

Will Practice of expulsion for sustaining Endogamy within Catholic Church go the same way as Triple Talaq Bill?



All of us know about the evil practice of expulsion of Knanaya members from Kottayam Diocese church on the basis of marriage to non Knanaya spouses. This fact that Kottayam diocese expels members for breaking an unwritten and unchristian law (not in the Code of Canon Law of the Oriental Churches) forbidding Knanaya members to marry non Knanaya spouses is known to all but not openly acknowledged by Bishop Mathew Moolakatte of Kottayam Diocese publicly. The cries of the victims of such evil practices resulted in a petition being filed by KCNS, KANA and others all over the world to the Vatican Family Synod and to the Dicastery of the congregation of oriental churches in 2015. This petition was observed by the Vatican Family Synod even though all the ecclesiastical authorities, Bishops and Arch Bishops in Kerala did not want to openly admit the existence of this practice to Rome nor discuss with the Lay victims their problems resulting from the practice of expulsion from Kottayam Diocese. Holy Father having observed these complaints through such petition by these victims, to the Vatican Family Synod, appointed a one man commission to investigate the truth regarding this suppressed issue which is in fact an abuse of the ecclesiastical powers of the clergy in India on innocent victims. Bishop Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Penbroke, Canada was the one man commission appointed by the Holy Father to investigate the truths regarding this burning issue. It is learned through reliable sources that Bishop Michael Mulhall has submitted his report to the Holy Father after interviewing many Knanaya members all over the world as well as those who have been expelled by the diocese including members of KCNS and KANA. The contents of this report has not been made public by Vatican but again reliable sources say that the report is against practice of Endogamy of Kottayam Diocese and states that the practice of expulsion is a practice of the past and not fit for the present modern days.

Now the report submitted to the Holy Father and the Dicastery of the congregation of oriental churches should result in actions and decisions leading to a decree for the sake of the victims. Otherwise it will be similar to the non-action by the clerics of the Muslim community and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) regarding triple talaq. The Catholic Church should not be equated like the Muslim Clerics, AIMPLB, Jamait Islami, Jamiat Ulma-e-Hind and organisations working for those who were granted triple Talaq and

support the expulsion of Knanaya members from Kottayam church as tradition and customs of Knanaya community, which has to be maintained as status quo. The Catholic clerics should openly (not secretly) treat the practice of Kottayam Diocese as unchristian racial practice which is in violation of the constitution of India before the Supreme Court of India decrees it to be so. The Catholic Church should go beyond investigation for declaring saints within the Church but also investigate such abuse of powers of the clergies like past & present Bishops of Kottayam Diocese and decree in favour of the devout and holy lay victims (the un-noticed and neglected saints). The High Court of Kerala has already decreed that this practice of Kottayam Diocese is against the teachings of Jesus as indicated in the Bible and also against the constitution of India. It is unfortunate that this decree had to be given by a non-Christian Judge of Kerala High Court instead of Church authorities. It is high time that unlike the Muslim Clerics, Vatican quickly declares the outcome of the Bishop Mulhall report and convert it into a decree by the Holy Father declaring the expulsion of any Holy and devout practitioners of the catholic faith by Bishop of Kottayam and the battery of Parish priests or any other diocese anywhere in the world on the basis of racial purity is against the teachings of the Bible and Catholic Church.



If this decree is delayed by Vatican will the victims have to depend on Supreme Court to take up the matter for a decree before Vatican proclaims its own decree that expulsion of Knanaya Catholics or any catholic is against the teachings of the Jesus Christ and the Bible and also against the constitution of India and is similar to the practice of apartheid and racial discrimination? Vatican should wake up to the cries of the victims of families suffering from this persecution within the Catholic Church before the Indian Courts decrees like the triple talaq. Will fate of endogamy go the way triple talaq did by waiting for the Government to pass a Bill in parliament stating that expulsion of any member from his own church on the basis of racial purity should be banned? Vatican needs to wake up before Government of India takes action with a possible Supreme Court Decree for passing a bill in Parliament in the near future on this issue.

Knanaya Catholic Naveekarna Samithy (KCNS)