



# Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants

## Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church

Bishop Sebastian Vadakel, MST (Chairman)  
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### MESSAGE: MISSION SUNDAY

15.10.2013

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

The Church celebrates Mission Sunday on 20 October, 2013. This celebration has its foundation in the missionary mandate of Jesus to his Apostles, “you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts. 1: 8). We all share in the same mission of Jesus to bring God’s kingdom on earth. Here we are reminded of the Second Vatican Council’s missionary awakening expressed in her Decree on the Church’s Missionary Activity, “The Church is missionary by her very nature.” (*Ad Gentes Divinitus*, 2). In the Holy Qurbana, we recite: “Let all the people on earth know that You alone are the true God, the Father, and that You sent Your beloved Son Jesus Christ.” (The Fourth G’hantha). Let us not forget that we have a mission not only to evangelize ourselves, but all people all over the world.

It is opportune to bring to our attention Pope John Paul II’s introducing of the term New Evangelization. In different parts of the world there are many baptized people who have abandoned their faith or live as nominal Christians. New Evangelization is the attempt to bring them back to mature faith. Pope Benedict in his Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* states: “*Caritas Christi urget nos* (2 Cor. 5:14): it is the love of Christ that fills our hearts and impels us to evangelize... Today too there is a need for stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelization in order to rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith.” (n.7)

We can bear witness to Jesus in various ways: active participation in the liturgical celebrations of the Church; co-operation, support and promotion of her various missionary activities; prayer, fasting and penance for our sanctification as well as of the world; our exemplary Christian life in family as well as in society; our concern for the poor and the marginalized expressed through deeds; etc., are some of the ways to be missionaries in the modern world.

We remember with gratitude all the missionaries who have fully dedicated their life for the spread of the Gospel. We commend them all to the protection and intercession of our Heavenly Mother. May all their endeavors be sanctified and guided by the Holy Spirit for the greater Glory of God.

In this Year of Faith, may our vocation be revitalized and renewed by the proper celebration of and reflections on Mission Sunday. I invoke God’s abundant blessings on all of you and your families.

Yours in our Lord,

+Bishop Sebastian Vadakel

Bishop of Ujjain

Chairman, Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants



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