

2012 Malankara Syriac Orthodox Sunday School (MSOSSA) Annual Report



Malankara Syriac Orthodox Sunday School – Shaping Hearts with God’s Word and Syrian Orthodox Faith

Summary

Sunday school is the most powerful tool the Holy Church has to impact the life of a child. While Bible exposure and enrichment is important, it’s just as vital to ensure we have helped them to live it out in their daily experience. Sunday school should not only get our children into the Bible and our faith, it should get the Bible and our faith into our children, transforming their hearts and lives. For this they need to know the true meaning of our Holy Sacraments – especially the Holy Qurbono, which is the Queen of Sacraments; for this they need to be infused with the essence of Bible events through engaging classroom lessons and exciting VBS programs; for this we need to follow a student involved teaching model that will enable internalization of the class room themes. Two surveys carried out at the parish level clearly showed that the emphasis and priority needs of our churches are fully aligned with this vision. The specific needs being (1) introduce supplementary curriculum on Holy Qurbono (2) create a Sunday school book for the Kindergarten class (3) unify VBS material and allow access to the kits for the entire diocese (4) make the centralized test for the 10th grade student-friendly and scientifically based and (5) implement programs to help teachers with better teaching methodology and tools.

Your Sunday School Board made earnest efforts to address each of these needs and made considerable progress in every single area – a Kindergarten book was introduced for the 2010 – 2011 Sunday School year, supplementary curriculum on Holy Qurbono was introduced for grades 8, 9, and 10; the 10th grade (these are being combined as a beginner’s guide on Holy Qurbono) , a process and protocol was implemented for the Class X Exam to ensure a student friendly and scientifically based centralized exam, VBS has been unified and the kits made available to all the regions well in advance via online tools, webinars on student centered teaching methodologies have been conducted and certain ‘tools for teachers’ have been made available to the teachers to support them in the teaching. A calendar linked performance plan was initiated that can help the parishes for the effective conduct of the Sunday school and all major communications and information are available and updated in a centralized location, the Sunday School page on Malankara.com.

The highlights of the special projects and the regional activities are given below:

Centralized Exam Panel (CEP):

Director: Mr. Jeeth Joseph Thomas



1st Rank
Rev.Dn. Subin Shaji
St. George, NC



2nd Rank
Ms. Mary Thomas
St. Peter's & St. Paul's, NY



3rd Rank
Rev. Dn. Jan Wilson
St. George, NC

The Malankara Archdiocese 10th grade centralized exam was conducted on December 4th, 2011 that included students from all 5 Regions. The exam constituents were broken down as follows: Region 1 – 17 students, Region 2 – 11 students, Region 3 – 11 students, Region 4 – 14 students, and Region 5 – 6 students.

The National Ranks was earned as follows: **1st** by Rev. Dn. Subin Shaji from St. George, Charlotte, North Carolina **2nd** by Ms. Mary Thomas from St. Peter's and St. Paul's from Westbury, New York and **3rd** by Dn. Jan Wilson from St. George, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Similar to last year, the 10th grade Final Exam was prepared by the CEP (Centralized Exam Panel) which consisted of members from the Sunday School Board and was reviewed and approved by H. E. Mor Titus Yeldho. Every year the Regional Directors request sample questions to be submitted to the CEP for consideration this year was an exceptional year where we had excellent questions sent in by every region. We extend our sincere appreciation to the efforts of the Regional Directors and dedicated Class X teachers for their earnest interest and attention to prepare the students. The CEP made 3 years of past exams and answer sheets available on the Sunday School webpage for students to access practice questions. The Model Exam was sent out to all the Regions in October to further prepare for the Exam. The CEP welcomed feedback on the format and questions this year and based upon the feedback from the teachers and students the CEP made changes and updates to the Final Exam. The CEP also created a generic email id 'cepjacobite@gmail.com' which was distributed across the diocese to provide a medium of communication and enabled a great opportunity for each and every church to reach out to the CEP to raise any concerns as they were preparing for the Final Exam. A few churches took sincere advantage of utilizing this communication vehicle to help improve the process. There were numerous changes that the CEP incorporated based on the feedback that they received thus ensuring a positive experience for the students. The Centralized Exam concluded with a student feedback survey which the panel utilizes to improve the process and ensure that students feel comfortable and confident with the final step of the Sunday School program completion. Our hope and intent is that the interest and successful completion of the Class X exam continues to excel and provides a platform for checkpoints in additional classes as requested by Sunday School Leaders.

