

63rd LRC Seminar at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad

“Christians and the Antecedents of the Kerala Model of Development”

The 63rd seminar of the LRC (Liturgical Research Centre) was held at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, from **10–11 October 2025**. The two-days seminar, organized on the theme ***“Christians and the Antecedents of the Kerala Model of Development,”*** offered an in-depth examination of the historical role and contributions of the Christian community in Kerala’s social, spiritual, and educational spheres.

The seminar commenced with prayer. **LRC Executive Director Rev. Fr. Jobin Kanjirathinkal** welcomed all participants and extended his best wishes. **Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, Mar Raphael Thattil**, officially inaugurated the seminar. In his inaugural address, he emphasized that Kerala’s social development model is deeply rooted in the spiritual and cultural values of the Christian tradition. He also acknowledged the significant contributions of Catholics to the fields of education and social service. The Major Archbishop expressed his hope that the Church would continue to move forward in the same spirit of unity and dedication, and that this seminar would contribute richly to that mission.

Following this, **LRC Chairman Mar Tony Neelankavil** delivered the keynote address, in which he underlined the

profound contributions of the Christian community to education, healthcare, and social justice in Kerala. **Rev. Dr. Abraham Kavilpurayidathil**, Chancellor of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Curia, offered his greetings and addressed the gathering. After the inaugural session, **twelve distinguished scholars and professionals** presented their research papers, covering a wide range of topics relevant to the seminar theme. A total of **78 participants** attended the seminar, including researchers, priests, religious sisters, and students. The diverse representation enriched the discussions and made the seminar more comprehensive and engaging. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by **LRC Board Member Rev. Dr. James Puliurumbil**, who expressed gratitude to all participants, presenters, and organizers.