

# FIRST EPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY LINEAMENTA



SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF MISSISSAUGA

**THEME**

**BE A MISSION &  
BUILD THE CHURCH**

3

*BE A MISSION &  
BUILD THE EPARCHY*



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# BE A MISSION IN CANADA



## 1. Reach out to the scattered

### Challenges

Approximately 30,000, Syro-Malabar faithful are scattered across the Canada

Geographical vastness and limited infrastructure

Challenges for those who live in remote locations to access a Church

Some separated from Syro-Malabar parishes/mission centers due to disagreements, misunderstandings

People not feeling welcomed

Commitment required for administrative level to connect with these scattered faithful and coordinate them

### Suggestions to overcome challenges

Going to the peripheries

Establishing a help center or implementing effective means of communication such as an email or telephone number with the nearest parish and the Eparchial office

Availability of catechetical studies, sacramental preparation classes, family unit prayers or online meetings with the nearest parish priest through online platforms

The pastor and the parish community to reach out to those parishioners disconnected from the community





## 2. Strengthen the gathered

Uphold the laity's great responsibility in God's plan for the world

Pastors and parish/mission leaders should strengthen the spiritual growth of the faithful entrusted to their pastoral care, build up communion and belongingness among the parishioners, and foster the Christian values in the families

Organize parish annual retreats, seminars and classes for different age groups, and regular family unit meetings to strengthen the parish community

Provide necessary enculturation programs for the priests and the religious who come to Canada for the first time, to strengthen their ministry

Various roles for the laity:  
Catechists, kaikarans (trustees), pastoral council/parish council members, leaders of associations and ministries, renewal ministry coordinators, and dedicated volunteers in different categories.

**Suggestions  
to strengthen  
the gathered**

## 3. Church is a refuge A welcoming Church



Create a sense of belongingness and inclusiveness to all, beyond language and cultural differences

Provide moral support by the community to the needed

Accommodate the youth and encourage their active participation in all levels of Liturgical celebration and other parish-based activities and wholeheartedly embrace their perspectives and ideas

**How can  
we be a  
welcoming  
Church?**





## 4. Challenges in the mission

### External Challenges

Influence of secularization and liberalization in a materialistic culture

Impacts of individualism and privatization on the families

Culture of death

Influence of media

### Internal Challenges

Ignorance/loss of the rich heritage

Problems faced by the immigrants



# Challenges in the mission (External Challenges)

## 1. Influence of secularization & liberalization in a materialistic culture

Secularization tends to reduce the faith and the Church to the sphere of the private and personal

Rejecting the transcendent has produced a growing deterioration of ethics, a weakening of the sense of personal and collective sin, and a steady increase in relativism

Denial of God

The materialistic worldview refuses man to realize his intrinsic beauty as a creation of God



**Thrust of the Church as a witnessing community in a secular world:**

**Live the Gospel values within our community to transform the culture**



## Challenges in the mission (External Challenges)



## 2. Impacts of Individualism and Privatization on the Families

### **Alarming signs of degradation of fundamental values faced by families:**

The profound cultural crisis where the value of marriage is under threat

The mistaken theoretical and practical concept of the independence of the spouses

Misconceptions regarding the relationship of authority between parents and children

Challenges in the transmission of values

The growing number of divorces

Scourge of abortion

The ever more frequent recourse to sterilization



## Challenges in the mission (External Challenges)

### 3. Culture of death

**The dignity of human life as a gift of God is questioned:  
Examples**

Unborn children

Victims of abortion (Legalization of procuring of abortion in Canada)

The elderly and incurably ill are subjected to euthanasia (Legalization of euthanasia – Medical assistance in dying - in Canada)

Violence against human life

**Join the pro-life ministry of the  
Church to proclaim the Gospel of  
love and life.**



### 4. Influence of media

**The negative influence of media:  
Examples**

Sensationalize and falsify events

Disastrous campaigns in social media targeting the reputation of persons or communities

Manipulation of realities, opinions, and people

**Use the wisdom:**

- **To recognize the fraudulence & discernment to see the hidden agendas**
- **Of patience to respond respectfully**
- **Of courage to defend the truth**
- **Of perseverance to protect a culture of unity in handling media in everyday life**

# Challenges in the mission (Internal Challenges)



## Ignorance/loss of the rich heritage

- ▼ Accept the values in the Canadian culture that can foster our faith and the dignity of persons.
- ▼ Teach the children to esteem the worth of moral integrity.
- ▼ Enhance the richness of the Catholic Church and the Syro-Malabar identity with rich traditions, among the faithful

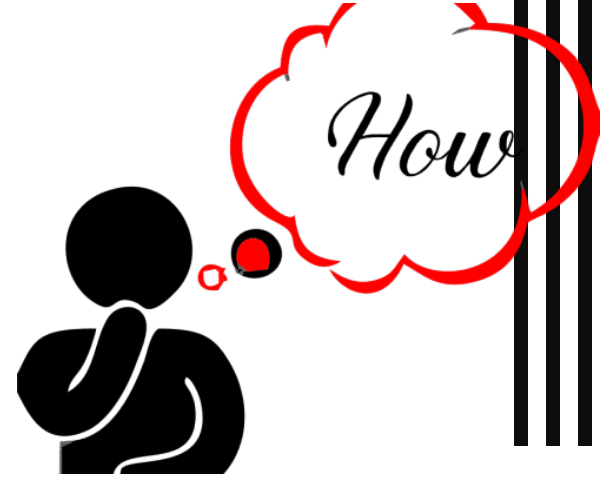
## Problems faced by immigrants

- ▼ Challenges in a career
- ▼ Language barrier
- ▼ Social isolation
- ▼ Challenges in adapting to new culture & values
- ▼ Financial constraints
- ▼ Challenging weather
- ▼ Lack of support from families
- ▼ Lack of adequate housing



## 5. How can we survive?

- How can we survive by reconstructing the original tradition in another culture?
- What shall we adapt and retain from the original source?
- What shall we do to ensure the presence of our growing generation in our Churches?
- Do we need a foresighted new model for pastoral ministry?
- Isn't the group bias and regionalism in our community a counter-witness?
- Doesn't the counter-witness damage integrity and solidarity?
- Can we propose a Syro-Western pastoral model for the Syro-Malabar immigrant Eparchies worldwide?