Based upon feedback across parishes and after detailed discussions, a minor change has been effected in the Centralized Class X exam date. In order to avoid the conflicts with SAT tests, Christmas related programs and year end meetings, going forward the test will be conducted on the Sunday prior to the Thanksgiving Day.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2011:

Director: Mrs. Betsy Thotakat



Differing from past years, the VBS team began the planning of the VBS 2011 months ahead. With the help of veteran Mrs. Susan John a unique and exciting VBS kit was selected “Inside out, Upside down on Main Street – where Jesus makes a difference everyday!”

For the first time the team utilized online tools to scan and share all the VBS files so across the diocese Sunday School leaders could easily access and implement a success VBS among regions as well as at the parish level. With this initiative the VBS staff and volunteers had quick access to all these materials to prepare ahead. This proactive arrangement facilitated to conduct the regional VBS prior to the family conference providing an opportunity for the VBS staff and volunteers to get acquainted with the lessons and songs.

The Family Conference provides an even greater arena for our young audience. The captivating highlights from 2011 VBS include:

- VBS MAN: The creative dynamic duo Rev. Dn. Shawn Shaji and Rev. Dn Subin Shaji produced a video highlighting the key themes of the VBS session through entertaining skits. The laughter that erupted throughout the videos, the repeated inquiry for more episodes and earnest pleas for a guest appearance of VBS man - speaks volume of its success.
- SYRIAC, ENGLISH or MALYALAM? When invited to join the children during VBS, our Archbishop, Theethose Thirumeni willingly put aside other meetings and spent time in teaching the little ones. It was extremely encouraging to watch the children pay close attention to the song lessons. The children will cherish the moments and will forever remember the learning of their first Syriac song - Sleebo oso dsaino (Shubha chinnum than sleeba). Thirumeni enjoyed the session so much and by request of the children stayed on to teach all 3 languages – Syriac, Malayalam and English. Even the parents and volunteers were caught singing the songs!

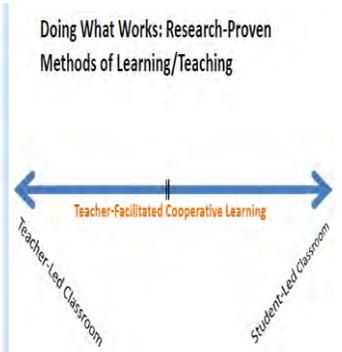
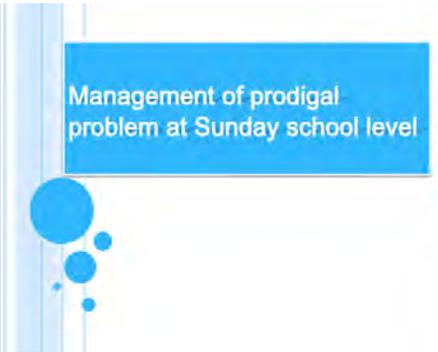
- In addition to the T-shirts and coloring activities, this year children worked on thought filled activities including the Band-aided Cross (taking a bandaid and writing a word that describes what Christ’s sacrifice for means to them and placing it on a large wooden cross).
- As in the past the Hindi songs (“stuthi aradhana uper jathi hai “ , “Wo dekho dekho”) taught by Mrs. Susan John were loved by the children, and was heard sung in the hallways, elevators and at mealtimes, and some parents commented in post feedback on the rides home!

As always the echoing malayalam slogans during the parade put a smile on the faces and excited the spirit of every spectator. The stage presentations were very exhilarating, vibrant, and provided the true mood of the program! The heartfelt comments and feedback from parents, our clergy, our visiting bishops and most importantly our children expressed the success of the VBS. Additionally we were blessed with a multi-talented VBS staff – Rev. Dn. Shawn Shaji , Rev. Dn. Subin Shaji, Chev. James John, Mrs. Susan John, Mrs. Janice Mathew, Mrs. Reeja James, Mrs. Sonia Akarsh, Ms. Marilyn Babu, Mr. Eldo Paulose, Mr. Steve Thotakat, Ms. Malisa Paulose, Ms. Sarita Thotakat and several youth and adult volunteers as well as several visiting parents did a phenomenal job and contributed generously to the success of this event. Hoping to see this enthusiasm will continue to grow in events and years to come. The team is every grateful for providing the support and opportunities to create a beautiful experience for our little ones.

