

**THE SYRO-MALANKARA MAJOR  
ARCHIEPISCOPAL CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**MALANKARA CATHOLIC YOUTH MOVEMENT  
USA & CANADA**



**Election Packet 2019**





The Syro - Malankara Major Archiepiscopal Catholic Church  
Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (M.C.Y.M)  
USA & CANADA



St. Mary, Queen of Peace  
Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA  
and Canada

Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil  
Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada

My dear members of the MCYM of our beloved Eparchy.

Dated December 3, 2018.

Cordial greetings to you.

Today, as I write this letter, we celebrate the feast of St. Francis Xavier. He was a man with tremendous zeal for the Kingdom of God just like great figures such as St. Francis Assisi, our MCYM patron saint, and Servant of God, Archbishop Mar Ivanios. St. Francis Xavier was a Jesuit Missionary and priest who preached the Gospel in Asia many centuries after St. Thomas the Apostle arrived in India. His enthusiasm was to do things for the greater glory of God. He had a passionate desire to save souls and serve the church and humanity.

My dear youth, I earnestly desire that you all have that zeal to serve Jesus with all of your energy. The MCYM is not simply one structure for the upkeep of a part of religious organization but a vital element of the Church's mission to bring people to Christ. Let us be conscious of our specific vocation as a Malankara Catholic in North America. We have been gifted with this great liturgical, spiritual and ecclesial heritage!

Our mission is to lead the young people to holiness and happiness. We need to encourage and support each other in all possible ways, especially by our prayers. MCYM must enable and empower our members to leadership in Church and society. I wish and pray that our MCYM promotes vocation to priesthood, religious and family life.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank, Mr. Chris Thomas and all the central leadership for the inspiration you give to our youth. We are grateful to all the regional and local office-bearers along with the MCYM of our Eparchy for your presence and active participation in our Sunday Holy Qurbano and your courageous Catholic witness in the public sphere.

We have just completed our Convention, and I was so glad to see so many of our MCYM members at this family event. I joyfully remember our meeting the night when you conducted the MCYM Eparchial board elections. I pray that the Holy Spirit may enlighten you all to choose the best leaders and I pray that you all may have the zeal to spread the fragrance of Jesus Christ just like St. Francis Xavier. May I take this opportunity to gratefully acknowledge the valuable leadership of Reverend Father Michael Edathil, the Director and the Animators of the MCYMNA.

May the blessings of the Christmas be with you all.

*+ Philipos*

+ Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil

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Eparchial Chancery, 1500 DePaul Street, Elmont NY, 11003 USA  
Phone: 516 233 1656 (office); 516 265 2479 (Personal); Fax 516 616 0727  
Email: marstephanos@gmail.com; Bishop.Stephanos@malankarachurch.org  
Website: syromalankaracatholicna.church



**The Syro - Malankara Major Archiepiscopal Catholic Church  
Malankara Catholic Youth Movement (M.C.Y.M)  
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Rev. Fr. Michael Edathil  
MCYM Director, USA and  
Canada  
(215) 558-8741  
[michaeledathil@gmail.com](mailto:michaeledathil@gmail.com)

November 30, 2018

Dear MCYM of North America,

Greetings in the Lord!

Give thanks and praise to Almighty God because we have the MCYM to bring life to the parishes. Elections allow us the opportunity to reflect on the mission of MCYM and a chance to renew our own commitment to it. During this time of elections, we find new leaders with fresh ideas and perspectives to lead and accompany their contemporary brothers and sisters in life's journey.

The model of leadership in whatever position is Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one who on the cross laid down his life for the sheep. Truly, it is in giving that we receive. We can lead only insofar that we follow Christ as his disciples. Since our school days, we have been encouraged to be leaders, but let us first allow ourselves to be led by Jesus Christ, the Lord and King of the Universe. May the newly elected leadership teams take recourse to prayer, particularly the Sunday Mass, the Holy Qurbano. Also, may they seek the opportunity for confession to a Catholic priest when needed.

Thanks to all those who have taken leadership positions in the past and those who will take them going forward.

May Mother Mary assist us.

