

A SHORT HISTORY OF KNANAYA CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

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At the request of the current KCS secretary Mr. Roy Nedumchira, I present to you the following historical account of the Knanaya Catholic Society of Chicago. This is a compilation of the testimonies, interviews and historic documentation that were gathered via various sources. It is to our community's benefit that a written record of the history of our Society is available for future generations to come, as well as for current members who are unaware of the community's origin. I have traced the history of KCS as carefully and accurately as possible to the best of my knowledge and have reviewed this documentation with several other members of our community. If there are any mistakes, if relevant facts are left out or if I fail to mention names that deserve recognition, please forgive me as it is not done intentionally.

I would like to begin by stating that those of us who have witnessed the development of KCS from its birth to its current state are extremely proud and pleased with the extraordinary progress that has been made. The following account illustrates a small fraction of what encompassed the many years of hard work and dedication by many for our community to reach its SILVER JUBILEE.

The immigration of Knanaya Catholics began in the early 1950s with the arrival of Rev. Fr. Joseph Kandarapally, Rev Fr. Jacob Kalayil and Rev Fr. Kuriakose Myalil for their pursuit of higher studies. After completing their Doctorates, they returned to Kerala and served as Head Masters at various high schools in our diocese.

In 1952, Professor P.T Joseph Pullakatt, in 1953, Joseph Pillaveettil, in 1954, Simon Kandoth, in 1956 Philip Kalayil and Thomas Tharayil, in 1958 Thomas Thachettu and Chackochan Tharayail and in 1959 Chacko Poovathumkal, among others also came to the U.S. for higher studies.

During the late 1960's there was a scarcity of nurses, doctors and engineers in the US. Therefore, the US government made the necessary modifications to immigration law in 1965 and began offering green cards in an effort to bring foreign professionals to the U.S. Due to these changes, many Knanaya Catholic nurses immigrated to the U.S. After five years, they were eligible to become citizens and filed petitions to have their families join them. Thus, an increasing number of families from Kerala continued to immigrate to the U.S, with most settling in New York or Chicago where jobs were plentiful and transportation was convenient.

By the mid 1970s there were a significant number of Knanaya Catholic families in the U.S. As our Archbishops Kuriakose Kunnachery and Mathew Moolakkatt used to say "Knanaya Catholics are God's own people. Wherever they are, they come together and keep up the family connections!" Accordingly, Knanaya Catholics in the U.S. would get

together whenever they could. Eventually, the Knanaya families who settled in Chicago decided to form an organization. On May 20th, 1979 a meeting was held in the basement of St. Ephrem Church 2537 W. Bryn Mawr and the first Knanaya organization, Knanaya Association of North America (K.A.N.A) was formed. Philip Kalayil was President, Jose Pullappally, Abraham Chollampel and Thomas Tharayil were Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. KANA took the lead in organizing spiritual and social activities for the community.

As more Knanaya Catholics arrived in Chicago, some expressed interest in forming an organization modeled after the Knanaya Catholic Congress in Kerala. In addition, some members of KANA began to feel that the name of the organization was not appropriate. They felt that the name should reflect the fact that the majority of members were Catholic and the organization was based in Chicago.

After Philip Kalayil's three year term as President ended, a new executive committee was elected at the annual general body meeting with Cyriac Kottoor as President, Abraham Pathiyil as Vice President, Cyriac Vettuparapurathu as Secretary, Joy Vachachira as Joint Secretary and Tomy Pullukatt as Treasurer. At the next general body meeting, the majority of members supported changing the organization's name to Knanaya Catholic Association of Chicago (KCAC). Along with the name change, the principles of the organization changed as well; only practicing Knanaya Catholics were eligible to be members of the association. Those who did not approve of either the name change or the new principle chose to continue the organization called KANA.

Meanwhile, others were interested in forming the Knanaya Catholic Congress of Chicago, (KCCC). Since KCAC's principles were the same as what was intended for KCCC, an effort was made to stop the creation of the KCCC and to have one unified organization of KCAC. KCAC appointed a negotiating committee under the leadership of Mr. Mathew Kulangara and Simon Vallacheril. The negotiation was not fruitful and so on November 13, 1982 at St. Alphonsus Church's basement (1429 W. Wellington) the Knanaya Catholic Congress of Chicago (KCCC) was born. The KCCC executive committee included Mr. Michael Maniparambil as President, Mr. Thomas Madithiparambil as Vice President, Mr. Joy Chootuvelil as Secretary, Mrs. Elsy Rajan Kalladanthiyil as Joint Secretary and Mr. Mani Othirikalumkal as Treasurer. There were now 3 organizations in Chicago - KANA, KCAC, and KCCC. Two of them being Knanaya organizations by nature and one - (KANA) being an organization that was comprised of mainly Knanaya members but did not practice the endogamous nature Knanatism.

