



Jacobite Syrian Christian Church

Dr. Kuriakose Theophilose Metropolitan

Prof. & Resident Metropolitan of M.S.O.T Seminary

Metropolitan & Patriarchal Vicar of Europe (Except UK & Ireland)

Date: 17.07.2020.

Circular for Online Sunday School Movement for Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church in Europe (Except UK & Ireland).

Sub: A Combined Sunday School Movement for MSOC Europe.

Beloved,

I am very pleased to learn that following our discussions, Rev. Fr. Joshy Vettikkattil, Co-Ordinator of the programs of MSOC Europe, took the initiative in organizing an online meeting of our priests and representatives of Sunday school teachers serving in our parishes in Europe on the above-mentioned subject on 20th June 2020.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Priests and the Sunday school teachers for their active participation. Their firm commitment and support for the envisaged movement of combined Online Sunday School is deeply appreciated.

As you are aware, The Syrian Orthodox Church, under the Holy See of Antioch and all the East, is rich in its faith, spirituality, liturgy and tradition and it is our duty to hand over these treasures to our coming generation.

The Sunday school movement is the basic and powerful medium to educate and communicate the same. More precisely it is the backbone through which our children could aspire and acquire a great deal of knowledge about our faith, traditions, history, liturgy and cultures.

Further, it will bring the children close to God and the church environment and help to deepen their love in God Almighty. Uniting all our Sunday Schools of the region will further strengthen the system abundantly. Moreover, the facility will provide an opportunity for the children as well as their parents to live in a congenial atmosphere for the betterment of the church and for our society.

The envisaged movement will, unquestionably, be beneficial for the children and parents for an intimate, inward knowledge of Bible, traditions, spirituality, liturgy, practices and the basic principles through which our Church is built and ought to follow.

Since Holy Mass is celebrated only once a month in most of our parishes in Europe, opportunities are limited for Sunday school activities. One of the problems that arise is that lessons are easily forgotten. This requires the setting up of a consistent system. The Online Sunday School Movement could easily be an answer to this problem despite certain limitations. It will enable our children to get together on all Sundays and to find a solution to the above circumstances.

President: Ecumenical Office JSC, International Syriac Doctors association (Indian Chapter) (ISMA), & Chairman of Jacobite Church Media Cell

Udayagiri, Vettical P.O., Mulanthuruthy, Ernakulam, Kerala – 682314, India, Phone: +91 4842748079, Mobile: +91 9447475105
Germany: Bismarckplatz - 2, 93047 - Regensburg, Mobile: +49 16098143198, Email: theophilosethirumeni@yahoo.co.uk, bptheophilose@gmail.com



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However, I would stress that the new movement should, in no way, disturb the on-going Sunday School system in our churches which invariably keep the children interacting as it was in the past. To begin with, I appeal to all priests as well as Sunday school teachers to collect the statistical data of children of each concerned parish. For this, each parish priest should inform the member-families about the idea, its benefits and the method so as to attract them. The names of the children and their relevant data should be kept in a data bank. It is advised that an appropriate Entrance Form be formulated, possibly for online filling and submission, as early as possible. This will help us to chalk out our program better.

The foreseen modus operandi of the Movement shall be:

- The school year shall be September to June of each year.
- Classes shall be in the afternoons of Sundays through online.
- Depending on the availability of children, classes shall have from 1 to 10.
- Medium of instruction shall be Malayalam/English/or any local language.
- Half-yearly and Yearly examinations (online) will be conducted.
- Certificates shall be awarded at the end of each year.
- 3-day JSVBS shall be conducted each year during July/August.
- Online Quiz competitions and students' interaction shall be arranged twice a year.
- Online Parent-Teachers' meetings shall be arranged periodically.
- Physical Family/Student-meet shall be arranged once in a year.



MSOT Seminary, Vettickal

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