

# FIRST EPARCHIAL ASSEMBLY LINEAMENTA

SYRO MALABAR CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF  
MISSISSAUGA





# Eparchial Assembly

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Introduction and Chapter One



# The purpose of the Eparchial Assembly



- 1.To evaluate its previous year's growth** prayerfully and Critically
- 2.To formulate a future pastoral plan**

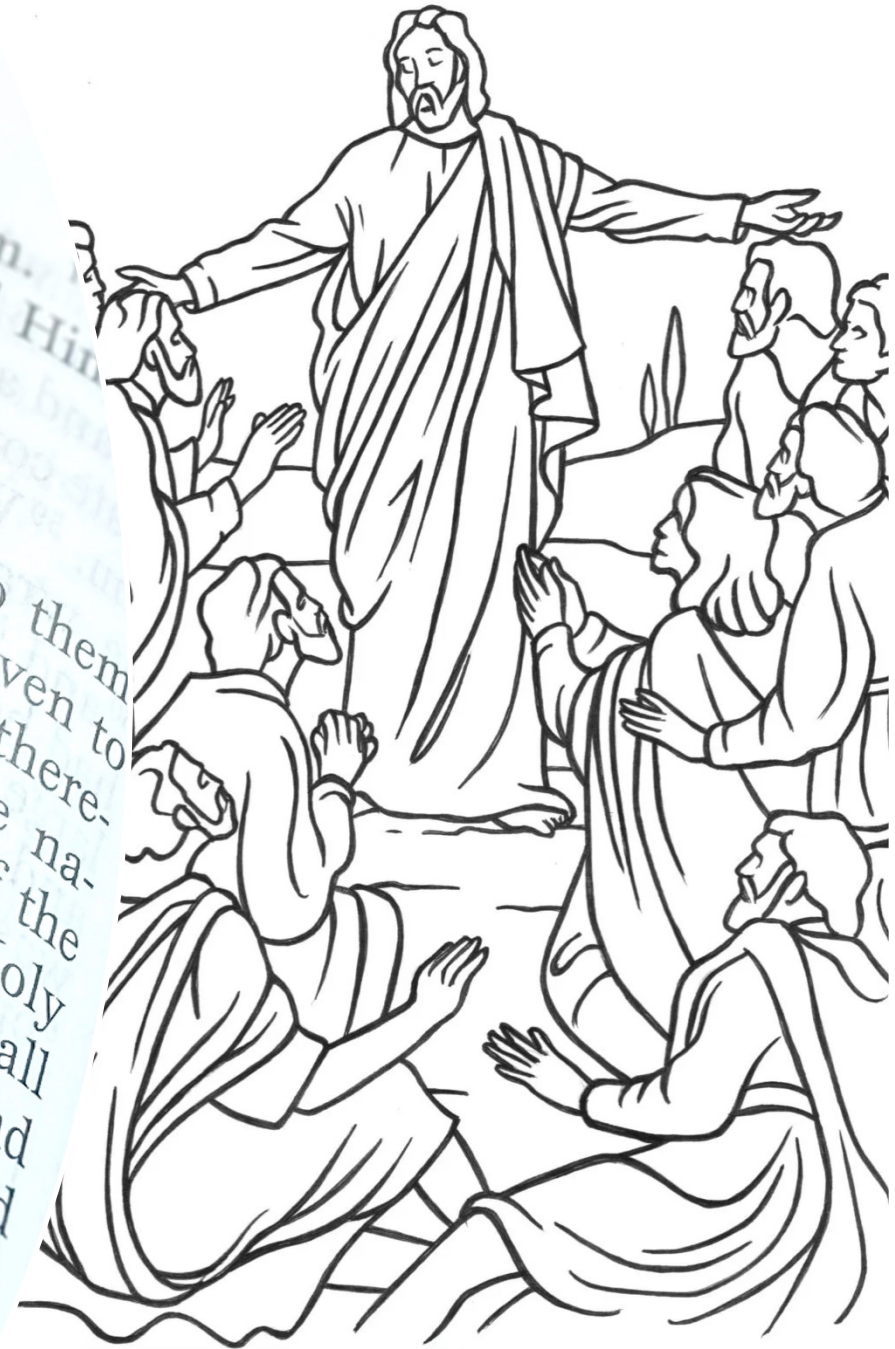
# Background of the Eparchial Assembly

**Primarily it rests on  
the Great  
commissioning of the  
disciples**

Jesus had appointed for them.  
they saw Him, they worshiped Him  
some doubted.