Since 1979, Syro Malabar Catholics, including Knanaya Catholics, had been gathering for holy mass with the Syro Malabar priests who were in Chicago for higher studies. In the early 1980s these masses were held at the Loyola University Chapel at North Sheridan Road every 1st Sunday under the banner of the Catholic Fellowship.

However, Knanaya Catholics wanted to have a Knanaya priest to take care of their spiritual needs. Correspondence was in process between the Bishop of Kottayam and

the Archdiocese of Chicago. Finally, Rev. Fr. Jacob Chollampel was sent to Chicago by the Bishop of Kottayam. The Archbishop of Chicago, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin appointed Rev. Fr. Jacob Chollampel as the pastor of all Syro Malabar Catholics in Chicago. A committee was appointed with Professor K.S. Anthony, Dr. Paul Cherian and John Puthusseril to take care of this new ministry. The first Holy Mass for the Syro Malabar Mission was on August 15th 1983 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on Spaulding Ave, in Chicago.

This mission did not last. Only one mass was celebrated at IHM. The non-Knanaya Syro Malabar Catholics withdrew their support for Fr. Chollampel because they wanted to have a priest from their diocese. This was a big issue for all Syro Malabar Catholics, especially for the Knanaya Community. This made Fr. Chollampel express his discouragement by asking the Knanaya Catholic community to “Please hold me if you want me”.

This was a painful situation for our community. It was at this point that a greater effort was made to join two of the existing Knanaya organizations into one, especially so that Fr. Chollampel could be the pastor for a united Knanaya community in order to pursue a Knanaya Catholic Mission. The elder people of the community such as Chacko Poovathumkal, George Kappadakummel, Thomas Tharayil, Rajan Kalladanthil, Joy Vachachira, Mathew Padinjara, Mathew Kulangara, Kurian Karappallil, Kurian Thattarett and myself John Elakkatt among many others, worked hard to unite KCAC and KCCC. After several meetings and negotiations, the two organizations agreed to merge. A historic joint executive meeting took place at Mr. Joseph Elakkatt’s house with respected guest Fr. Jacob Chollampel where it was unanimously agreed to “hold the priest”.

On November 27, 1983 at 2:00 pm at St Benedict Church, 2215 W. Irving Park in Chicago, a joint general body meeting of KCAC and KCCC members was held with Mr. John C. Elakkatt as Chairman. KCAC president Mr. Cyriac Kotoor and KCCC President Mr. Michael Manniparambil declared their organizations as dissolved. Mr. Chacko Poovathumkal read the new constitution prepared in consultation with attorneys. The general body approved the constitution and suggestions were invited to name the new association. According to the majority suggestion, the Chairman, John Elakkatt declared Knanaya Catholic Society of Chicago as the name of the new association. Thus it was at this momentous meeting that the Knanaya Catholic Society (K.C.S) was born as the one and only Knanaya Catholic organization in Chicago. New office bearers were elected in the same general body meeting with Thomas Tharayil as President, Rajan Kalladanthil as Vice President, Prasad(Cyriac P. Chacko) Poovathumkal as Secretary, Jose Chackalackal Assistant Secretary and Jose Panangatt as Treasurer.

Although many worked for the unification of our community, I feel it is only right that one man in particular be acknowledged for his extraordinary efforts in unifying our people and establishing KCS. It was due to this man’s timely and appropriate direction and actions that KCS was formed. This person is none other than the man whom we call Kunchacko Chettan or Kunchacko Appapan, Mr. Chacko Poovathumkal.

