GLOSSARY
(of Used Christian Terms)

Bull/Decree

Bull/Decree is the official document signed by the Pope/Holy See pertaining to any subject which has the force of law.

Church and church

Church written with capital “C” refers to the entire Christian community or a denomination in its entirety when it is used of a particular Church. Church with small letter “c” refers to a place of worship of the local Christian community.

Religious Congregation/order

Religious Congregation/Order in the Roman Catholic context designate a form of religious society with vows and are normally under a superior. This is a set up within the Church. There are men’s congregations as well as women’s congregations/orders (e.g. Jesuits, Carmelites, Salesians, Capuchins etc.,).

Diocese/eparchy

It is a territorial unit of ecclesiastical organisation under a bishop. The Oriental code it is addressed as eparchy whereas in the Latin code it is
addressed as diocese. Both means one and the same. The head of these territorial units are designated as bishops/eparchs. Here also in the oriental Churches the term eparch is used whereas in the Latin Church the term bishop is used.

Diocesan Priests/Religious Priests

Priests who are directly under the bishops are called diocesan priests. Priests who are members of religious congregations as seen above are called religious priests.

Exarchate/ Prefecture/Vicariate Apostolic

The territory designated under a priest appointed which is not yet made a diocese under a bishop. The Church dignitary appointed by Pope in these units are addressed as Exarch/Vicar Apostolic.

Holy Mass/ Liturgy

The Christian worship is called Holy Mass. Liturgy anything connected with worship or even it can mean holy mass.

Mission Station/Parish

Mission station is not yet a full-fledged parish church even when the building is there. It is one in the process of becoming a parish church.
The bishop of a diocese/eparchy upon his discretion declares a community of the faithful gathering at a local church as a parish.

**Sisters/Brothers**

Members of women religious order or congregations within Roman Catholic Church. The members of male religious congregations who have no ordinations are called Brothers.

**Presbytery/convent**

The residence of a priest attached to a parish church/mission station is called presbytery. The residence of the sisters/ women religious is called a convent.

**Canon Law**

The laws of the Church is called canon law. There are two sets of laws for the Catholic Church. One set is for the Latin Church and another is for the governing of Oriental Churches. Syro-Malabar Church is one among the Oriental Churches.