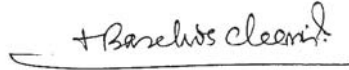
The topic of our study for the years 2008-2009 is, 'Abide in the Word and Sanctify the World'. You should study deeply and practice this well-timed topic. This topic invites us to acquire holiness in the mutual abiding of the Word and the person and thereby to share in the mission of the Church in order to sanctify the human society and the world. 'To live in the Word' means, 'to live in relations with the Word of God in order to mould your life in accordance with that Word'. The Word is God himself. This Word took flesh and became man. The constant reading of and the meditation on the Word should make us devotees of the Word. This is the union of the branches with the vine." I am the vine and you are the branches" (Jn 15:5).

The Psalmist says thus: "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119:105). Association with the Word of God will enlighten life and the ways of life. For, it is Christ who shines forth in us through the Word. "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness" (Jn 8:12). Sanctification is the process by which an individual is filled with light, having expelled the inner darkness of sin. This is union with Christ. The strength of youthhood should emerge from the Word. "I write to you young people, because you are strong and the Word of God abides in you: and you have overcome the evil one" (1 Jn 2: 14). To abide in the Word and to sanctify the present world by the power of the Word is the mission of the young people. They ought to expel the inequality and the moral decadences that exist in the society. The youth should be able to do good and propagate them arousing divine, moral and the democratical values in the society.

On this MCYM day, let us offer before God the youth of the Malankara Church. The activities of the Youth Movement should not be weakened in any parish either due to the personal peculiarities or due to flawed vision or due to organizational defects. Those who are concerned should see that the offerings of the MCYM day is sent to

the respective Eparchial Centers to be utilized for the works of the Youth Movement. Let me remind all who are responsible in the parish to render all possible helps for the activities of the Youth Movement. May the grace and blessings of the omnipotent God be with us all.

Amen



Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos

Major Archbishop of the Malankara Catholic Church

Chairman, Synodal Commission for the Youth

23.09.2008
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum

Our Father in Heaven...

N.B.: This message should be read in all our churches, mission centres and centres of worship during the Holy Qurbano either on 5 October or next Sunday.