God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Fr. Michael Edathil



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**President**

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(647) 716-9519

**Vice President**

Kevin Thomas  
(443) 938-2655

**Vice President**

Tessy Philip  
(267) 273-9968

**General Secretary**

Amy Varghese  
(956) 292-6651

**Joint Secretary**

Joshua Daniel  
(847) 867-3387

**Joint Secretary**

Jason Devasia  
(703) 655-3107

**Treasurer**

Amith Abraham  
(516) 851-8840

**Web Coordinator**

Alexi Joseph  
(647) 994-7614

**Web Coordinator**

Renji Kakkanatt  
(832) 520-4419

**Animator**

Sr. Jocelyn Edathil  
(267) 237-5946

**Animator**

Mr. Binu Abraham  
(630) 390-4432

## General Guidelines for Election

1. The structure of each unit should be as follows. At a minimum, each mission shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Web Coordinator. The president should be at least 18 of age as the President will be a member of the Parish committee. If possible, key positions such as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer should be members who have had prior experience serving on the board.
2. During elections, try and elect one person for each of the positions listed above. For small units, it is admissible to have a five-person board. For larger units, it is also recommended to have a board that mimics the structure of the national board (2 Vice Presidents and 2 Joint Secretaries).
3. Once elections have taken place (preferably by **January 1-31, 2019**), ensure that the new officers take the **Oath** of Office through by the **End of January**
4. Please make sure to send all names and contact information of elected officials to the national board at [national-officers@mcymna.org](mailto:national-officers@mcymna.org). As always ensure that your Parish priest is aware and presides over all election activities.



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## DESCRIPTIONS OF PRIMARY POSITIONS

**Director**  
Fr. Michael Edathil  
(215) 558-78741

The **President** is responsible for the general administration and leadership of the organization. It is for him/her to convene or arrange to convene general body meetings; to issue statements consonant with the objectives and declared policies of the organization; guide constructive action to associate with the activities of the Church; and plan activities jointly with the Church Youth board and vicar. The President is also to be the primary liaison between his/her respective Parish, Regional Board, and National Board

**President**  
Christopher Thomas  
(647) 716-9519

**Vice President**  
Kevin Thomas  
(443) 938-2655

The **Vice-President**, in the absence of the President and in the event of the resignation of the President, until the election of a successor, shall exercise all powers and discharge all the responsibilities of the President. Besides assisting the president in the activities of the organization, he/she shall handle matters entrusted to him/her by the President.

**Vice President**  
Tessy Philip  
(267) 273-9968

**General Secretary**  
Amy Varghese  
(956) 292-6651

The **Secretary** is to keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board and the General Body, and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the President and the Central Committee. The Secretary will prepare reports after the completion of activities describing the proceedings of that activity, and suggestions for improvements. These minutes and reports will serve as records and guides for future Parish Boards.

**Joint Secretary**  
Joshua Daniel  
(847) 867-3387

**Joint Secretary**  
Jason Devasia  
(703) 655-3107

The **Treasurer** is to be entrusted with financial responsibility for the organization. He/she is to be able to receive and issue receipts for reimbursements or proof of imbursement. The Treasurer also is to be charged with keeping accounts of expenditures, incomes, and balances, and additionally would be required to present a report of account history during General Body meetings.

**Treasurer**  
Amith Abraham  
(516) 851-8840

**Web Coordinator**  
Alexi Joseph  
(647) 994-7614

The **Joint-Secretary/Joint-Treasurer** will uphold the position of the Secretary/Treasurer, in case he/she is absent or unable to fulfill their duty, and will aid in the particular tasks required for fulfillment of the Secretary's duties otherwise.

**Web Coordinator**  
Renji Kakkanatt  
(832) 520-4419

The **Web-Coordinator** is a key position in our unit level boards as they will be responsible for upkeep of communication within the unit as well as communication from the unit level to the regional and national level boards. We strongly encourage election of a web-coordinator to help participate in the formation of our national MCYM website as well as unit level websites.

**Animator**  
Sr. Jocelyn Edathil  
(267) 237-5946

**Animator**  
Mr. Binu Abraham  
(630) 390-4432

We hope that these descriptions will be beneficial and will guide you in making sound decisions to elect talented individuals for the formation and advancement of the MCYM in the United States and Canada. The following are letters from the MCYM USA & Canada Board for each corresponding officer in the MCYM unit. We hope that the newly elected officers will use these as resources that will help them carry out their individual and team duties as office bearers for MCYM



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## INDIVIDUAL LETTERS FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS



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Mr. Binu Abraham  
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## President and Vice President

Dear Newly Elected President and Vice President,

Congratulations on being elected as president and vice president of your local MCYM unit! Being chosen to take on this responsibility shows that you have great potential to lead our youth, as well as a great love for our Malankara Church. We are proud to have you as leaders.

Your positions consists of some unique responsibilities. First and foremost, you are to be a good role model for your peers in MCYM and in other settings as well. When people see you, they should see the light of Christ. Keep the youth who have grown distant from the church in your mind and heart. Among your board, you should be there to lead the group efficiently. Be confident in sharing your opinions and in being a voice of reason. Vice president, you have the job of helping your president when he/she needs it most. If they are absent from any board meetings or general body meetings, or need support in any way, you must step in as president for that time. You both should make sure that your board is communicating constantly, this is vital for a successful term. Consider everyone's thoughts and make decisions as one, not as individuals. You are working not just with friends, but with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Above all else, constantly remind yourself of why you are a part of your parish community and why you have taken up this responsibility. We share a love for the Malankara Church, and an even deeper love for Jesus Christ. Use this passion to grow closer to Him and to bring your MCYM family with you on this journey. We are praying for you!

