



THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH
APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE IN USA

Mar Ivanios Bishop's House
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**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 the USA extends cordial greetings to all the priests, religious and Faithful of the Exarchate.

Prot. No. EPL 3/2011

Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity

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

The first ever Assembly of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Major Archiepiscopal Church was held from September 21 to 23, 2011 in Trivandrum. This was one of the most important ecclesial events of our Church since it was made a Major Archiepiscopal Church *sui iuris*. This assembly turned out to be a meaningful experience and celebration of our faith, ecclesial affinity, and missionary commitment. The assembly helped to heighten our consciousness of our essential missionary existence as a Church and to enhance our mission commitment. Let us raise our hearts in thanksgiving to God for providing our Church this wonderful experience of grace. Our Exarchate had a vital representation in the assembly and I personally thank all the seven representatives from our Exarchate for this beautiful gesture of their faith and ecclesial belongingness.

As we know, as a preparation for the Church Assembly and for strengthening our own ecclesial solidarity and mission, we conducted an Exarchial Assembly on June 22 and 23 in New York. 56 representatives from the cross sections of our Church in America participated in the same. The Assembly was a deeply moving 'Pentecost' experience to all the participants. It helped us to be conscious of our missionary vocation in the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and of our duty to live up to it seriously in the American context. The participants left the Assembly venue with a renewed sense of being a Church and with a deepened conviction about our missionary call. Special mention must be made about the seriousness and genuineness displayed by our young representatives in their love for and dedication to the Church. I thank all the participants including the Rev. Fathers and Sisters for making this a significant ecclesial experience, especially Very Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery, the Convener and Fr. Saji Mukkoottumanni, the Secretary.

In God's most loving providence, we have passed one year since the inauguration of the Exarchate. In every sense, it has been a year of manifold blessings for us from God. The establishment of the Exarchate and the accompanying ecclesial possibilities helped us to have greater consolidation and fellowship as a Church. We are overwhelmed by a renewed enthusiasm and ecclesial belongingness. I take this opportunity to thank sincerely all of you, dear Fathers, Sisters, seminarians and all our Faithful for your unwavering faith commitment, for your unconditional love for the Church and for your exemplary Christian witness. I am deeply grateful to you for all the support and love that you extend personally to me as the Bishop of the Exarchate. The interest that our youth have in living their faith and the genuineness with which they love our Church give us tremendous hope for the

future. As members of one family, called by God to fulfill a very specific mission in this wonderful country, let us go forward as a Church, holding fast to our valued traditions and deeply committed to the positive values of America.

One of the canonical possibilities and obligations that the establishment of the Exarchate opened for us is the erection of parishes in the Exarchate (CCEO No. 280). Before the establishment of the Exarchate, all our communities were by nature, missions, as they formed part of the local Latin parishes. The establishment of the Exarchate gives us the right to canonically erect parishes in the place of missions. As per the above mentioned canon, it is within the competency of the Bishop of the Exarchate to erect parishes in order to provide pastoral care for the Syro-Malankara Catholics living within the territory of the Exarchate in the United States of America.

Taking advantage of this canonical provision and responding positively to this canonical obligation, we wish to erect parishes in our Exarchate. As the first step in this move, we shall erect our present mission at Long Island which is also the Pro-Cathedral of the Exarchate, as a parish. We shall do it on the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the feast of the patron saint of this community, namely on November 13, 2011, the feast of St. John Chrysostom. Considering the ecclesial and canonical importance of this act, I earnestly solicit the prayers and presence of all the Faithful of the Exarchate in this event. To provide space for maximum participation, the venue of this canonical celebration is decided to be the St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1500 De Paul Street, Elmont, NY 11003. The celebration will start at 3.00 pm.

A team of young experts in information technology from our Exarchate has been working hard for the last couple of months in preparing an official website for the Exarchate. As we gather together on Nov. 13 in Elmont for the canonical erection of the first parish in the Exarchate, we also wish to launch the official website of the Exarchate. I take this opportunity to thank the members of our Web Team for their dedicated service to the Exarchate in this respect.

Preparations are under way for the Exarchial Convention scheduled for August, 2012. A small team of our Pastoral Council members, assigned with the special responsibility of fixing the venue and time of the Convention, has successfully accomplished the task. The venue of the next Convention is Hudson Valley Resort (400 Granite Road, NY 12446 Kerhonkson) and the dates fixed are from August 9 to 12, 2012. As this is the first Convention after the Exarchate has been established, it assumes special importance. It is for the first time that as members of the Exarchate all of us are coming together for a warm and rewarding living together and for a beautiful celebration of our faith. I earnestly request all the members of our Church to assure your participation in the Convention with the whole family at the earliest.

From 14 to 16 November, I shall be attending the Plenary Meeting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at Baltimore. As we know, the representation of our Church in this most important body of the Catholic Church in America has helped to introduce our Church to our catholic brothers and sisters in America and to strengthen our ties with them. Kindly pray that the meeting may produce the best results for all the Catholics in America.

I wish all of you a meaningful celebration of the forthcoming Thanksgiving Day. Let us be gratefully conscious of the numerous blessings of God in our life, especially of our dear families. Family is a fundamental value in our tradition and let us resolve ourselves to safeguard and promote the sacredness of the family bond against the challenges in our culture that seem to threaten it.

In a few weeks' time we will enter into the beautiful season of the Advent in order to prepare for the birth of our Redeemer. I wish all of you a blessed Advent season. May the Advent and its faithful observance enable each one of us to experience deeply the redeeming presence of our God with us, the Immanuel. May the celebration of the birth of Jesus bring true peace and joy into your hearts, in your families and in our communities. May we continue to experience this all through the new year.

Wishing God's abundant blessings on each of you, your families and our communities and invoking the powerful intercession of Mother Mary and all the Saints,

Yours lovingly in our Lord,

+ Eusebius

+ Thomas Mar Eusebius



November 1, 2011
Mar Ivanios Bishop's House,
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This circular is to be read in all our churches on Sunday, November 6, 2011