



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 the USA extends cordial greetings to all the priests, religious and Faithful of the Exarchate.

Prot. No. EPL 2/2011

Praise be to the Most Holy Trinity

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

In 2005 Blessed Pope John Paul II, fully realizing the vitality and dynamism of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, elevated it to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church *sui iuris*. Thereby the Church received the Synodal structure of self-governance and autonomy. The new status of the Church was an acknowledgement that our Church has attained its ecclesial maturity. This also implied a lot of ecclesial responsibilities on our part. Assuring the full participation of every section of the Church's Faithful, the Episcopal Synod of a Major Archiepiscopal Church has to continually revitalize the Church in order to enable it to fulfill its God-given mission in the world. It is to facilitate this task that the Canon Law prescribes that a Church *sui iuris* must convene the Assembly of the Church once in every five years (Ref. CCEO 140).

Accordingly, the 10th Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church decided to conduct the first Malankara Catholic Assembly in the month of September, 2011 in Trivandrum. The theme of the Assembly was chosen to be 'the Malankara Catholic Church, the Proclaimer of the Good News'. The Assembly is meant to reflect collectively on our most urgent ecclesial responsibilities as a missionary Church and to evolve concrete plans of action for the effective realization of that mission. It was also decided to convene diocesan, exarchial and religious Assemblies, as a preparation for the Church Assembly and also with a view to revamping the missionary enterprises of each Diocese, Exarchate and Religious Community in our Church, as per the provisions of the Canon Law (Ref. CCEO 235-242)

It is in this context that the Syro-Malankara Catholic Exarchate in the USA decided to convene its first ever Assembly on 22 and 23 June, 2011 in New York. Keeping in tune with the general theme of the Church Assembly, we wish to reflect on the missionary vocation of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in America. The Assembly has a strict representative nature, as it is meant to be a very serious study and reflection on the given theme for making our missionary involvement relevant and fruitful in America. Canonically the Bishop presides over the Assembly. Our Vicar General, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter Kochery has been appointed Convener of the Assembly and Rev. Fr. Saji Mukkoottumannil, the Secretary. The participants of the Assembly include all our vicars, representatives of religious priests and sisters, representatives of the Malankara Catholic priests in America working outside the Exarchate, lay representatives elected from each of our parish communities as per the numerical strength of the parish and a few nominated members. The venue

of the Assembly is the Seminary of Immaculate Conception, Huntington. His Excellency the Most Rev. William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Center has kindly consented to inaugurate the Assembly.

At this juncture, let us raise our hearts in gratitude to God that within a few months of the establishment of our Exarchate, we are blessed to hold such an important ecclesial event in America. This should be seen as a clear sign of the benevolent Providence that is sustaining and guiding our Church here, of the vitality of our Church in America and also of the gracious goodness and ecclesial affinity of all the cross sections of our Church members here. I earnestly entreat all our parishes and parishioners to support the Assembly with your valuable prayers and solicitous good will. Let us pray in our families and our parishes in a special way for the success of the Assembly, that the Assembly may be a true experience of the first Pentecost, that all the collective reflections and deliberations of the Assembly may contribute to renewing our Church from within and to strengthening the missionary potential of our Church in America.

As we know, on July 15, 2011 we are commemorating the 58th anniversary of the heavenly journey of Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios. As an ecclesial community our indebtedness to this Father in faith knows no bounds. For the spiritual wealth that we are privileged to experience by being part of a universal communion of believers, fully living at the same time our venerable ecclesial traditions, we owe to the vision and commitment of this holy man. Let us thank the Lord for the gift of this wonderful Father to our Church, to the universal Church and to humanity at large. As the canonization process of this Servant of God is seriously underway, let us pray that the universal Church may soon acknowledge the sanctity and heroism of his life and offer it for the sanctification of the whole world.

As it is customary, two week long prayers and other services are conducted from July 1, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Pattom, Trivandrum at the tomb of Servant of God Mar Ivanios. Thousands of people, old, young and children alike undertake a pilgrim walk to the tomb of our venerable Father from different parts of our Church. The common commemorative celebration of the Exarchate shall be held on Sunday, June 17, 2011 at our St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Parish, New Rochelle. The commemorative Holy Mass will begin at 10.00 am. I thank our parish community in New Rochelle for so graciously hosting this important celebration of our Church. I would strongly recommend that all our Faithful, especially those who live in the Tri-State region, participate in this Holy Mass, as an expression of our love and indebtedness to the great Father of our Church. In our parishes in the Tri-State region, there shall be no Holy Mass on that day. In the other parishes, memorial services are to be conducted on July 17, 2011 in honor of Mar Ivanios.

As you may be aware, His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos, the Major Archbishop of our Church is completing 25 gracious years of priestly service this year. Besides being the Head and Father of our Church, His Beatitude was the first Apostolic Visitor to America. It is our duty and privilege to thank the Lord for the wonderful gift of his priesthood and to pray that God may continue to strengthen him to lead the Church courageously through these difficult times. As per our request, His Beatitude has kindly agreed to celebrate a thanksgiving Holy Mass with all of us on July 2, 2011 at New York. The details regarding the same will be conveyed to you by our Vicar General. I would very earnestly solicit your kind presence in this Holy Mass.

I am happy to inform you that a new Malankara Catholic Mission has started in Edmonton in Canada. Thanks to the kind support and patronage of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, a

Malankara Catholic priest, namely Rev. Fr. Thomas Puthuparampil has been appointed Chaplain to the Malankara Catholic Faithful living in Edmonton. Let us keep this new mission in our prayers.

From 14 to 17 June, I shall be attending the United States Catholic Bishops' Conference at Seattle. Kindly pray that the Conference may turn out to be a blessing to all the Catholics in America. I wish all of you a blessed Feast of the Pentecost. I thank you for your exemplary ecclesial commitment and personal sacrifices and also for your kind love and support for my humble ministry in the Exarchate. May the Holy Spirit who strengthened the first disciples to be fearless witnesses of the Risen Lord, enable each of us to fulfill our specific Christian mission in this world. May Mother Mary whose presence was a powerful source of support to the early Church, be our constant protector and inspiration. Wishing God's abundant blessings on each of you, your families and your parishes,

Yours lovingly in our Lord,

+ Eusebius

+ Thomas Mar Eusebius



June 9, 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, June 12, 2011