Your family in Christ,  
Chris Thomas  
President of MCYMNA

Kevin Thomas and Tessy Philip  
Co-Vice Presidents of MCYMNA



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## General Secretary

Dear Newly Elected Secretary,

I would like to start off my congratulating you on being elected as the Malankara Catholic Youth Movement General Secretary of your parish. It is a great accomplishment and you should feel very proud and honored to hold this position. The duties of a secretary are very important as you are responsible for data and records keeping. People will rely on you to make sure you keep record of everything that's going on and do so in an organized manner. It is a role that requires great effort and commitment. Some general words of advice would be to make sure your board has a steady flow of communication. It is important that you make all decisions as a board and not as individual officers. Most importantly, remember that though you are a secretary, you are still an equal representative of the officer board. If one of your officers isn't doing his/her job, step up and help them out. As an officer team, you will only be as strong or as powerful as your weakest link. Even if you guys have differences as officers, show a united front to the rest of the parishioners. And above all, let everything you do be for the glory of God. As long as you keep Him in the center of whatever you do, you shall succeed in your endeavors. On behalf of the National Board of the Malankara Catholic Youth Movement of North America, I congratulate you and wish you the best of luck. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns at [amy19varghese@gmail.com](mailto:amy19varghese@gmail.com).

Yours truly in Christ,

Amy Varghese  
General Secretary of MCYMNA





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## Joint Secretary

Dear Newly Elected Joint Secretary,

Congratulations on being appointed as Joint Secretary to your board unit. It is truly an honor to take up this commitment to MCYM. Your fellow youth members see that you possess certain skills and traits that would make you a good Joint Secretary, but more importantly, a leader for our Church.

As Joint Secretary, you will be responsible to carry out tasks when the Secretary can not or help out when he/she is in need. Communication is key in order to have a cohesive/productive group; it'll often be the Secretary's and your jobs to make sure everyone is on the same page, whether that is through note-taking, checking up on board members, etc.

Besides the specific responsibilities you'll have under this position, your most important job is to be good role models for your fellow youth members. Our whole community is looking upon you, excited to see what the future of the Church will be like. This role will not be easy, but I assure you to never give up and reach out if you are ever in need of help.

Above all, continue to pray for our Church and the future of MCYM. No matter what you do during your term, make sure the focus is on glorifying God. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact either of us; we are always here to be leaders to you as well.

With Love,

Joshua Daniel & Jason Devasia  
MCYMNA Joint Secretaries



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## Treasurer

Dear Newly Elected Treasurer,

Congratulations on being the newly elected treasurer of your parish. You now possess one of the most vital and important roles that exists on the MCYM board. Your job from here on out is to keep track of all monetary funds that flow through the MCYM local organization, as well as to maintain stringent records of all funds and expenses your board makes. This will be a position that will demand vigilance, good organization, and communication with your other board members and local parish leaders. I recommend your first course of action after being sworn in to be in good contact with your parish trustee.

One of the responsibilities of the MCYM, as a form of spiritual guidance, is to host events. Bake sales, hangouts, food and toy drives, all of these events serve to validate the MCYM and to bring the participating youth members closer together, and to God. You will be in charge of expenses incurred in hosting events, as well as keeping track of how much money you make at fundraisers. It will be your responsibility to record and collect those funds and deposit it in your MCYM account.

On top of these financial responsibilities, it will also be your duty to support the other board members in your local MCYM. Every board member has to rely on each other if they want to get anything done during their term. This means talking to them often, and checking up on how they are doing. I believe that about covers everything I needed to tell you. It seems like a daunting responsibility, but don't worry too much. I can tell you'll be great. If you need any help, feel free to contact me!

Regards,

Amith Abraham  
MCYMNA Treasurer



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## Web Coordinator

Dear Newly Elected Web Coordinator,

First, we would like to congratulate you on being elected as the Web Coordinator of MCYM for your parish. The position that you have been elected for is very important despite what it may seem from the outside, not many people will see the great accomplishments that you will have through your journey with this position, but your role will create one of the biggest impacts on how your youth may see the MCYM of your parish.

These days the vast majority of our youth are on social media, and because of that, it is one of the greatest ways to present ourselves to the rest of them. You should be managing your parish's MCYM social media pages and try to be as active as you possibly can be to interact with all the youth in your parish. Keeping your youth engaged in what your MCYM council is doing for them through social media is the best way to make sure that everyone is informed of all future events, or any ideas that you would like to go over with your youth. Along with social media, you may also oversee your church's website, there are many different implementations in how a website could be made, your previous web coordinator should be able to give some insight into how the website works. You should also remember that you should be asking for help with any doubt you may have about what you are supposed to do is always a good thing and you should never be afraid to ask.

Apart from your new responsibilities, we hope that you make for the best of yourself through this new journey with God and the Church to lead our MCYM to a bright future.

Sincerely,

Alexi Joseph & Renji Kakkanatt  
MCYMNA Web Coordinators