

**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 3/2012

Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity

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

Ever since the historical event of the Reunion of Servant of God Mar Ivanios, our Church has been experiencing an outpouring of blessings from above in large measures. The 'little folk' that we are, always has the experience that we are constantly sustained by the loving providence of God. Every experience that we have gone through within our short history has been a reconfirmation of the fact that the bold initiative of Servant of God Mar Ivanios was God's will for our Church. One of the most important landmarks in the growth of our Church has been the elevation of our Church to the status of a self-governing Church with a Synodal structure within the Catholic communion. And on November 24, 2012 the Holy Father received the Head and Father of our Church, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselicos Cleemis Catholicos to the College of Cardinals in the Universal Church. We accept this as another sign of the great love and confidence that the Holy Father and the Universal Church have for the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and for His Beatitude. We cannot cease from thanking the Lord for all His blessings for our Church and let us continue to pray for our Church and for His Beatitude, as we assume a new responsibility and leadership role in the Church.

Our Church in North America has also been honored in a special way by the Holy See. The Holy Father graciously bestowed on our Vicar General Father Peter Kochery the title 'Chaplain to His Holiness', considering his outstanding priestly qualities and meritorious service and leadership to our Church in North America. With this honor, Father Peter Kochery shall henceforth be known as 'Reverend Monsignor Peter Kochery'. We thank the Lord for the gift of Rev. Monsignor Peter Kochery to the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church and in a special way to our Church in North America and extend our heartiest congratulations and prayerful best wishes to him.

Year of Faith

As we know, the Holy Father initiated a Year of Faith in the Universal Church. October 12, 2012, the fiftieth anniversary of the commencement of the Second Vatican Council marked the beginning of the Year of Faith. It is to last till November 24, 2013. In the contemporary onslaught of secularism and materialism, the observance of the Year of Faith is aimed at intensifying our mission of New Evangelization. The culture we live in tends to ignore the importance of God in our world and the radicality of faith in our lives. One social institution that receives the greatest blow in this culture is the family. We are called to work collectively for reinstating the centrality of God and the inevitability of faith in our lives and to revive and sustain the sacredness of the family.

In the Exarchate and in our Church in North America, we wish to celebrate the Year of Faith meaningfully in order to achieve the desired goals. The Year of Faith observances must enable us to deepen our faith, be more rooted in the Gospel values, be more committed to our Church and bear better witness to the values that we have inherited as a Church, as families and as individuals. The activities of the Year of Faith in our Church in North America were officially inaugurated during the pastoral council meeting held on November 17. One of the important activities related to this celebration is an ongoing faith formation program designed for all our parishes. In this connection,

we are giving form to a handful of faith formation teams who will carry out this ongoing faith formation program in our parishes. So also, we plan to initiate an ongoing Bible Study program, again to be carried out on parish levels, but monitored by a central team. In the Year of Faith, we also plan to conduct an Exarchate level Bible Convention lasting for three days. I request the whole hearted cooperation of all our parishes, families and faithful in the celebration of the Year of Faith.

Liturgical Texts

Since the establishment of the Exarchate in 2010, we have been seriously engaged in preparing and making available the required liturgical texts for use of our Church in North America. Consequently, during the Syro-Malankara Catholic convention held in August, 2012, we released a new Qurbono Takso in English which is considered as a phenomenal achievement in this respect. The Department of Sacred Liturgy in the Exarchate has also published a new Service Book of the Holy Mass for the use in the Exarchate. The special feature of this book is that it contains four columns on every page. The first column has the prayers of the Holy Mass for the congregation in Malayalam, the second column contains the transliteration, the third column has the same prayers in English and the fourth column has a commentary on the Holy Mass. The book is so designed that it can be used by all sections of the congregation for the Holy Mass both in Malayalam and in English. Henceforth this shall be the official text to be used for our Divine Liturgy in the Exarchate.

New Mission

I am happy to inform you that we were able to start another Syro-Malankara Catholic mission in the Exarchate, namely in Los Angeles. We have a considerable number of families there and they have been ardently desirous of a permanent pastoral arrangement there. Thanks to the great ecclesial openness of the Archbishop of Los Angeles, we were able to make available the pastoral service of a Malankara Catholic priest in Los Angeles on a permanent basis. Rev. Father Kuriakose Mambrakatt us appointed to serve the St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission of Los Angeles. We keep this mission in our prayers and extend hearty welcome to Father Kuriakose to the Exarchate.

We have entered the beautiful season of the Advent in order to prepare for the birth of our Redeemer. Let this Advent Season be a period of meaningful spiritual preparation for all of us in the Church. 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 our hearts, in our 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,

+ Thomas Mar Eusebius
November 27, 2012
Mar Ivanios Bishop's House,
950 Hillside Ave., New Hyde Park, NY 11040

This circular is to be read in all our churches on Sunday, December 2, 2012