## *Great Commission*

and Jesus came and spoke to them  
"All authority has been given to  
me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go <sup>3</sup> there-  
fore make disciples of all the na-  
tions in the name of the Holy  
Father, the Son and of the Holy  
Spirit, teaching them to observe all  
that I have commanded you; and  
you will always be with me to the end  
of the age. Amen.



# Background of the Eparchial Assembly

- 🌐 With the great commissioning of the disciples (Mt 28: 19) the Gospel was spread to the ends of the earth. Starting with the Apostles themselves, Christian missionaries travelled all around the world giving rise to Latin and Eastern churches
- 🌐 Among the twenty-three Eastern Catholic Churches sui iuris, four are major archiepiscopal Churches.
- 🌐 The Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church was raised to this status by Saintly Pope John Paul II on December 16, 1992, enhancing the second position after the Ukrainian Major Archiepiscopal Church in its number of faithful.
- 🌐 The Syro-Malabar Church, in its manner of living the faith, has a unique liturgical, theological, spiritual, and disciplinary heritage, differentiated by the culture and circumstances of the people.

# Background of the Eparchial Assembly

- The immigration of the Syro-Malabar faithful started in the 1960s
- Syro Malabar priests working in the Roman Catholic dioceses took care of the pastoral care of the Syro Malabar Catholics in Canada.
- Bishop Mar Jacob Angadiath, then bishop of the Eparchy of Chicago as the Permanent Apostolic Visitor to Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada from 2009 to 2015 is another milestone in the history of Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada.

## Background of the Eparchial Assembly

- 🌐 August 6, 2015, His Holiness Pope Francis, erected an Apostolic Exarchate for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada and appointed Very Reverend Dr. Jose Kalluvelil as its first Apostolic Exarch.
- 🌐 The main objectives: form, fortify and evangelize the people of God and provide them with all the necessary pastoral care.



## Background of the Eparchial Assembly

- The Apostolic Exarchate for the Syro-Malabar Catholics in Canada was elevated to the rank of Eparchy with the title of "Mississauga" by His Holiness Pope Francis on December 22, 2018.
- Approximately 30,000 faithful across Canada from 18 parishes, 28 Missions and 8 Holy Mass centers in the Eparchy are pastorally guided by the bishop and 20 priests.
- Nine religious sisters from three Congregations also assist in various Eparchial ministries.





# The Eparchial Assembly in Canonical Perspective

- The Eparchial assembly is to be convoked whenever, in the judgement of the Eparchial Bishop and after consultation with the Presbyteral Council, the circumstances recommend it
- The Eparchial assembly assists the bishop in matters that regard the special needs of the Eparchy or its benefits



## Specific purposes of the assembly according to Canon Law

- 🏛️ **Adaptation of the Eastern Code and the Particular law of the Church *sui iuris* to the Eparchy's distinctive pastoral needs**
- 🏛️ **Examining pastoral concerns of the Eparchy**
- 🏛️ **Promoting Eparchial pastoral initiatives**
- 🏛️ **Addressing possible doctrinal errors or questionable pastoral practices**



# The Theme of the Eparchial Assembly

The theme of the Eparchial Assembly is selected as **“Be a Mission and Build the Church”**, which closely resembles the theme of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Assembly, scheduled for August 2024, **“Mission and Life of Syro-Malabar Church in Response to the Needs of the Time”**.

