

**Malayalee Catholic Community**  
**Sunday Catechism**

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Dear Parents, Children, Youth and members of the Malayalee Catholic Community Vienna,

Greetings and New Year Wishes to all of you.

I am very glad to join with all of you to thank the Lord for getting a fine and friendly Substation for the Malayalee Catholic Community at the Auferstehung Christi –Saikogasse 8, Vienna-22. Now we have to make use of this Filial Station along with our main Community Center at Maria Lourdes, Tivoligasse -20, Vienna -12, with utmost care and responsibility, keeping the sanctity and discipline of both these Centers, which are now available for our Malayalee Catholic Community. I would request your wholehearted cooperation and active participation to make the Facilities and Resources, which are available to our Community, to the best possible ways.

Kindly try to motivate the Parents and Families, who visit these Centers, to use them as much as we are allowed and expected to use them and to convince them that we are not totally free to use these Facilities in order to fulfill all our needs, expectations and wishes. Therefore we have to be very vigilant, careful and responsible for every use of them and for every activity there by ourselves as being a *Guest Community*.

I would also like to bring to your attention and to request your wholehearted cooperation to motivate, to properly inform and to convince the Families of the Syro Malabar Community in Vienna, that we follow a systematic and organized Catechetical Training of the Children and the Youth of our Community in Vienna, according to the discipline, guidance and instruction of the Syro Malabar Hierarchy. It is true that we cannot attend to all the expectations of the Syro Malabar Catechesis in the context of our immigrant existence in Vienna. However, we try our best to listen to the Leadership of the Syro Malabar Church for the Faith Formation of our Generations.

We are asked to conduct our catechetical training based on three essential elements: a). Catechetical Formation by Liturgical Celebrations, which includes mainly the Holy Mass in Syro Malabar Rite – which also means a catechetical orientation of the generations into the German Language Culture of the Liturgy of the Syro Malabar Church; b). Catechetical Instruction through Classes with given Curriculum and prescribed text-books of the Syro Malabar Catechism; c). Catechetical Apprentice, which means practical orientation programme – mainly for those youth who complete the primary catechetical training. These three elements make an integral, organized and comprehensive catechetical formation of our children and youth according to the Discipline of the Syro Malabar Church.

In the light of the above Catechetical Perspective, we have to arrange and to manage the Catechetical Training of our Generations in Vienna. We have to get the maximum help and support of the Parents and Teachers for

this great task and responsibility, even though we are practically unable to fulfill all the personal and private wishes and expectations of the Parents or of the Students.

We are blessed with a Main Center in Maria Lourdes for all our liturgical, catechetical and administrative needs of our Community. Here we organize a full-fledged and integral catechetical training of the Children and the Youth of our Malayalee Catholic Community. We offer catechetical training here from the 1<sup>st</sup> Standard to the 12<sup>th</sup> Standard of Catechism Classes, with an orientation to the Prime Time – before lunch - Liturgy (Syro Malabar Qurbana) in Malayalam and also orientation and experience of the Syro Malabar Qurbana in German Language, which is the main communicative language of the Children and Youth of our Community. We have facilities here for classes till 12<sup>th</sup> Standard. We have also great possibilities for room facilities here for the practical orientation programmes for the Youth of our Community.

We have only limited facilities and resources for a full-fledged and comprehensive catechetical training in our Substation in Saikogasse 8 at the Church Auferstehung Christi. It concerns not only room facilities, but many other essential aspects which are needed for the catechetical training in the light of the Guidelines of the Syro Malabar Catechesis. Therefore we have planned to organize the catechetical training there for the children from the 1<sup>st</sup> Standard to the 7<sup>th</sup> Standard only (this is the primary catechetical formation of the children of an age group at the lower primary level (Classes 1 to 4) and of an age group at the upper primary level (Classes 5 to 7). Children of these age groups have to be accompanied by their Parents or elderly family members. After the Primary Catechetical Training by completing Standard 7, the youth can travel on their own or can travel in groups to the Main Catechetical and Liturgical Center – Maria Lourdes – of our Community. There we can organize a combined catechetical training with better pedagogical methods and facilities. The Youth who are given this integral training can form a rich, lively and friendly Malayalee Catholic Youth in Communion and Catholic Faith, which bear the identity and traits of the Syro Malabar Mother Church.