After the formation of KCS, a five member committee was elected consisting of Chacko Poovathumkal, George Kappadakunnel, Lukose (Rajan) Kalladanthial, Cyriac Kottoor, and Chacko Padavil to meet with the Archdiocese of Chicago for the approval of a special ministry for the Knanaya Catholics of Chicago with Fr. Jacob Chollampal as its Director. The committee met with Cardinal Bernardin, and presented a petition signed by more than 200 KCS members requesting the formation of a Knanaya Catholic Mission. Cardinal Bernardin accepted the request on the condition that KCS meets all the expenses of the Mission and the Priest as well as find a residence for the Priest. Hence Fr. Chollampal was appointed as the first Knanaya Catholic Mission Director of Chicago. Because of the close relationship between Chacko Poovathumkal and Fr. Feller, the pastor of St Ita Church, 1220 W Catalpa in Chicago, Fr. Chollampal was able to establish residency in the rectory of St Ita Church.

Regular Holy Mass on Saturday evenings began at St Benedict Church, 2215 W. Irving Park in Chicago. George Pulloorkunneal was the first alter server. A church choir was formed by KCS members with Thomas Elavumkal, Cyriac Kottoor, Marykutty Chemmachel, and Gracy Vachachira as vocalists, and George Nellamattom as the keyboard player among others.

The usual activities of KCS were Christmas and Easter celebrations, picnics, camping, Knanaya Olympics, Knanaya Night, and other occasional functions such as seminars, receptions for Bishops and V.I.Ps as needed.

Knanaya Night is the biggest celebration of KCS every year. The main purpose of Knanaya Night is to teach, practice and develop the unique culture and traditions of Knanaya Catholics such as purathana pattukal, margam kalai, the history of Knanaya immigration and migration, the Knanaya marriage ceremony etc. and thereby keeping and handing over these traditions to generation after generation.

In the early period, dramas were staged as one of the items. Some of the dramas were Jwalanam, Vellivallicham, Agani Nakshathram, Suryakhatham, Pampu Kavalayil Bus Stop Illa, Saapa Rasmi, etc. Famous Kathaprasanga Artist Mr. Thomas Poozhikala directed and acted in some of the dramas. Some of the actors included Thomas Elavumkall, John Elakkatt, Joy Chemmachel, Philip Puthenpurayil, James Puthenpurayil, Raju Kannothenara, Mathewkutty Velluratil, Kunjumon Choottuvelil, Simon Pallikunnel, Paulson Kullangara, Abraham Chollampal, George Nellamattom, Johnson Thaikkatt, Michael Kurikalayil, Sabu Elavumkall, Sabu Naduveetil, Philip Sir Thekkel, Pennamma Pattaraparambil, Ajimol Puthenpurayil, Lizy Akathara, Pushpa Arapurath, Jomol Thekkenat, Shila Chemmachel, Betty Mullappalil, and others.

As time went on, many more talented people have come up in our community and have demonstrated their talents. I congratulate them and wish them all the best.

Each and Every KCS Executive Board has contributed to the success of our community.

The following is a brief summary of the milestones and significant events that took place during each executive term.

FIRST EXECUTIVE BOARD OF KCS – November 1983-1984

PRESIDENT	MR. THOMAS THARAYIL
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. RAJAN KALLADANTHIL
SECRETARY	MR. PRASAD POOVATHUMKAL
ASST. SECRETARY	MR. JOSE CHACKALACKAL
TREASURER	MR. JOSE PANANGATT

The first Executive Board worked hard to build a solid foundation for KCS. They appointed a committee consisting of Chacko Poovathumkal, Rajan Kalladanthil and Kurian Thattarettu to review the KCS Constitution and make necessary additions and subtractions. They began the process to establish KCS as a Not for Profit Organization. The first KCS Picnic, Christmas and Easter Gathering was conducted. Since this was the start of the organization, many obstacles were faced and this Executive Board handled them very well.

SECOND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF KCS- November 1984-1985

PRESIDENT	MR. JOHN C. ELAKKATT
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. MATHEW JOHN (MATHAI) PADINJARAL
SECRETARY	MR. JOY VACHACHIRA
ASST. SECRETARY	MRS. MARY KARAPILLIL
TREASURER	MR. KURIAN NELLAMATTOM

The first woman to be a member of the Executive Board of KCS was Mrs. Mary (Pennama) Karapillil. This Executive Board continued the process of getting the Not for Profit Status and Tax exemption and achieved it. They continued the routine activities and took care of the Knanaya Catholic Mission. As the Knanaya Catholic population increased, the membership also increased. We started the process of conducting the first Knanaya Night but as the governing period ended in November we could not conduct a Knanaya Night. The Ecumenical Council of Kerala Churches in Chicago was organized in 1984 with Rev. Corespicopa Kurian Thottupuram as President. K.C.S represented the Knanaya Community until 1995 when Rev. Fr. Simon Edathilparampil became director of the Knanaya Catholic Mission. There-after, under his direction, the Knanaya Catholic Mission represented the Knanaya Catholic community in the Ecumenical Council.