*therefore and making  
principles of all the new*

# The Theme of the Eparchial Assembly



**“Be a Mission  
and Build the  
Church”**



# The Action Plan Overview

- **Guidelines (*Lineamenta*) Preparation:** The expert committee of the Eparchy prepares the guidelines on the topics related to the theme of the assembly and distributes them to the Parishes and Missions.
- **Parish Assembly:** Each parish has to organize its assemblies, based on the guideline, for different groups and the reports are to be sent to the Eparchial office.
- **Working Documents (*Instrumentum Laboris*):** A working document is prepared by compiling all the points and suggestions received from the parish assemblies and it will be given to the participants for their advance preparation for the Eparchial Assembly.
- **Eparchial Assembly:** During the Eparchial Assembly, there will be detailed discussions, guided by the Holy Spirit, on the topics decided.
- **Action Plan:** In light of the assembly decisions, a priority-based action plan for the Eparchy will be completed within an allotted time and published.
- **Follow-up Committee:** All recommended action plans will be implemented under the leadership of the follow-up committee.

*Be a Mission & Build the Church*



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## CHAPTER I

# THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

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## The Great Commission of Jesus

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

*19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

- Matthew 28:19-20

**Jesus Christ was and is, and will be, the greatest Good News that ever happened on Earth. The Church is and must be the visible sign of this Good News. That is, to be the Good News here and now is the mission of the Church.**

The Mission of the

# CHURCH

**Church is Missionary  
by Nature**

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The Church, now being sent by Jesus does not have a mission other than that of Jesus. It does not have a manner of functioning other than that of Jesus.

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**Christ was the one who sent His  
disciples to the world to be servants like Him**



# **Jesus' model of Executing the Mission**

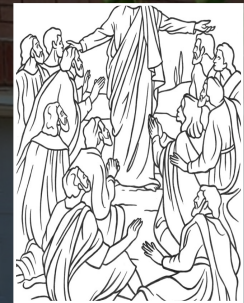
- ① **The calling of Levy and Zacchaeus and the subsequent meals in their houses**
- ① **Going out in search of the Samaritan woman**
- ① **Visiting the town of Nain to bring back the widow's only son to life**
- ① **Going to Gerasene to cast out the demons from a man**

# Be a Mission and Build the Church



The concept of "mission" and the act of "building the Church" go together

The believers, namely the Church, are the body of Christ



All Christians who are members of the body of Christ are endowed with this same mission

