

## The OCYM Dubai unit celebrates Catholicate Day with a Lively Debate on the Role of Women

The OCYM Dubai unit commemorated Catholicate Day with a highly informative debate on "The Role of women in Malankara Orthodox Church". Mrs. Jishy Binny, the unit secretary welcomed the dignitaries on stage, the participants and the members of the audience to the function. This was followed by a short message on the Catholicate day by unit Vice President Mr. John P George. The metropolitan of the Idukki diocese of the malankara Orthodox Church H.G Mathews Mar Theodosius inaugurated the debate. In his inaugural address he pointed out the important role women have played in the progress of Church right from its inception and exhorted women to take care of of the church and participate in its activities with Mother Mary as their role model. H.G congratulated OCYM Dubai for their progressive attitude with respect to the new law.

The OCYM Zonal President and Cathedral vicar Rev. Fr. T. J Johnson presided over the meeting. Malankara Sabah magazine managing editor Rev. Fr. Thomas P Mukalil moderated the debate with his trademark sense of humour and succinct summaries after each participant spoke. Mr. Marydasan Thomas led the team saying women should have a greater role while the team that said that women have sufficient participation in the sabha was led by Mr. Thomas Paul. The members of both teams spoke on the topic from various perspectives such as the social perspective, the biblical perspective, political perspective, from the family perspective and from the leadership perspective. All the participants came well prepared and members of the audience were also given a chance to express their viewpoints. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Thomas N.U (programme convener).