Such a program could not be fruitful without the support and commitment of selfless sacrificing volunteers! We are humbly thankful that the number of volunteers is growing for the VBS program. 2011 contributors included the Archdiocesan council (who enabled VBS to receive all the time and attention it required for its program), AFC registration coordinator – Mr. Jijo Flowerhill (who took logistics requests and made them happen immediately, and even at the last minute ensured facilities rearranged the room setup and was printing additional VBS schedules and flyers for attendees that wanted to involve their children after sitting in on the introductory session), MSSOSA vice president - Rev.Fr. Dileesh Elias (who stayed the whole time, encouraging the teachers and children, and even volunteered to assist in program practices).



Teacher Support Program (TSP):
Director: Mr. Jeeth Joseph Thomas



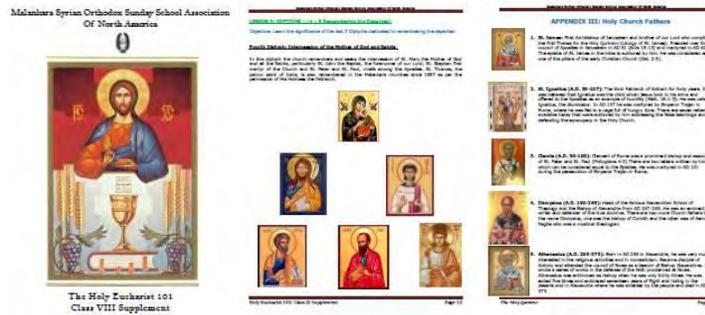
As requested by Sunday School Leaders across the diocese and finalized in the Annual Teacher’s meeting July 2011, it was decided to proceed with organizing a Teacher Support Program (TSP) to provide training and tools to our Sunday School teachers to ensure enrichment and excitement in the classroom.

The TSP decided to approach this great endeavor by approaching it in two parts. The first leg of the project was locating subject experts in the field of teaching across our diocese, and request them to share their experience and expertise with the teachers on relevant subjects. Given the impracticality in having to visit every region, the TSP saw the opportunity to utilize the latest technology and use the web and telephone to connect all the teachers across North America in one large meeting. The first Webinar (Web Based Training) was successfully launched on Sunday, March 25th at 6 PM EST. It was truly a remarkable event with over 100 teachers that attended the program live either individually from their homes or meeting together at a common place. The first speakers for the pilot launch were Rev. Dr. A. P George and George Aramath who did a spectacular job with their presentations. The event was blessed in its conclusion by H. E. Mor Titus Yeldho. There are 3 further topics planned for the months of April, May and June after the great reviews and requests that came in from the teachers. Mr. George Aramath is scheduled to speak again in the month of May and Rev. Fr. Jacob Joseph (Saji Achan) is scheduled to speak in June on teaching methods.

The second part of the TSP was to create a centralized training material that all the teachers can have access to review and use. This training material is a two part document where the first part would contain templates such as Report Cards, Lesson Plans, Attendance Sheets, Certificate Templates, and helpful links to various sites. The second part of the document is refresher material such as facts about the Bible, Confession, Sacraments, Church Traditions, and our Church History, etc where the teachers can review general information regardless of which class they are teaching. This is going to be a growing document where any of the teachers can refer to some of the basic questions that they might need to refer to in order to prepare better lessons. This document is a collection from input from all the various churches in the Diocese. There is great hope and anticipation that this document will help further standardize the teaching practices as well as provide further teaching aids that all the teachers can leverage to further enhance their teaching experience.

