PREFACE

This topic of research “HISTORY OF MALANKARA SYRIAN CATHOLIC MISSION IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT” was taken up for investigation in 2009. Ever since 1934 this mission did meritorious service to the over all welfare of the society and left an indelible legacy in the minds of the people. The object of the study is to provide a cogent and comprehensive analysis of origin and growth their ecclesiastical, such as promotion of learning, Economic Empowerment, Social Emancipation, Health and Hygiene and their Administrative mechanism.

The area of study is virgin. Though the missionaries did loudable service, much study has not been attempted so far. The earliest studies done by some scholars are mostly piecemeal. They are pertaining to the biography of some Bishops and parish priest only. The pioneering works of Fr. Maria Arputham, V., Ayar Lawerence Mar Ephraem (Tamil); Sr. Emiliyaha Msgr. Joseph Kuzhinjali, Biography (Tamil); Y. Kadaksham, Malankara Catholic Sabha Varalaru (Tamil); Bro. Darbello Christus, Kunratathu vilakku (Tamil) are some of the outstanding examples. These studies shed light on the contributions of the respective religious authorities only. Hence, a comprehensive study on the History of Malankara Catholic Missionaries in Kanyakumari District is found necessary.

In this task I received encouraging support and valuable suggestion from several scholars. This has been one of the pleasant aspects of my research work which was conducted
under the guidance and supervision of Dr. M. Desayar, Senior Professor and Head (Retd.), Department of History, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli-12. I owe my gratitude to him for suggesting the research problem, altruistic guidance and scholarly advice.

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