

Message of the Chaplain

A colourful, vibrant, joyful and fruitful New Year -2018 to each one of you and your families and dear ones. We are fortunate to see the streaming lights, the glazing horizon and the smiling faces of the new and old generations of the year 2018. We shall thank God, our loving Father of heaven together with His Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. Their Trinitarian Communion is our inspiration, model and goal of life. We remain in adorable relationship with them in and through Jesus Christ. We shall do everything to strengthen this intimate and passionate relationship of love and communion. Let our Families and Malayalee Catholic Community draw their energy from the Trinitarian Source of Love, Mercy, Joy and Peace. Its concrete and tangible Power-Points are the Altar of the marital bond in the Families and the Altar of the Eucharistic Communion in our own MCC Parish Centres. Kindly do not miss to experience the wonders of the Altar of the Lord.

Your Attention Please to the Following Points to Boost up the MCC

- 1. Be Aware of our Parental Heritage of Faith and Christian Life:** We the Pravasi Malayalee Catholics now living in Austria belong to the uniquely rich and strong Christian Traditions (Rites) of Catholic Faith and Culture. We are grateful to our parents and grand-parents and to the Spiritual Leadership of our Mother Church. Please do not miss the facilities and services made available to us and to our families through the Malayalee Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of Vienna.
- 2. Catechetical training of the MCC Children and Youth:** A primary concern of the MCC is obviously the formation and nourishment of our children and youth in Faith and Morals. This major responsibility and task can be fulfilled only and exclusively by the active cooperation and participation of the Parents and Families of the MCC. The Priests and the Catechism Teachers stand by the Parents and help them to the Christian formation and growth of our young generations. Kindly give the maximum of your motivation, support, positive suggestions and intimate accompaniment to do this task of the MCC.
- 3. MCC Youth Forum:** The Youth of our time are exposed to the positive and negative trends of the New Generation. For that reason, they need proper guidance, orientation and motivation for their vibrant and sensible life, in accordance with the chemistry of the postmodern age. They remain footed in the European German culture, its pattern of thinking and sensibilities. Taking into consideration all these influencing factors on our Youth, we try to offer to the young generation various facilities and chances for their welfare and growth in tune with the Catholic Vision of Faith and Life. All the Malayalee Catholic Youth of all the Rite Denominations in the Archdiocese of Vienna are welcome to join the **MCC Youth Forum** and to use all its facilities and services. Your valuable suggestions to boost up the MCC Youth are most welcome.
- 4. The Structural Identity of the MCC:** Malayalee Catholic Community in Vienna is a foreign language, categorical Unit under the jurisdictional Authority of the Archbishop of Vienna. Bishopsvicar, Rt. Rev. Dr. Franz Scharl is the ecclesial guide of all the Foreign Language Communities in the Archdiocese of Vienna, within which the Afro-Asian-Latin American Communities have their administrative centre at the Rektorat with Dr. Johannes Gönner as its Rector and MMG Alexander Kraljic as its General Secretary. The MCC belongs to the ARGE AAG of the Rektorat, a categorial administrative Unit of the Archdiocese of Vienna. Within this structural framework are all the Malayalee Rite Communities in the Archdiocese of Vienna.
- 5. St. Thomas Syro Malabar Community:** All those Catholics who are born from a Syro Malabar Father belong to the Syro Malabar Church till the end of their life. The same ecclesial concept is applicable to the members of the Syro Malankara Church and to those of the (Kerala) Latin Church. The Knanaya Catholic Members with their personal Knanaya identity belong to the Syro Malabar

Community. There are regular Holy Mass in the Syro Malabar Rite in the MCC Centres of Maria Lourdes and Stadlau Chapel. All members of the Syro Malabar Church are welcome to these centres for the Sacraments and for other important liturgical Events. We are blessed to have the support and guidance of Mar Stephen Chirappanath, the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro Malabar Pravasi Catholics in Europe. Kindly contact him and get him for your special memorable occasions, such as First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Jubilee and Burial Events. His Excellency is very happy to join us as per his availability.

6. Mar Ivanious Malankara Catholic Mission Vienna: The Malankara Catholic Unit of the MCC is now known with this name and identity. This Malankara Community is attended by P. Thomas Prasobh OIC as being its Spiritual Animator. All its sacramental, catechetical and pastoral events take place in the Pfarre Breitenfeld. All the member of the Syro Malankara Church are welcome to this centre for their sacramental and spiritual needs.

7. Kerala Latin Catholic Community Vienna: This Unit also belongs to the MCC. Their liturgical and pastoral needs are attended by the MCC Leadership. There is regular Malayalam Holy Mass in the Latin Rite on every Friday at 8.00 AM in Maria Lourdes. The children and the youth of this Community join with the MCC for their catechetical, pastoral and spiritual needs. Hearty welcome.

8. The Centres of Catholic Life: As all of us have a “family of our-own,” so also we have a Parish of our-own. Family and Parish are the two life-giving and nourishing centres of our life which is oriented to its “Fullness” in Jesus Christ (Jn. 10. 10). At the Parish Centres we have the facilities to experience the Lord Jesus Christ in Word of God and Sacraments with a tangible and intimate presence with our bodily, mental, emotional, linguistic and spiritual heritage, culture and sensibilities. These elements are fundamental to the Catholic Faith-Formation and Experience of ourselves and of our generations. Therefore come to these Centres of your own Parish, primarily for Sunday Holy Mass of your own Parish, Sacraments, Catechism, Memorial Mass for our dear ones and to other important Events. Please do not miss the best chances, which God has so generously made available to us in Vienna ... Hearty Welcome.

9. Family Prayer: A Christian Home is the basic unit of the Mother Church. It is the Temple of God, the Cradle of Life and the Sanctuary of Marital and Family Bond. Each Family Unit of the MCC Parish is dedicated to the Sacred Heart and to the Holy Family. We shall keep the unity and the integrity of the Family by maintaining the spiritual and moral atmosphere by the experiences of the Word of God and of the Family Prayer at least at Evenings. The Holy Rosary and Memorial Prayers for the Dead together with the Angelus at least for half an hour should not be avoided in our Families whatever be the hectic engagements of the day. God will take care of such a Home of Prayer.

10. Motivation is the Best Witness: Every Christian is a missionary by baptism and confirmation, including our little children and the youth. The best task of mission in our living context is to motivate others to a vibrant, zealous, joyful and fruitful Christian Life in Families and in Parish, which can be extended to a global dimension. The art of motivation is the best tool to win over the hearts of others. Kind words, pleasing and cool behaviour, tolerance, intimacy, empathy, peaceful attitudes, forgiving and merciful gestures and resilience at tension and stress etc are some qualities of a refined, mature and noble personality. Be aware of these glaring gifts of your own person as being an effective missionary.

11. Available at all times for you and for your Family: The Chaplain and the Assistant Chaplain of the MCC are *round the clock* available to your spiritual and pastoral needs, and ready to visit your home for any spiritual requirement. Kindly call them and arrange your Events with their presence and guidance.

With Prayerful Wishes

P. Thomas Thandappilly CST: MCC Chaplain & P. Joy Plathottathil SVD: Assistant Chaplain
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Verleger: Steephen Chevookaran, Media & Communications for the Malayalee Catholic Community, Vienna