Holy Qurbono Supplements:
Supplement Curriculum Project: Mrs. Janice Mathew

In October of 2010, the National Sunday School Board surveyed all the Sunday School leaders across the diocese on various areas and topics. One key feedback was a request to provide supplements on the Holy Eucharist in a format appealing to the young people of this country which gave way to discussions of achieving this need. It was decided to take the Holy Qurbono and divide it in to 3 digestible parts to incorporate within the current curriculum for classes 8, 9 and 10. Based upon the discussion and direction of the Sunday School Board, our director approached Thirumeni with this request and His Eminence graciously took on the project. After many long review sessions of the contents, the supplements were released in 3 phases: Holy Eucharist 103 for class X in May 2011, Holy Eucharist 101 for Class VIII in June 2011 and finally Holy Eucharist 102 for Class IX in November 2011. Special thanks to Rev. Dn. Martin Babu for his contributions and feedback for the project.



After the release and response of the 3 texts from the young people and adults, it was suggested that the books be compiled in to one source for other spiritual organizations to utilize the benefits as well. Thus in December 2011 the compilation project began and the finale of the project God willing -- MSOSSA hopes to release the text in print in July 2012 at the Annual Youth and Family Conference. We would like to extend our humble and heartfelt thanks to our beloved Theethose Thirumeni for His Eminence's time and tireless efforts on this project.



Curriculum Committee:

Curriculum Committee Coordinator: Chev. Dr. Tom Abraham

The Sunday School Board received an overwhelming response and request that the Curriculum be revised as a top priority of the program. Due to the scope, breadth and nature of the project it was decided to create a committee to achieve this task. H.E. Mor Titus Yeldho selected Chevalier Dr. Tom Abraham to be the Curriculum Committee Chairman and 3 priests to provide their support and expertise, Rev. Fr. George Parathuvayalil, Rev. Fr. Saji Markose, and Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Jacob. Currently the framework of the curriculum is being sketched out with the advices and feedback of academic professionals, our theologians, Sunday School teachers and students. It is the hope of the committee to release a minimum of one textbook within the next year. As the momentum picks up the releases are expected to be more frequent. The hope being that we can bring engaging and inspiring Sunday School textbooks to our children to fortify their faith in God and instill interest and love for the faith, traditions, and culture of our Holy Church.

ANNUAL REGIONAL REPORTS:

Region 1:

Regional Director: Mrs. Kusamam Daniel

We had an excellent and productive Sunday School year for Region I in the 2011- 2012 academic year. We have eight functioning Sunday schools located from Boston to Long Island. Each school follows the Sunday School board approved curriculum and maintains very high quality instruction.

Though each school varies in the procedure of set up, they follow the same class structure. All eight churches have classes after the church service and hold the classes for an hour to an hour and a half.

Activities

- St Peter's and St.Paul's church, headed by Mr. Thomas Kalapurackal, had a special informational presentation on Holy Qurbana by Rev. Dn. Belson Kuriakose. It was enjoyed by the students and teachers.
- St. Mary's Lynnbrook nominates a student of the month who is selected by the teachers and the head master. They have a 10 minute devotional song practice and Bible quiz practice before the Sunday school classes every Sunday. Mr. Kuriakose Paily, the HM, and the dedicated staff have to be commended for their commitment.
- At White Plains St. Mary's Sunday School, they practice devotional songs and present a very short sermon on a subject such as the bible and culture. Every Sunday one of the students is assigned to give a speech on a subject of any Christian virtue or on the Holy Gospel of that Sunday. Recently students were provided school bags with the names of their church, Sunday School and the logo of our Archdiocese imprinted on them. Well done Chev. Babu Jacob and teachers.
- At St. George, New City, regular classes are held every Sunday. The opening part is lead by an elected head boy and girl. In the past we have noticed that these positions of responsibility have brought both heads closer to their church community and belief. They had the annual field trip to the Rockland Bowling Alley which was enjoyed by the students and staff. The fund raising for the field day is done by the staff. The hard work of specific teachers is recognized through the establishment of their "Teacher of the year" program.
- St. Mary's (West Nyack), St Mary's (Bergenfield), St. John the Baptist (Yonkers), St George (Spring Valley), and St. Basil's (Boston) are all maintaining very high standards in their respective Sunday Schools. Congratulations to Mr Baby Melethe, Mr Rajan Palamattom, Mr. Benny Thomas, Mr. Manny Abraham, Mr. Joby Eldho and their staff for their commitment and dedication.