# BE A WITNESS TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

## Faith witness at different levels



### *Faith witness in the Eparchy*

- ▼ Syro-Malabar Catholic Eparchy of Mississauga, under the guidance of the Eparchial Bishop, is entrusted to establish parishes and missions to foster the faith life of the Syro-Malabar faithful across Canada and promote Canada's re-evangelization.



### *Faith witness in family units*

- ▼ Following the spirit of the early Christian community, family unit members gather as one community for prayer, learning, and social interaction. It deepens the familial bond among the members of the parish/mission.



### *Faith witness in parishes & missions*

- ▼ The parish community is the prime mover and the pre-eminent place of faith formation. The parish is where the faith is passed down, lived, and sustained for all members of the body of Christ.
- ▼ The active participation and practice of the Church's liturgy, prayers, devotions, and popular piety provide a powerful witness to the faith.



### *Faith witness at the domestic Church*

- ▼ Family is the domestic Church, where "parents by their word and example, become the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state".

**Be a witness to Christ by testifying by our words, actions and attitudes, the sacred mystery that we have seen, heard and believed in our lives**

# DIFFERENT PLATFORMS FOR PROCLAMATION

## 1. Roles of departments, associations & ministries



The key departments :

- ▼ Department of Catechesis
- ▼ Department of Pious Associations for Children
- ▼ Department of Youth Ministry
- ▼ Department of Family Apostolate
- ▼ Department of Vocation

Associations, and ministries:

- ▼ Jesus Kids
- ▼ Holy Childhood Association
- ▼ Little Flower Mission League (CML)
- ▼ Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM),
- ▼ Mathruvedi (Syro-Malabar Mother's Association)
- ▼ Pithruvedi (Syro-Malabar Father's Association)
- ▼ Catholic Congress
- ▼ Knights of Columbus
- ▼ Nurse's Ministry .....

***Associations in the Church promote spiritual life, lay leadership, personality development, an apostolate of evangelization, and the promotion of Christian doctrine.***

***All these associations and community gatherings aim to sanctify and nourish the Church, the body of Christ.***

## 2. Media, Shepherds of Faith (SOF), Divine Academy, Integrated Social Service Society-Action Canada (ISSSAC)



### *Media*

- ▼ Media is an excellent source for communication, information sharing, and spreading the Gospel's values



- ▼ One way to experience this call is to discover the beauty of faith and encounter Christ
- ▼ The media commission of the Eparchy can coordinate this ministry



### *Integrated Social Service Society-Action Canada (ISSAC)*

- ▼ (ISSSAC) coordinates the social and charitable activities of the Eparchy under one umbrella



### *Shepherds of Faith (SOF)*

- ▼ SOF supports missionary activities under the guidance of the Church to serve the needy in the Syro-Malabar communities across Canada



- ▼ SOF endeavours to provide pastoral care to the needy, isolated, and vulnerable communities, nurturing fellowship and integral youth development
- ▼ SOF provides spiritual and financial support to the Eparchy under the leadership of the laity



# ROAD TO SELF-SUSTENANCE



Areas that need much support & improvement in our Eparchy

- ▼ Support for different ministries of the Eparchy
- ▼ Need our own Churches to start a full-fledged ministry
- ▼ Limited availability of full-time priests to provide pastoral care in the Syro-Malabar rite, for the scattered faithful
- ▼ Need more full-time priests and religious

***We trust in the providence of the Lord  
and thank the generosity and support  
of the faithful of Canada***



# CALL TO WITNESS CHRIST TO ENLIGHTEN THE CULTURE



## 1. Witness Christ in immigrant culture

Evangelizing the culture with Catholic tradition is our duty. So, say 'yes' to missionary spirituality. There may be challenges in the battle of witnessing Christ. Do not be pessimistic seeing the burdens of Christian life. Aim for victory in advance and be confident. Keep a burning fire of faith within us to be a mission to experience the joy of evangelization.

***My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12:9).***



## 2. Christ, the fullness of life

By laying down his life for the folks, for us, Jesus gave us the fullness of life making us partakers in the divine kingdom. It is through Jesus that we enter the fullness of life.

The center of the Christian life is always Jesus.

The mission of the Church is to profess the only true God Jesus and his centrality in our lives, in the Church and in the universe.

***Christ is at the center; Christ is the center. Christ is the center of creation, Christ is the center of His people and Christ is the center of history".***





# CONCLUSION

- ▼ Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada have the responsibility to build the Eparchy by upholding our faith tradition, with Jesus our Savior at the center.
- ▼ Faith formation programs, associations, ministries, and lay movements should work together to build up the Eparchy and the Body of Christ.
- ▼ Evangelize the parishes/missions, families, and the people of God.
- ▼ Be the instruments of evangelization for our surroundings and the whole of Canada.
- ▼ Face the challenges of mission courageously and proclaim that Christ is the fullness and the center of our lives.





*Thank  
you*



SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF MISSISSAUGA

