



## St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

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**Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos**

**Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada**

Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Millions of our brothers and sisters in Kerala are in grave distress and misery due to the flood and natural calamities. The entire State is in severe crisis. The tragic situation of our own people is indescribable and unimaginable. They are in dire need of our heart-felt prayers and generous help. It is our Christian and human obligation to reach out to our people who are in such acute and unprecedented afflictions. The Head and Father of our Church, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos has appealed to the whole Church to make generous contributions towards flood relief fund. Hence, I request Reverend Fathers to take initiatives to raise funds from our parishes and from people of good will. Individuals and families can make their donations to their respective parishes and the Parish in turn forward the collected amount to the Chancery as soon as possible. We shall send the donations to the Catholicate Curia immediately.

I invite and urge you to kindly extend your generosity and solidarity to the most needy of our dear ones who experience the most unfortunate tragedy in life. Let us keep in mind the words of our Lord: “Whatever you did for the one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (Mathew 25:40). Along with our contributions, let us be united in prayer with the people in disaster.

Our Eparchy will be conducting a special prayer service on August 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday from 6 PM to 8 PM in the Cathedral. All are welcome to join in this prayer service and also please do continue to pray for this intention in your homes and churches.

### **Our 10<sup>th</sup> Convention: Appreciation and gratitude.**

We rejoice in the Lord that the 10<sup>th</sup> Syro Malankara Catholic Convention of North America concluded with sentiments of gaiety and fulfilment. We thank God Almighty for His providence and protection. During the convention we experienced a deep sense of unity and fellowship of the Eparchy as one family. In solidarity with the Universal Church we shared reflections and prayers on “Young people, the Faith and the vocational discernment.” Our convention was a unique experience of being together with the Head of our Church, the bishops, priests, religious and the laity in North America. The presence of His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos, our former Bishop His Excellency Mar Eusebius, other bishops and clergy and religious was a great blessing to our convention. Our liturgical celebrations were truly evocative of our “Malankariteness”. This convention once

again reminded us of our ecclesial identity and the uniqueness of our mission. The entertainments, sports, socials were really enjoyable and relevant.

I take this occasion to express my profound appreciation and gratitude to all the participants and to all who contributed one way or other to make the convention a memorable event. Also, we owe special thanks to our Convention Sponsors. In a very special way, I convey our gratitude to the Eparchial Pastoral Council for planning and organizing such an important ecclesial gathering. Let us not forget the hard work and dedication of Rt.Rev. Msgr Peter Kochery (Program Convener), Very Rev. Fr. Augustin Mangalath (General Convener), Mr. John P. Varghese (General Secretary) and the various Committees. Let us hope and pray that the 10th Syro Malankara Catholic Convention inspires us to move forward to a better future with greater dedication and commitment to the Lord and His Church.

NB: Kindly read this Circular on August 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday,2018.



+Philipose Mar Stephanos

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