Special activities

The Region 1 competition was held in October at St. Mary's West Nyack in which various churches participated for prizes in vocal, elocution, Bible knowledge, etc. St Mary's Lynnbrook came first followed by St Peters, St.Paul's and St. George New City. Region 1 played a very important role in making the 10th grade exam scoring a big success. I



thank each and every one of the scorers who participated in that activity.

Accomplishments

In the national 10th grade exam our own very Mary Thomas from St. Peters and St. Paul's got second rank out of 59 students. I congratulate her along with the teachers and the HM of the church. Region I plaques for completion of the 10th grade were distributed during Patriarchal Day on the 18th of February at St. Mary's West Nyack. I extend my sincere thanks to the Vicar and the HM for this special activity.



Region 1

Mary Thomas R1 & N2 St. Peters & St. Pauls

Sonia Vellavallil R2 St. George, New City

Merin Varghese R3 St. Peters & St. Pauls

At this time I extend my sincere thanks to our Thirumeni, H.E. Mor Titus Yeldho, Dileesh Achen, Vicars, Dr.TV John, all the head masters, teachers and the Sunday school boards for their leadership and commitment. Let us praise the Almighty for guiding us throughout this year. Let Him light the path for the academic year to come.

Region 2:

Regional Director: Chev. James John

VBS:

Combined VBS at St. George New Jersey, with St. John’s Staten Island and St. James Livington churches. VBS was held at St. Mary’s Washington. St. Peters Philadelphia and St. Pauls Philadelphia also .



Regional Sunday school Competition:

Regional Sunday school competition was held at St: Pauls Church Philadelphia From seven churches participated 79 students competed. St: Peters Church Philadelphia won the overall championship. St. Pauls Philadelphia was placed 2nd and St. James Livingston came in 3rd in over all point count.

Individual champions:

- ❖ Senior: Julia Pattamady, St.Peters Philadelphia
- ❖ Intermediate: Sairah Varghese, St.George, Carteret
- ❖ Junior: Basil Pattamady, St.Peters, Philadelphia
- ❖ Sub junior : Isabel Jacob St.Pauls, Philadelphia
- ❖ Primary –Ivan Byju, St.Pauls Philadelphia
- ❖ K.G: Giju v.Shinu, St.Peters, Philadelphia

Annual 10th grade exam 2011:

16 students from the region participated

- ❖ 1st: Malisa Paulose, St.James church, Livingston
- ❖ 2nd: Julia Pattamady, St.Peter's, Philadelphia
- ❖ 3rd: Paul Kaneelil, St.Pauls Philadelphia

Region 3:

Regional Director: Mrs. Janice Mathew

It is indeed with great gladness that I submit the happenings of Region 3, southeast. Our region is comprised of 7 Churches spanning across North Carolina, Georgia and Florida (1. St. Gregorious, Tampa 2. St. Mary's, South Florida 3. St. Mary's, Augusta 4. St. Mary's, Winder, 5. St. Ignatius Elias III, Lawrenceville, 6. St. Mary's, Stone Mountain 7. St. George, Charlotte).

Our parishes have been busily providing activities and spiritual nourishment to our children and youth. St. Mary's, Augusta conducted a VBS, students also performed in Cultural Activities on parish day and presented the Nativity Scene as part of Christmas Day celebrations. St. Mary's, South Florida started Malayalam classes for their students, conducted a VBS, collected funds to contribute to the Sunday School Association in Malankara, MJSSA, for education sponsorship of students, and celebrated Easter and Christmas with a egg hunt and Secret Santa.

We had 11 students complete the National Class X Centralized exam in December and I am eager to announce that all the students successfully completed the course of study, in addition 2 of our children from St. George, Charlotte attained national rank. Rev. Dn. Subin Shaji placed 1st rank at national level and Rev. Dn. Jan Wilson placed 3rd at national level. Mr. Manu Kurian from St. Mary's Winder placed 3rd rank in the regional level. I would like to congratulate our dear students, teachers, headmasters, parents and Achens for playing a key role in their success.

