



THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE IN USA

Mar Ivanios Bishop's House  
950 Hillside Avenue  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040 USA

**Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius**  
Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Exarchate in USA  
Apostolic Visitor in Canada & Europe

**SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CHURCH  
APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE IN THE USA**

By the Grace of God and by the approval of the Holy See, Thomas Mar Eusebius, Bishop of the Apostolic Exarchate of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in USA extends cordial greetings to all the priests, religious and Faithful of the Exarchate.

**Prot. No. EPL 1/2011**

**Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity.**

My dear Fathers, Sisters, Seminarians and the Lay Faithful,

It is a couple of months since we have started functioning as an Exarchate in America. God in his most loving providence, continues to shower His blessings on each one of us, on our families and on our Exarchate as a whole. After the official inauguration of our Exarchate in October, 2010, I have been personally busy visiting our parishes and people all these days. I could visit most of our parishes and missions. There is a general sense of goodwill and cooperation that I could feel among our people about the Exarchate and its mission. I thank each of you sincerely for the same.

In the meantime we have formed the Exarchate curia (though not complete) as it was essential for the proper functioning of the Exarchate. I am happy to inform you that Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery has been appointed the Vicar General of the Exarchate. Given his long years of ministry and leadership to the Malankara Catholics in North America and his exceptional priestly qualities, I am sure, his service in the Exarchate will be a real blessing to us. Very Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangalath, a long time Chaplain to the Malankara Catholics here and the one who has been painstakingly managing the finance of our community for many years, has been appointed the Chancellor and the Finance Officer. So also some of our priests have been entrusted with the additional task of giving leadership to some of our important ministries. They are the following:

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Seminary Formation | : Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery     |
| Vocation promotion | : Rev. Fr. Saji Mukkoottumannil     |
| MCA and Ecumenism  | : Rev. Fr. Joseph Nedumamkuzhiyil   |
| Youth Apostolate   | : Rev. Fr. Job Kalluvilayil         |
| Catechism          | : Rev. Fr. Mathew Perumbillikunnil  |
| Bible Apostolate   | : Rev. Fr. Joy Mankulam             |
| Mothers' Forum     | : Rev. Fr. Thomas Malayil           |
| Fathers' Forum     | : Rev. Fr. John Kuriakose           |
| Family Apostolate  | : Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoovadakkethil |

Kindly extend your generous support to each of these Rev. Fathers in the exercise of their responsibilities.

As we know, the participation and involvement of our lay faithful in the Exarchate, even on the level of leadership is of crucial importance. Without the active and generous involvement of every member of our Exarchate in the activities of the Exarchate, we will not be able to carry out the mission that the Lord has entrusted upon us. In this respect the most important organ is our Pastoral Council. As we know, we have

at present the Malankara Catholic North American Board consisting of members elected from our parishes. But with the erection of the Exarchate, many of the activities of the Board become rather insignificant. But as the members of the present Board were elected only last year, we have constituted the Pastoral Council of the Exarchate with the same members of the present Board, along with a few additional nominations. The nominated members are the following:

- a) Priests' Representatives
  - Rev. Fr. Saji Mukkoottumannil
  - Rev. Fr. Job Kalluvilayil
  - Rev. Fr. Mathai Mannoovadakkethil
  - Rev. Fr. John Kuriakose
  - Rev. Fr. Jacob John
  
- b) Religious Representatives
  - Rev. Fr. Francis Assisi OIC
  - Sr. Slooso, S.I.C.
  - Sr. Linus Maria DM
  - Sr. Jovina DM
  - Sr. Susy (Holy Spirit)
  
- c) Other nominated members
  - Mr. John Panicker
  - Dr. Roy Varghese
  - Mr. Varghese Zachariah
  - Mrs. Annie Johnson
  - Mrs. Geetha Eettikalayil
  - Mr. Aloysius John

The lay secretary of the pastoral council will be the present secretary of the Board, namely, Mr. Geevarghese Thankachan. The duration of the present Pastoral Council is till December 31, 2011. I congratulate all the members of the Pastoral Council and I request all our faithful to render your support and cooperation to our pastoral council.

Besides the Pastoral Council, we have formed a few other councils with active lay representation for giving leadership to many of the important and immediate projects that the new Exarchate has to undertake and fulfill.

