

**By the Grace of God and by the approval of 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 3/2013**

**Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity**

**Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Lay faithful,**

One of the important landmarks in the faith journey of the Syro-Malankara Catholics in this great continent has been the establishment of an Apostolic Exarchate on July 14, 2010 by the then Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. Though we were privileged to have this canonical status, we still lack the necessary infrastructure to realize the potential implied in this status, like a cathedral, sufficient chancery space, etc.. Therefore efforts were on from the beginning of the Exarchate to procure a church that could function as our cathedral. In God's wonderful providence for our Church and thanks to the generosity of Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockville Center, we hope that our goal of a cathedral and a chancery could be realized without much delay. Bishop Murphy has decided to place at our disposal the beautiful church of St. Vincent de Paul at Elmont in New York, the rectory attached to it and a spacious parking lot, for us to purchase at a largely discounted rate. However, even before the execution of the deal, Bishop Murphy permitted us to move in to the rectory which could be used as our new chancery and my residence. Consequently, on June 2, I moved to the new residence. Our new address is 1500 Depaul Street, Elmont, NY 11003.

We realize that this is yet another clear instance of God's loving providence for us. But we also understand that this poses us a challenge, especially in terms of finance. We need to raise the fund required to realize the deal. In order to meet the partial cost of the deal, it was decided to sell the two houses which we own now. But to raise the remaining amount, we need the generous support of all our people. In due time, I shall appeal to your generosity and good will to help this long cherished dream of our Church come true.

### **First Priestly Ordination for the Exarchate**

Another moment of grace that our Church in North America is eagerly waiting to experience is the first priestly ordination of the Exarchate. Deacon Michael Edathil is the first American born Malankara Catholic to be ordained a priest. His priestly ordination is to be held on Saturday, July 6, 2013 at Philadelphia. While raising our hearts to God in thankfulness for the gift of this vocation, I also gratefully acknowledge the valuable role played by the parents and family of Deacon Michael, the Philadelphia Malankara Catholic parish, the seminaries where he received his formation and His Excellency the Most Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas who was instrumental in identifying this vocation. I encourage all our faithful to participate in the priestly ordination and to make it a meaningful ecclesial experience of the Exarchate.

### **Year of Faith Bible Convention and Mar Ivanios Day Celebration**

As part of the Year of Faith celebration of the Exarchate, a three day long Bible convention is to be held in New York from July 12 to 14. Renowned retreat preacher and writer Rev. Fr. Bobby Jose Kattikad OFM Cap. shall preach the retreat. It will be greatly beneficial if a good number of our faithful could make use of this opportunity. Fr. Bobby Jose shall preach separate retreats to

our priests and sisters during the preceding and following weeks respectively. Therefore some of our parishes that are distanced from New York may have to cancel the Sunday Malankara Mass on July 7 in order to enable our pastors to participate in the priestly ordination and in the retreat for priests and this inevitability is sincerely regretted.

This year we are celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Feast of Commemoration of Servant of God Mar Ivanios. We are deeply aware of the lasting impact that his life and decisions had on each one of us and on our Church as a whole, most importantly, the holiness of his life, his commitment to truth, his suffering for the Church, etc.. Not only has he prepared for us a new ecclesial path to tread but has also bequeathed a new model to imitate in our faith journey. We are confident in the Lord, that in him we have a great mediator in heaven. The official Commemoration celebration in the Exarchate shall be held on Sunday, July 14 along with the Bible convention. I request your active participation in this celebration also.

### **Exarchate Youth Conference**

Another forthcoming event of great significance is the Youth Conference of the Exarchate to be held from August 8 to 11, 2013 at the Iona College in New York. Serious preparations are underway for this Conference under the leadership of our Central youth team. One of the focuses of the Conference would be to strengthen our youth in their faith, especially as we live in a culture that poses great threat to faith and traditional Christian values. So also the Conference will be a beautiful occasion to cultivate better fellowship and solidarity among us, as Malankara Catholic youth. I earnestly entreat all our youth and their parents to ensure that all our youth participate in this important gathering.

### **The Department of Sacred Liturgy**

The Department of Sacred Liturgy in the Exarchate has completed another important work, namely, the preparation of a Malankara Catholic prayer book in English with all the Prayers of the Hour for the use in our families. The book also includes devotional prayers like the Holy Rosary, Preparation of the Sacrament of Penance, the Way of the Cross, etc.. Our faithful and parishes can obtain copies of the book from the Exarchate Chancery.

I wish to thank all of you for your inspiring faith commitment and for your unreserved and generous support not only to your respective parish communities but also to all the common projects and activities of the Exarchate. I wish all of you a blessed Feast of the *Dukrono*. May St. Thomas, our Father in faith continue to inspire us and guide us in our own faith journey. 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

June 26, 2013  
Exarchate Chancery,  
1500 De Paul Street, Elmont, NY 11003

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*This circular is to be read in all our churches on Sunday, June 30, 2013*