The common thread and theme we are hearing from our children and youth is to provide more opportunities for them to come together and be with others of the same faith, traditions and values. Often growing up in this country we face many challenges and conflicting views of lifestyle. Retreats, VBS, Regional meetings and Youth and Family Conferences allow these young people to come together and feel united. We highly encourage and request that our parents take these opportunities as a way to enable your child to meet others of the same faith and culture and provide a sentiment of unity and interest in our Holy Church so that we can preserve it as our forefathers have for us.

It has been my pleasure to serve Region 3 in the last two years, I have been blessed to meet many talented and dedicated people and this has been a phenomenal learning experience both personally and spiritually. I extend my heartfelt thanks for all your support and prayers, a regional representative can only be fruitful with the dedication of those they serve. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a sincere gratitude to our dynamic yet synergistic National Board who are truly unique and inspiring leaders especially by name dear Thirumeni, Dileesh Achen, John Uncle, Betsy Kochamma, Jeeth, and of course my fellow regional directors, Pushpa Aunty, James Uncle, George Uncle and Shibu. The J team, I will miss our myriads of email exchanges and constant push to achieve perfection. Without a doubt I can state this group unanimously put our children first and foremost in all projects, discussions and decisions! I pray that our little ones continue to benefit from the Sunday School Program and are ever inspired to serve the Holy Church one day. All praise, glory and thanksgiving to God Almighty now and forever.



Region 4 - Annual Report

Regional Director: Mr. George Paily

Region 4 covers churches in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, California and Colorado. There are 11 churches in this Region. Sunday School is very active in all these Churches.

10th Grade Exam: In 2011, 14 students from Region 4 took the 10th grade exam and all of them passed. Donna Jose of St. Ignatius Church, Dallas came 1st in the Region, followed by Jenny Scaria- 2nd place and Stacy Mathews -3rd place-both from St. Mary's Church, Dallas.

VBS : Combined VBS conducted in Dallas and Houston. In the Houston VBS, the presence of H. G. Mor Kuriakose Dioscoros (Metropolitan, Simhasana Churches) was an added blessing. His Grace gave a very inspirational message to the VBS participants. Other Region 4 Parishes conducted VBS at the Parish level only, due to the Region's geography.

Regional Competitions: The 2011 regional competition was held at St. Ignatius church, Dallas on Sept 17, 2011. About 145 children from six parishes in the region (Dallas, Houston and Oklahoma) participated. Churches in California, Arizona and Colorado could not participate in the competition due to their location and the distance. St. Mary's Church, Dallas won the overall championship (3rd consecutive year). St. Ignatius Church, Dallas came in 2nd place.

HMs/Teachers Meetings: Regional HMs meetings done by way of teleconference and we had some conference calls done. HMs from individual Parishes reported having regular teachers meetings and some meetings with parents also.

Overall, Region 4 had a blessed year. We thank our Archbishop H.E.Mor Theethose Yeldho; SS Vice president, Rev. Fr. Dileesh Alias; SS director Mr. T.V John; SS assistant director Mr. Jeeth Joseph, SS advisor Mrs. Betsy Thottakat, all of the HMs and teachers for the continued support in working as a team for the spiritual development of our children. Special thanks to Betsy Kochamma for the extra efforts and support she provides for Region 4 (as she is in one of the churches in the region) in arranging VBS, competitions and in all SS related matters.



Region 5

Regional Director: Mr. Shibu Kunneth

Region Five comprises of churches in the US Midwest and Canada. We have three churches in Chicago area, one in Detroit and three more in and around Toronto, Canada.

St. Peter’s, Canada bought a building (separate unit in the same building where their church is) for Sunday school purposes only.

All the churches conducted the vacation bible classes during the summer. However due some unfortunate events, we had to postpone the annual Regional Sunday school meet that we usually have at Detroit every summer. It was decided to have it in the summer of 2012.

The regional rankings for the Class X exam are as follows:

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|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| 1 st rank | Shawn John | St. George, Chicago |
| 2 nd rank | Joel George | St. Peter's, Northlake |
| 3 rd rank | Alena Skaria | St. George, Chicago |



Acknowledgements:

The 2010 – 2012 Sunday School Board was a team with shared vision and values. Even with many personal and professional obligations and responsibilities every individual of the team helped one another to achieve and sustain greatness. Titles and positions did not matter. All that mattered was ‘what can I do?’ and ‘how can I help’. The members volunteered for various responsibilities (whether it was VBS, CEP, TSP, or Supplementary Curriculum) and the rest of the team fully supported the person to completion. There were differing opinions but not disputes. There were disagreements but not disengagements. Indeed it was truly a team with a shared ideology, how do we improve our Sunday School for our children! The above referred achievement (mentioned in the body of the report as well as in the summary) is an outcome of that shared vision and the behavioral attitude of a uniquely talented team.