THIRD EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1985-1986

PRESIDENT	MR. JOHNY JOSEPH PUTHENPARAMBIL
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. CYRIAC LUKOSE PUTHENPURAYIL
SECRETARY	MR. JOJO VATTADIKUNNEL

ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. JOY CHOOTTUVELLIL
MR. JAMES KUNNESSARIL

In this period, in addition to the usual activities, the first Knanaya Night was staged. Talented artists within the Knanaya community performed in a Drama conducted by KCS along with a variety of other entertainment programs. The first Knanaya Catholic Convention was held in New York which led to the formation of K.C.C.N.A.

FOURTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1986-1988

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. JOY VACHACHIRA
MR. KURIAN NELLAMATTOM
MR. SIMON PALLIKUNNEL
MR. JOSE PINARKAYIL
MR. PHILIP KOOVAKADA

During this period, the duration of the KCS executive term was changed from one year to 2 years. Knanaya Night was modified with more items and competitions. This term saw significant growth in membership and plans for purchasing a Community Center began.

FIFTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1988-1990

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. MATHEW PADINJARAL
MR. MATHEW KULANGARA
MR. JOY CHOOTTUVELLIL
MR. MATHACHAN CHEMMACHEL
MR. MICHAEL MANIPARAMBIL

This Executive Board convinced community members of the necessity of a Community Center. They began fund raising in various means. Mega Star Night with Mammooty was a great success and made about \$25,000 in net profit. They started the news letter for K.C.S. Knanaya Catholic Youth League of Chicago (K.C.Y.L) was established. First President of KCYL was Joy Chemmachel. Vice President - Benny Vachachira, Secretary- Joseph (Shibu) Thandacheril, Joint Secretary – Jomon Mathew, Treasurer- Ninal Simon Mundaplackel. The first Knanaya Catholic Souvenir was published in 1990. It was called the Knanaya Chronicle. As the community grew, there were some differences of opinion and based on that there were some disputes among members, executives and sub-committees. To solve such problems within the organization, KCS felt the necessity to form a Liaison Board with mature, respected and capable members. Accordingly, the first Liaison board was elected. The first Liaison Board Chairman was John C. Elakkatt, first Vice Chairman, Kurian Nellamattom, and first Liaison Board Members were – Philip Puthenpurayil, Johny Puthenparambil and Philip Elakkatt.

SIXTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1990-1992

PRESIDENT

MR. CHACKO POOVATHUMKAL

VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. SIMON ELLANKAYAIL
MR. JOSE NADUPARAMBIL
MR. PHILIP(KUNJUMON) CHOOTUVELIL
MR. PETER KULLANGARA

During this period, the Knanaya Olympics began. Competition on Forana basis started. The K.C.S news letter was modified and the responsibility for the content was given to the president. Also during this time, a comprehensive address list of members was put together due to the efforts of Jose Naduparambil. He was also the person that was depended on to keep the list updated for some time even after his term in office. To this day, he is sometimes still referred to as “Secretary Jose”. The fundraising committee for the Community Center expanded and a regional committee was formed. K.C.S constitution was revised and made up to date. Many fund raising functions were conducted and raised \$200,000. K.C.S building fundraising committee started the unit system of \$500 per unit. The major fund raising event was a drama of Kozhikode Drama troop and one music concert. During this period K.C.S bought a Nissan Sentra for Mission Director Rev. Fr. Cyriac Manthurathil which was handed over to succeeding mission directors Rev. Fr. Simon Eddathaparamil and Rev. Fr. Philip Thodukayil.

SEVENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1992-1994

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. SIMON ELLANKAYIL
MR. JAIBU KULLANGARA
MR. JOSE AIKKARAPARAMBIL
MR. JOSE NADUPARAMBIL
MR. CHACKO POOVATHUMKAL

The main achievement of this executive board was the purchase of the long awaited Community Center. The efforts of this Executive Board as well as the previous three Executive Boards made this purchase possible. I remember with thanks the involvement of Rev. Fr. Cyriac Manthurathil. He visited houses with the various regional committee members to collect and take pledges for the purchase of the community center. In 1993 the price of the community center was a little over \$400,000. There was no bank loan or any other debt. Mr. Kurian Karappallil and Chacko Poovathumkul served as building fundraising committee chairmen with 7 or 8 area coordinators. Joy Kottoor, Joy Vachachara, Kurian Nellamattom, Simon Viruthikulangara, Raju Kanjirathumkal, Kurian Thottichira, Mathew Idiyalil, Thomas Kaidampallil, and Mathachan Chemmachel were some of the area coordinators. John Elakkatt and Simon Pallikunnel were account keepers with general ledger and individual ledger from the beginning until the purchase of the community center. This Executive Board also contributed to the success of the 2nd Knanaya Catholic Convention in New York.

EIGHTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1994-1996

PRESIDENT

MR. JOY VACHACHIRA

VICE PRESIDENT	MR. KURIAN THOTTICHIRA
SECRETARY	MR. JOSE KANIYALI
ASST. SECRETARY	MR. GEORGE NELLAMATTAM
TREASURER	MR. JOY KOTTOOR

During this period, the community center was remodeled to hold the growing number of members. Subordinate organizations such as Kids Club, Woman's Forum and Yuvajenavethi were established. This Executive Board obtained the real estate tax exemption for the Community Center. They worked hard to host the third K.C.C.N.A convention in Chicago. Jose Kaniyali, the secretary at the time was the president of the K.C.C.N.A. It was the largest and one of the better organized conventions ever held.

NINTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1996-1998

PRESIDENT	MR. CYRIAC LUKOSE PUTHENPURAYIL
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. SIMON PALLIKUNNEL
SECRETARY	MR. JOSE AIKKARAPARAMBIL
ASST. SECRETARY	MR. JOSEPH (SHIBU) THANDACHERIL
TREASURER	MR. PRASAD POOVATHUMKAL

This Board reinforced the property tax exemption status of the community center. His Eminence Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil and His Grace, Arch Bishop Karattabra visited the Community Center and had dinner with the Executive Committee and Rev. Fathers.

TENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 1998-2000

PRESIDENT	MR. SIMON PALLIKUNNEL
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. PETER KULLANGARA
SECRETARY	MR. MATHEW IDIYALLIL
ASST. SECRETARY	MR. TOMY NELLAMATTOM
TREASURER	MR. CYRIAC CHORATH

In 1999, September 18, the K.C.S conducted a fund raising stage program – Thalam Melam 1998. They were a major part of making the 4th K.C.C.N.A Convention in Houston a success. Seminars, Medical Camp, Essay Competitions etc. were successfully conducted. A memorial Service for Late Bishop Makil, Bishop Choolapparambil and Bishop Tharayil was conducted in the community Center. A car was presented to Bishop Moolakkatt. A car was also given to Fr. Simon Edathilparambil.

ELEVENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 2000-2002

PRESIDENT	MR. JOY CHEMMACHEL
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VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

MR. SABU NADUVETTIL
MR. GEORGE THOTTAPURAM
MR. BIJU THURUTHUMALIL
MR. FRANCIS KIZHAKKETTKUTT

As the Community grew to about 800 families and 4,000 people, the present community center was not big enough for the community to get together. So this executive started to look for a bigger and better one and started fund raising. They visited homes and collected money and pledges for the community center. Womens Forum staged a show – Vasantholsavam which was a new step in K.C.S. The profit of this program was given to 10 poor families to get their daughters married. The community center building fund committee raised in cash and pledges about \$1.5 million. A grand reception was given to Bishop Jacob Angadiath in the presence of Bishop Kunnessary in the community center. A K.C.S charity fund and website was started. The first retreat for children (kids club,K.C.J.L) was conducted in the community center. A Talent Night show was also conducted.

TWELVTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 2002-2004

PRESIDENT
VICE PRESIDENT
SECRETARY
ASST. SECRETARY
TREASURER

DR. MATHEW THIRUNELLEPARAMBIL
MR. JOSE PINARKAYIL
MR. JOYCE PUTHENPARAMPIL
MR. SUNNY MUNDAPLAKAL
MR. SHIJU CHERYIATHIL

This Executive Board continued the K.C.S Community Center fund-raising programs with a stage program called Vasantholsanam. They conducted the 4th K.C.C.N.A Convention in Toronto, Canada. K.C.S did a good job to make it a success. They gave a grand send off to K.C.S mission director Rev. Fr. Philip Thodukayil and gave a warm welcome to new Mission director Rev. Fr. Abraham Mutholuth. They worked hard to buy a church property in Bolling Brook, but it did not work out.

THIRTEENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 2004-2006

PRESIDENT	MR. MATHEW NEDUMAKKEL
VICE PRESIDENT	MRS. MAYAMMA PETER VETTIKATT
SECRETARY	MR. CYRIAC KOOVAKATTLE
ASST. SECRETARY	MR. SABU KATTAPURAM
TREASURER	MR. TOJO CHORATH

The second woman executive member after an interval of twenty years was Mrs. Mayamma Peter Vettikatt as Vice President. A special K.C.S general body was called and a motion was presented to agree to buy a church for the K.C.S Mission and it was passed unanimously. During this period the Maywood Church was purchased and we finally had our own parish church. Also, two fund raising programs called summer in USA 2006 and Family Fest 2005 were conducted. In addition, this Executive Board, to recognize that the Community is where we are today due to the contributions of all past Executive Boards, honored all the past Executive Board members by calling a special meeting in the Community Center. They worked hard to buy a new building in Wheeling but could not do it due to zoning issues.

FOURTEENTH EXECUTIVE BOARD of KCS- November 2006-2008

PRESIDENT	MR. SHAJI EDATT
VICE PRESIDENT	MR. JAYAN MACKEL
SECRETARY	MR. ROY NEDUMCHIRA
ASST. SECRETARY	MRS. RUBY JOYCE PUTHENPARAMBIL
TREASURER	MR. BIJU KIZHAKKETHKUTTU

This executive provided leadership in arranging several extra curricular activities for our members such as the drama club, Yoga etc. This executive board also included the third woman to hold executive office, Mrs. Ruby Joyce Puthenparambil. They, along with, previous Executive Boards played a major role in purchasing the 7 acres of land in Hoffman Estates to build the anticipated large Community Center. They conducted fund raising programs called Biju Narayanan Show 2007 and the Jayaram Show 2008. Women's Forum Conducted a raffle with a Lexus Car as the first prize under the leadership of Mrs. Mayamma Peter Vettikatt. All the Executives from 2001 onwards were doing fund raising programs to add money to the new building fund.

15th Executive Board of K.C.S. 2008 - 2010

PRESIDENT	Mrs.Meyamma P. Vettikkatt.
Vice PRESIDENT	Mr. JOHN PATTAPATHY

SECRETARY

Mr. JOSE THOOMPANAL

Joint SECRETARY

Mr. STEPHEN CHOLLAMPEL

TREASURER

Mr. NINAL MUNDAPLAKAL

Until the 7th Executive there were no elections. There was no opposition. From the 8th Executive onwards all elections were contested. However, this current executive was chosen without election because there was no opposition. This executive is the first one to have a lady as the president. With their support and co-operation, Knanaya Catholic Parish bought the second church in Morton Grove on January 14, 2010. Youvajanavedhi of K.C.S. was officially inaugurated. The K.C.C.N.A. Women's Forum was also formed. This Executive published two K.C.S. Calendars for 2009 and 2010. Continued the process of straightening the legal documents with the Cook County and City. They are working hard for the benefits of our community. Let us all co-operate with them for the well being of our Community.

Looking back at the long 27-year journey of KCS, it is very apparent that our community has grown and developed significantly. All this was made possible through the hard work of all our past and present Executives in cooperation with the members of various subordinate organizations such as KCYL, Women's Forum, Kids Club, Youvajanavethi etc., and of course the members of the Knanaya Catholic Community. Let us keep up this spirit of unity and continue our progress in the years to come. I take this opportunity to thank almighty God for blessing us with all our achievements and all those who worked hard for the well being of our community. We have to do more for our younger generation to keep them enthusiastic in the Knanaya spirit, so let us all cooperate with our Executives to lead our KCS to a bright and prosperous future.