

Syro-Malankara Catholic Church



VOCATION DAY - 2026

Message from the Chairman, Synodal Commission for Vocation

Dear Reverend Bishops, Chorepiscopi, Rambans, venerable priests, Deacons, members of various religious orders, and dear faithful in the Lord,

The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church is observing May 31st as Vocation Day. This year, Vocation Day falls during the Feast of Pentecost, the greatest feast day of the Church Calendar. This is a time for all of us to come together in prayer for the future of the Church and the world.

Every human being born into this world is a dream of God. “I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations” (Jeremiah 1:5) reminds us of the divine plan and purpose behind each person’s life. Recognizing this specific purpose and fulfilling it is one’s “Vocation” or “Calling.”

On this year’s Vocation Day, we are obliged to think seriously about the purpose of our lives and the future of the coming generation.

1. The Heavenly Seed in the Heart

The “Vocation” or the “Heavenly Call” is a delicate seed planted by God in the heart of man. It must be duly recognized, protected, and nurtured. Our world today is controlled by external luxuries and advertisements. The media and societal pressures greatly manipulate us into deciding what ‘to eat’, what ‘to wear’, and which course of action to take, etc. It is in such a situation that the famous words of St. Carlo Acutis become relevant: “All are

born originals, but many die photocopies.” Amidst the hustle and bustle of the world, we often fail to recognize the unique originality that God has placed in our hearts.

2. Various Callings from God

In the Christian life, the ‘calling of God’ can be primarily divided into three areas:

- **Family Life:** God’s noble calling to bring new life into the world and become a cradle of love.
- **Monastic Life:** A life of renunciation of worldly comforts and complete dedication to the Kingdom of God.
- **Priesthood:** The calling to offer sacrifices and lead God’s people as a representative of Christ.

These are not just classifications, but paths through which individuals should reveal the glory of God through their profession and daily work. When we live faithfully as a doctor, a farmer, an engineer, or a teacher, we are becoming a part of our Creator’s divine plan for us.

3. Those Who Should Be Guides

Parents, teachers, priests, and religious men and the monks (religious) have a great role to play in helping a child realize their unique talents and calling. They should encourage their children to realize the dream that God has in store for them, rather than merely expecting them to achieve worldly success.

As the Second Vatican Council teaches, “The Lord Jesus himself decides whom he calls and to what ministry in the Church He appoints them. But it is the community of the faithful that is responsible for recognizing and nurturing this call” (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*).

4. Discipleship of Jesus: Our Basic Identity

No matter our profession or life circumstances, first and foremost, we are all disciples of Jesus. This discipleship is our fundamental identity of each of us. In the Gospel according to St.

Matthew, we read: “You are the light of the world... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:14-16). Whatever our unique divine calling may be, its ultimate goal must be to serve as a light to the world and bring glory to God.

On this occasion, as your shepherd, I wish to share the following with you:

- **To the Parents:** If your children express a desire to dedicate their lives to God, do not discourage them; rather, support them wholeheartedly. Nothing given to God is ever lost; instead, it becomes a lasting blessing for the entire family.
- **To the Youth:** The mission God has prepared for you is far greater than any promise the world can offer. Accept His call without fear. There is no greater joy in this world than to share Christ with others.
- **Prayer:** Every calling in the Church is the fruit of prayer. On May 31st, special prayers should be offered in all parish churches during or after the Holy Mass for the promotion of vocations. Children who wish to enter holy vocations should be specially remembered on that day. As St. Luke reminds us, “Pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields” (Luke 10:2). We must pray constantly in this spirit.
- **Spiritual Accompaniment:** Priests and religious should be attentive to young people wrestling with worries and doubts, providing them with sound spiritual counsel and acting as supportive fellow travelers on their journey.
- **Sacrifice:** Let us offer our daily small sacrifices and good deeds for the intentions of God’s calling.
- **Vocation Week:** Every year, we celebrate Vocation Week from May 25th to May 31st. I remind all parish priests to ensure that Vocation Week is celebrated appropriately in every parish.

Conclusion

Dearly beloved, a calling from God is a great responsibility. One finds the true meaning of one's lives when we joyfully accept the mission God entrusts to us. On this Vocation Day, let us pray for one another. May our young people, in particular, hear the voice of God whispering in their hearts above the voices of the world. May Holy Mary, who responded to God's will with the words, "I am the Lord's servant" (Luke 1:38), be our model and intercessor in the vocation of God.

My dear young people do not be afraid to follow Christ. His service offers profound fulfillment and satisfaction that the world simply cannot replicate. Parents who willingly dedicate their children to God are blessed like Abraham.

I pray for the success of all activities carried out in the across our Church, especially in the consecrated communities to promote vocations. I gratefully remember and commend His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, the Head and Father of our Church, and the venerable Bishops, Priests, Religious Congregations, and Lay missionaries who works towards this goal.

We pray that God showers His mercy and blessings upon each of you and upon our entire Church. Let us pray fervently that the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church may be enriched with abundant priestly - monastic vocations.

May God bless you abundantly.
Lovingly in the Lord,

Sd/

Yoohanon Mar Alexios

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