We are deeply indebted to the providence and guidance of God the Almighty.

I take this opportunity to thank our President H.E. Mor Titus Yeldho for the visionary guidance, wholehearted support and for creating the Holy Qurbono supplementary books, our Vice President Rev. Fr. Dileesh Alias for his valuable guidance and positive approaches, Mrs. Betsy Thottakat for her experienced advises, creating the Kindergarten book and for effectively leading the VBS; Mr. Jeeth Joseph Thomas for his strong commitment to the cause of the Sunday School as assistant director and for leading the CEP as well as the TSP; Mrs. Kusumum Daniel for her effective leadership of Region 1 as well as for her contributions for the CEP, Chev. James John for his enthusiastic leading of Region 2 and contributions to the CEP, Mrs. Janice Mathew for her multifaceted skillsets, leading the supplementary curriculum project as well as for the contributions in every project including CEP, TSP, VBS in addition to leading Region 3; Mr. George Paily for leading Region 4 so magnificently; and Mr. Shibu Kunneth for leading the 2-country Region 5 with a passion. I also take this opportunity to thank Very Rev. Fr. Sakariya Thelapillil, our former VP, as well as Mr. Binu Aramath, former Region 4 Director) for their guidance and leadership during the first year of this Board.

The journey of the current Sunday School Board has been extremely rewarding and it is truly with the support and involvement of students, teachers, leaders, parents, and clergy that we were able to make such humble strides. The Sunday School Board salutes every Headmaster/Headmistress, every teacher, and every Vicar of our churches for their invaluable efforts in leading our children in God’s path and for the help and support they extended to the current Sunday School board over the last 2 years. We also thank the teachers from Region 1 and 2 as well as Mr. Jeeth Joseph, Mrs. Kusumum Daniel and Chev. James John who participated in the evaluation of the Class X Exam.

The Board gratefully registers their gratitude to Rev. Fr. Dr. George Paily (A.P. George Achan), Mr. George Aramath and Rev. Fr. Jacob Joseph (Saji Achen) for conducting the very useful and exciting webinars on Sunday School teaching. The team extends its sincere appreciation to Rev. Dn. Martin Babu, who while assisting H.E. Mor Titus Yeldho at the Archdiocesan headquarters worked with the Sunday School Board especially on the Holy Qurbono supplements and other such activities to support the team. The Board also takes this opportunity to thank the leadership of Chev. Dr. Tomy Abraham for

undertaking the enormous job of Curriculum revamping. The Sunday School Board also extends our gratitude to the Diocesan Council for their help and guidance through the last 2 years and the other Spiritual Organizations for their support. We also thank Rev. Dn. Dr. Jerry Jacob for maintaining the Sunday School website, Mr. Manoj John for coordinating the publication of Sunday School related reports and articles in Malankara Deepam; and Chev. Babu Jacob and Mrs. Janice Mathew for coordinating the printing of the book 'A Guide to The Holy Qurbano'.

Our youth are increasingly becoming the cornerstones of our churches – teaching Sunday school, volunteering for VBS, supporting and helping out for our Regional Sunday school competitions ---our sincere appreciation to each of them for their commitment and dedication to our church and spiritual organizations.

I extend my appreciation and gratitude to A.P. George Achan (Rev. Fr. Dr. George Paily, our Vicar until recently) and Thankachan uncle (Chev. Abraham Mathew, our Headmaster) for the mentoring and valuable support they have provided over the last two years. Susan, my wife, had a role in everything I did as the Sunday school director not only because of the spousal obligation but also because of her innate urge as Sunday school is her passion and mission in life.

Sunday School is one of the most important pillars in the foundation of the Holy Church. Sunday school can make a difference in our church and the life of our children. YOU can make a difference in Sunday school. Are you?

God bless.

T.V. John

Sunday School Director

On Behalf of the Sunday School Board