Therefore, I would request all of you to cooperate with the Priestly Leadership and follow their Guidance and Instruction, mainly of the Catechetical Formation of our Children and the Youth.

You can also bring to the attention of the Parents and Families, who visit the Substation in Saikogasse with the following concerns of the MCC in restricting only to the Primary Catechetical Formation (Classes 1 to 7) there:

1). After the Primary training in Saikogasse, we give a more intensive, comprehensive training of the Youth from 8<sup>th</sup> Standard to 12<sup>th</sup> Standard, with modern smart media methods introduced by the Syro Malabar Church. This intensive training includes also “Catechesis of Apprentice”, that is practical orientation programmes, which we can arrange for our Youth of the Standards 8 to 12 in Maria Lourdes, occasionally from 4.00Pm to 6. 00 Pm.

2). Catechism as part of the **Prime Time Worship on Sundays** –before the Lunch and main meals of the day.

3). Catechism suggested **to be done by smart media methods**, with Power Point, Beamer etc, which is only possible in the main center in Maria Lourdes.

4). A **minimum number of Students in each Class**, which is also a group experience.

**5). Availability of Teachers**, difficult to provide good teachers in both centers.

**6). Youth Holy Mass in German language** being welcomed only in Maria Lourdes. There is a lot of resistance for it in the Substation by Malayalee Parents.

7). Catechetical **practical orientation programmes** for a few Students from Classes 8 to 12 from 4.00 PM to 6.30 Pm is not possible in Substation in Saikogasse.

8). There is **great attraction** of the Youth and Families for Films, Birthday parties, Sports **on Sundays afternoons.** So we complete their liturgical and catechetical services and training before noon.

9). There is request from **most of the Catholic Bishops in Kerala** to have Catechism together with the Holy Mass **on Sunday before Noon-** Priority given for it on Sundays.

**10). All other Malayalee Christian Communities in Vienna,** St. Thomas Orthodox parish, St. Marys Orthodox Parish, Malankara Catholic Unit in Vienna, have Holy Mass and Catechism in one Center before the Lunch time. They bring students from far way places. This means it is not very difficult for the Malayalee Catholic families to reach Maria Lourdes on Sundays.

11). Sunday **Evening Mass** is intended mainly for those who cannot attend the Prime Time Holy Mass on Sundays. Except for the primary catechetical training of the children who come to the Church with their parents, **it is not proper that the main catechetical training of the Youth is done attached to an evening Mass on Sundays,** in as much as the Youth are able to reach the main Parish Center for Prime Time Liturgy and Catechism.

12). Group Travel Facility can be arranged for the Youth to reach Maria Lourdes for the Catechism Classes 8 to 10 from the other side of the Donau river to reach Maria Lourdes for Catechism. The Youth can meet together at about 9.30am on Sundays at U-bahn Stations, like Kagran, Aspern, Leopoldau, Seestaat etc. and they can travel together to Maria Lourdes. If some elderly Youth is ready to bring them to Maria Lourdes, it will be very good. If the parents cooperate, this can work out very well.

**It is an earnest attempt to give the most quality catechetical training for our Children during the very important age of their intellectual as well as spiritual formation, following the directions of the ecclesial authorities. Keeping all those directions concerning the catechism of our Church we shall follow the mandates of the higher authorities aiming maximum possible care to our Children in their catechetical and spiritual formation. Though we understand some of the practical difficulties some of you raise, lets overcome those anxieties through planning (eg. No.12), determination and whole-hearted co-operation considering its merits for our Children. We have no intention to put the Malayalee Parents and Children in difficulties. Rather, we listen to the Voice of the Word of God and understand the dreams and expectations of the Mother Church.**

**Kindly cooperate with the Priestly Leadership of the MCC and let us go together, work together for the Lord and get His blessings for us all in Vienna.**

**May God bless you and your families.**

**P. Thomas Thandappilly CST  
MCC Chaplain and Director, MCC Catechism**