

THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
APOSTOLIC EXARCHATE IN USA



**Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius**

Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Exarchate in USA  
Apostolic Visitor in Canada & Europe

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**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. EOPL 1/2013**

**Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity**

**Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters, and the Lay Faithful,**

As per canon 1086 §1 of *The Code of Canons of the Eastern Catholic Churches*, every Eparchy/Exarchate needs to establish a tribunal of first instance for the administration of justice. However, taking into consideration the territorial vastness of our Exarchate and the small number of cases, we thought it would be better to go for a provision by which our Faithful could approach the local Latin tribunals for marriage nullity cases. Consequently, we submitted an application to the Dicastery of Apostolic Signatura in Rome for a prorogation of competence of the local Latin tribunals to deal with the cases of the Syro-Malankara Catholic faithful in the United States. I am happy to inform you that the Apostolic Signatura has graciously granted us such a canonical provision. The said Dicastery has made it clear that the second instance tribunals of the local Latin tribunals would serve as the appeal courts, as well. In terms of approachability and convenience, we know, this provision would be greatly helpful for our Faithful.

Henceforth, until another canonical provision is made, our Faithful are advised to make use of the services of the tribunals of the local Latin Dioceses with regard to marriage nullity cases. The following points must be taken care of if anyone decides to do so:

1. In the *libellus* (petition) presented to the Latin tribunals, it must be clearly written that the Petitioner and/or the Respondent are/is a Syro-Malankara Catholic Faithful. This would help the local tribunals to approach the Exarchate Bishop for obtaining the necessary competence.
2. This provision is given only for the marriage nullity cases.
3. In redressing other grievances, the Faithful are asked to approach the Bishop of the Exarchate

Wishing God's abundant blessings on each of you, your families and our communities,  
Yours lovingly in our Lord,

*+ Eusebius*

+ Thomas Mar Eusebius  
January 16, 2013



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This circular is to be read in all our churches on Sunday, January 20, 2013