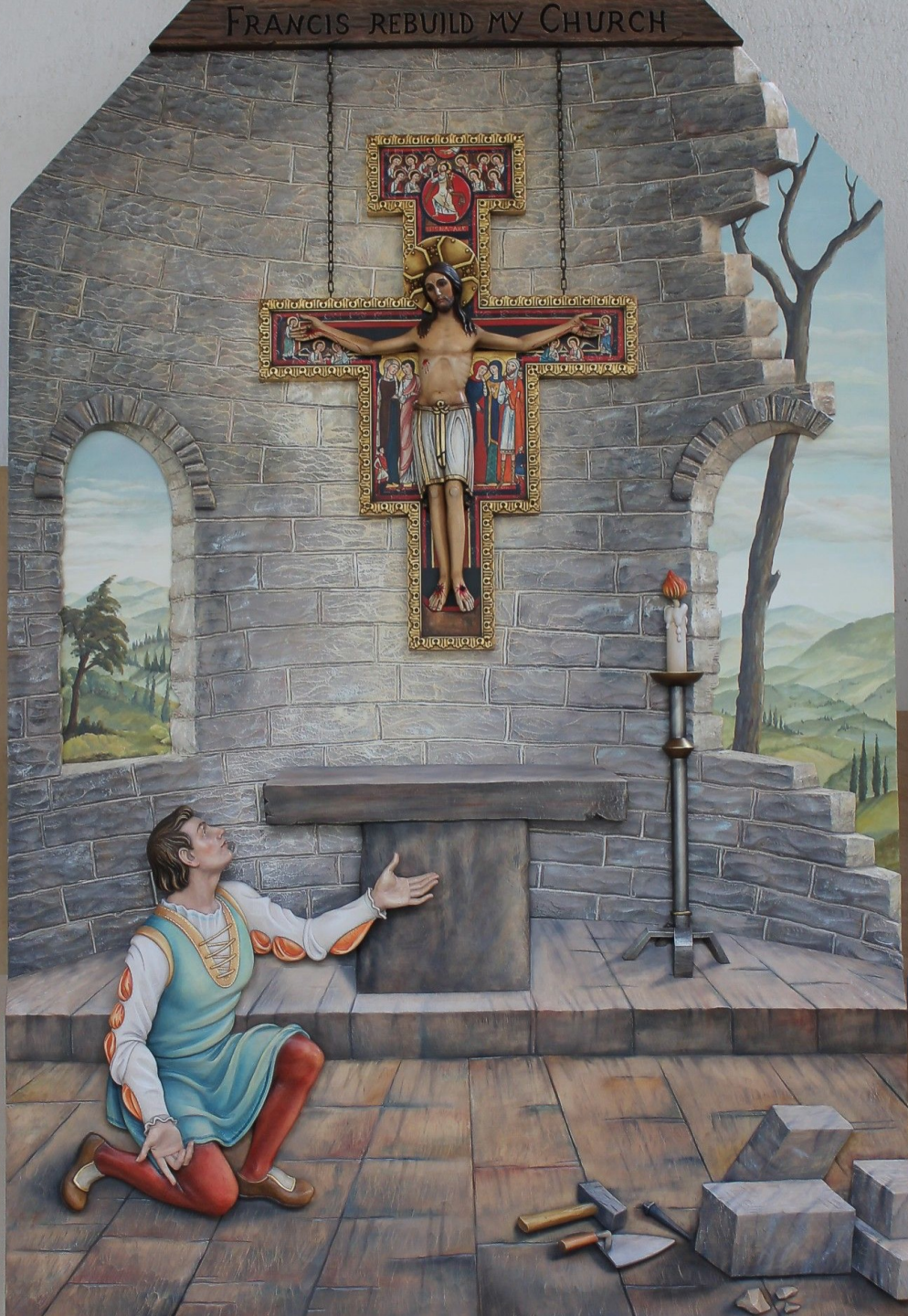
# Build My Church



**"Upon This Rock I Will  
Build My Church"**

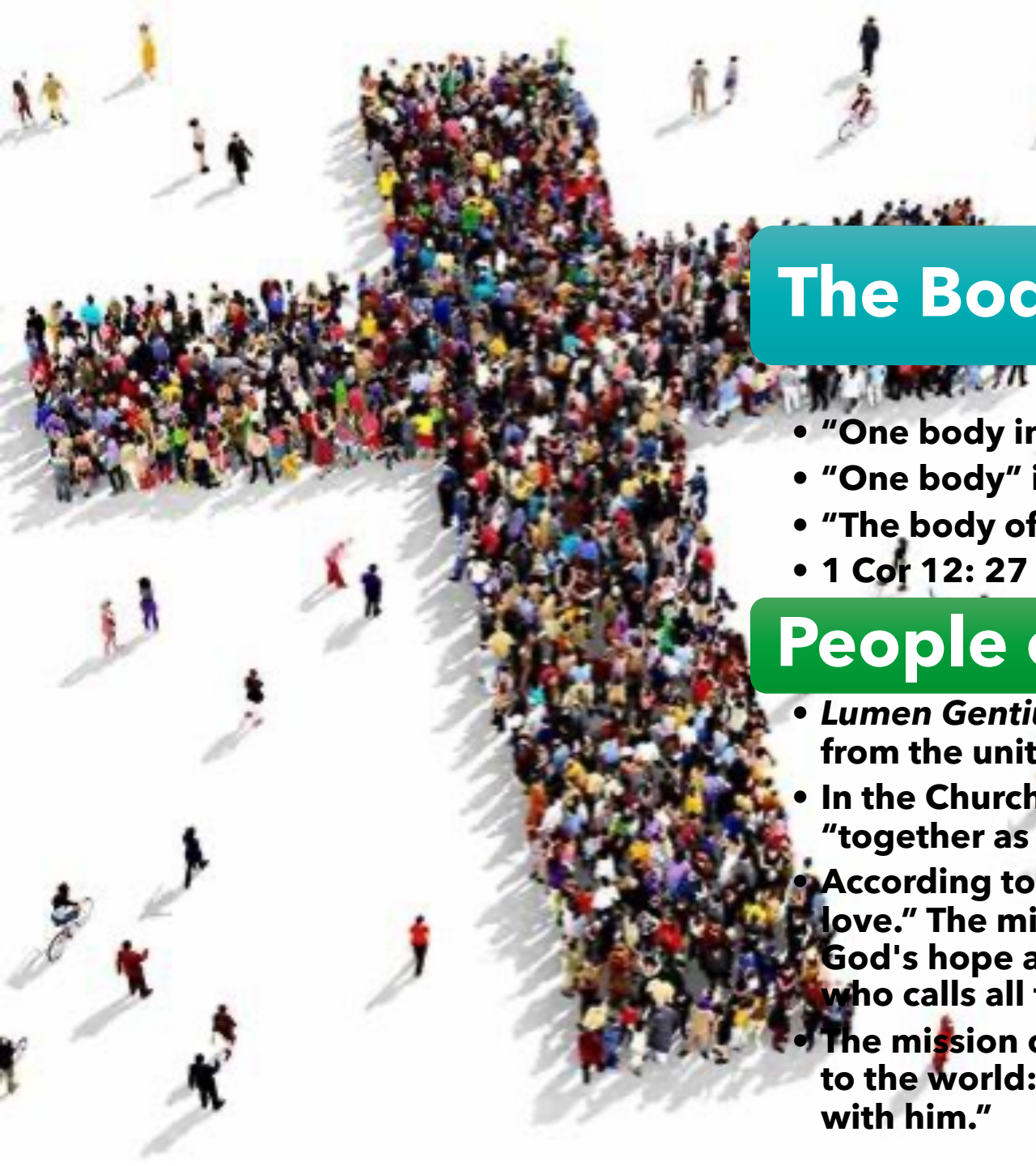


FRANCIS REBUILD MY CHURCH



## St. Peter and St. Francis : Building the CHURCH

- *Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like a living stone, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2:1-5).*
- Life of St. Francis is a model for rebuilding the CHURCH



# Church – The Body of Christ and the People of God

## The Body of Christ

Common New Testament metaphor

- “One body in Christ” in Romans 12: 5
- “One body” in 1 Corinthians 10: 17
- “The body of Christ” in
- 1 Cor 12: 27 and Ephesians 4: 12

## People of God

- *Lumen Gentium* teaches that the Church is “a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”.
- In the Church we are indeed made holy, not “merely as individuals” but “together as one people”.
- According to Pope Francis people of God are governed by “the law of love.” The mission of the People of God, the Pope continued, is “to bring God's hope and salvation to the world: to be a sign of the love of God who calls all to friendship with him.”
- The mission of the People of God, is “to bring God's hope and salvation to the world: to be a sign of the love of God who calls all to friendship with him.”

# Synodality

- **Pope Francis initiated a synodal journey of the whole People of God, beginning in October 2021 in each local Church and culminating in October 2023 in the Assembly of the Synod of Bishops.**
- **The focus of this Synod is on listening to the Holy Spirit. Listening to express, how we can journey together as Church**
- **Pope Francis is inviting Catholics both in the mainstream of the Church life and on the margins to voice their dreams, ideas, and vision about the Church.**
- **Fundamentally, synodality is about journeying together. This happens through listening to one another to hear what God is saying to all of us. It is realizing that the Holy Spirit can speak through anyone to help us walk forward together on our journey as the People of God.**

# SYNODALITY

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## Communion

Communion has at its roots, the love and unity of the Trinity, and is expressed in God's covenant with His people.

## Participation

Participation is a call for all the people of God to engage in listening deeply and respectfully to one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

## Mission

The mission of the Church is the task given by God for the people of God to accomplish in the world. In simplest terms, the mission of the Church is the Great Commission