**Exarchial Finance Council**

- Mr. Abraham Pommelil
- Mr. Abraham Philip
- Mr. Varghese Zachariah
- Mr. Shaji Simon
- Mr. Reji Jose
- Mr. Simon Plamthottam
- Mr. Pramod Zachariah
- Mr. Binu George

**Exarchial Council for Planning and Development**

- Mr. George James
- Mr. Alex John Thangalathil

Mr. Benjamin Thomas  
Mr. Geevarghese Thankachan  
Mr. Geevarghese P.C.  
Mr. George Samuel  
Mr. Johnson Daniel  
Mr. Francis George  
Mr. Cherian Idicherian  
Mrs. Chinnamma Rajan  
Mr. Aji Mathews  
Dr. Jocelyn Edathil  
Mr. Sebin Alex  
Mr. James S. Thomas

**Exarchial Council for the promotion of Culture and Heritage**

Mr. Roy Abraham Varghese  
Mr. Philip John  
Mr. Rajan Kakkanattu  
Mr. Babukutty Thundiyath  
Mr. Wilson Joseph  
Mr. Saji Varghese  
Mr. Thomas Abraham  
Miss Nina Daniel

**Public Relations Office**

Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery  
Mr. Mohan Varghese

**Exarchial Web Team**

Mr. Varghese Samuel  
Mr. Sunil Chacko  
Mr. Binu Abraham  
Mr. Gijo Georgekutty  
Mr. John Thomas

The President of all these Councils is the Bishop of the Exarchate. The Vicar General and Finance Officer of the Exarchate are Ex-Officio members of all these Councils. I am aware that there are many more people who are deeply committed to our Church and who are capable of serving on the leadership level for the promotion of the Exarchate. As we have to limit the number for the effective functioning of the councils many names have to be painfully excluded. Notwithstanding the membership in the councils, I earnestly entreat the whole-hearted cooperation of every member of our Exarchate in the fulfillment of all our missions.

Six years have passed since the elevation of the Syro- Malankara Catholic Church to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church. The most loving and caring providence of God for our Church is an integral part of our daily experience. The love and providence that we experience as an ecclesial community demand from our part a corresponding ecclesial response. We have to become ever more conscious of our ecclesial mission in this world and act upon it. Consequently, the last Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church decided to conduct the first Malankara Catholic Assembly in the month of September, 2011. The Assembly is meant to reflect collectively on our most urgent ecclesial responsibilities and to evolve concrete plans of action for the effective realization of that mission. As a preparation for this Assembly on the Church level, it was also decided to convene diocesan, exarchial

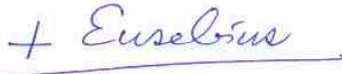
assemblies. Consequently, we have decided to conduct an Exarchial Assembly on 22 and 23 of June, 2011 in New York. Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery, our Vicar General has been specially entrusted with the task of organizing this Assembly. I request your whole-hearted co-operation and support to both these most significant ecclesial events.

In a few weeks' time we shall enter the great season of Lent, which is a time of preparation for celebrating the events of our salvation fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lent is a very important time in our spiritual and liturgical life, a time to renew our Christian commitment as individuals, families and believing communities. It is a time to purge our hearts of all impurities and sinful tendencies. It is a time to gain inner strength to win over the temptations of our life by consciously and willingly assumed ascetic practices like fasting, abstinence, fervent prayers, etc.. More than that, it is also a time to grow in Christian charity, by filling our hearts with the love of Christ that enables us to get closer to our brothers and sisters who are the sad victims of poverty, unemployment, loneliness, strained family relations, alcoholism, depression, etc.. Let this Lent and the following great events of our salvation culminating in the Resurrection of our Lord be a special time of grace for each of you personally, for your family and for your parish communities.

We have the next Malankara Catholic Episcopal Synod in the first week of March in Tiruvalla. I am leaving for India on 24<sup>th</sup> February in order to participate in the Synod. In the third week of March we have the *Ad Limina* visit of the Malankara Catholic Bishops with the Holy Father in Rome. After the meeting with the Holy Father, I shall make a short visit to our Faithful in Germany. I hope to return to USA in the first week of April. I request your valuable prayers in all these ecclesial events that I am attending as part of my specific Episcopal responsibility.

May God bless you, your families and our parishes abundantly. May Mary our Mother be a constant support and inspiration in our life.

Your loving servant in Christ,



+ Thomas Mar Eusebius

Feb. 15, 2011

Mar Ivanios Bishop's House,  
950 Hillside Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040



---

*This circular is to be read in all our parishes on Sunday, February 27, 2011*