
By the grace of God and by the approval of the Holy See
From the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church
Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos
Blessings to the Metropolitan Archbishop, all Metropolitan, Bishops,
Priests, Deacons, Religious and the Faithful



Prot No. CPL 3/2010

Praise to the Triune God, Self-existent, Almighty, Eternal and
Consubstantial

Most Rev. Bishops, Very Rev. Corepiscopoi, Rembans,
Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Religious and dear Faithful in the Lord!

The holy Church is the continuation of the economy of salvation on earth initiated by God the Father and made available by the Son of God. The Church is on the move in this earth by the act of the Holy Spirit who fulfils everything. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, that has its origin in the apostolic tradition of St. Thomas, is continually strengthened and nourished by the Holy Spirit. This Church, the servant of announcing the Good News and fostering the unity of the churches expands in and beyond the land of India, and grows as lively communities of the people of God. By the providence of God, the Holy See has raised our Church a Major Archiepiscopal Church. In continuation, I have made various canonical arrangements for strengthening her ministry.

Considering the request of the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, the Holy Father Pope Benedict

XVI has erected an Exarchate for the Syro-Malankara Catholic Faithful in the United States of America. The Holy Father has appointed Rev. Dr. Thomas Naickampambil of the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum as the first Bishop of the newly erected Exarchate. The Holy Father has also entrusted the bishop-designate the office of the Apostolic Visitor to Canada and Europe. The official announcement of this was made on 14 July at St. Mary's Cathedral, Pattom.

An Exarchate is a portion of the People of God which, because of special circumstances, is not erected as an eparchy, and which being delimited territorially or on some other criterion, is entrusted to an Exarch to shepherd. The rights and obligations of the Eparchies and Eparchial bishops said in the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (Can 311-321) are applicable to Exarchate and Exarch.

Mar Ivanios Malankara Catholic Centre, New York will be the headquarters of the new Exarchate. The Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in America has 16 parishes, 30 priests and 34 religious. In Canada and Europe we have 12 mission stations. In total there are approximately 10000 faithful in Europe and America.

In divine plan, the visits of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios of happy memory to Rome and Europe in 1932 and to America in 1947, marked the official presence of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church in Europe and America respectively. The Malankara Catholic Community that Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios of happy memory inaugurated in New York in 1984 for our Faithful in America is another important historical event in this divine intervention. Later on, many parishes and mission stations have been formed in various parts of America. Rev. Fr. John Kalloor, [Most. Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom], Rt. Rev. Melampambil John Remban, Rt. Rev. Mannikarottu Geevarghese Corepiscopo and Rev. Dr. Peter Kochery had been working as coordinators. In 2001, upon the request of Cyril Baselios Catholicos of happy memory, the Holy Father John Paul II of happy memory appointed the first Apostolic Visitor for the Members of the Malankara Catholic Church in North America and Europe. I served as the first Apostolic Visitor from 2001 to 2003.

Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Thomas succeeded me when I was appointed Bishop of the Eparchy of Tirvalla. On 25 January, 2010, Rt. Rev Joseph Mar Thomas was appointed Bishop of the Eparchy of Bathery. Now considering our request the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has raised the ecclesial community in America to the canonical status of an Exarchate. I express our loyalty and profound gratitude to the Holy Father for the care and help of the Holy See towards our Church. I also remember in gratitude all our Rev. Fathers, Sisters and People of God who have been serving our Church in America

Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Naickampampil, the first Bishop of the new Exarchate was born to Sri. N.T. Varghese and Smt. Sossama Varghese of Naickampambil in the Mylapra Parish of the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta on 6 June, 1961. After finishing his schooling, he joined St. Aloysius Minor Seminary. On completing his priestly formation in Papal Seminary, Pune, he was ordained a priest on 29 December 1986, by Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios of happy memory. He secured a Master's Degree from Jnana Deepa Vidyappeth, Pune and Doctorate from Gregorian University, Rome in Philosophy.

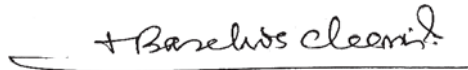
While serving as parish priest of Kuddassanadu, Poozhikkadu, Pandalam, Kurampala, Puthenkavuvila, Thoongampara, Punnavor, Kattuvila, Bartonhill, Chenthipoor and Kallayam, he has been serving as the professor of Philosophy in St. Mary's Malankara Seminary, Trivandrum, since 1988. It is while rendering his commendable service as the secretary of the Synodal Commission for Clergy of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, the Priests' Personnel of the Major Archieparhy of Trivandrum, Member of the Major Archieparchial Council of Trivandrum, the Bursar of Sarvodaya Schools and the parish priest of the Vimalahrudhaya Malankara Catholic Parish, Rev. Fr. Thomas is raised to the status of Episcopo.

You shall pray to the Lord for the new Exarchate and the Bishop-designate. Let us be grateful to God for his miraculous acts in the growth of our Church. It is decided that the celebration of 80th Reunion Day and the Episcopal ordination of the Bishop-designate

will be conducted together on 21 September 2010 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Pattom, Trivandrum. Most Rev. George Moore, the General Secretary of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) will represent the American Catholic Church on this occasion. Rev. Dr. Thomas Naickamparampil will be raised to the status of Remban on 11 September at 7.30am at his native parish at Mylapra in the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta. The inauguration of the new Exarchate in America and the installation ceremony of its first Bishop will be held at 2.30 pm, on Sunday 3 October 2010 at Queen of Most Holy Rosary Church 196, West Centennial Ave, Roosevelt, New York - 11575. I cordially exhort you all to participate in the 80th Reunion Day and the Episcopal Ordination services.

May all these be fulfilled through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God and all the Saints, especially of our Father and Apostle St. Thomas and the College of Apostles. Amen.

Your humble servant in the Lord,



29-07-2010
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum

Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos
Major Archbishop
of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

Our Father in Heaven...

N.B. :This pastoral letter should be read in all our churches, mission centres and centres of worship during the Holy Qurbano next Sunday.
