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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, Metropolitans, Corepicopoi,  
Rambans, Priests, Deacons, Religious and the Faithful



Prot No CPL 4/2008

Praise be to the Triune God,  
self-existent, almighty, eternal and consubstantial!

**The 55<sup>th</sup> Feast of Commemoration  
of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios**

Most Rev. Metropolitan Archbishop, Metropolitans, Rev. Priests,  
Deacons, dear Religious and beloved Faithful in Christ!

We make certain most important commemorations in our ecclesial and liturgical life in the second half of the Season of Pentecost. We recall to mind the Apostles and the Fathers of the Church in a special manner in the Church, which is established through the mission God entrusted to the Apostles, namely, the preaching of the Good News of Salvation to all nations (Mt 28:20). When we celebrate the feasts of the Holy Apostles in the Universal Church, the Malankara Catholic Church commemorates St. Thomas, the Apostle of Christ, who established the Church over here and the other venerable Fathers of our Church. While we commemorate the Apostles in general through the observance of the 13 days Fast, we celebrate in particular the feasts of St. Jude, the Apostle, St. Peter, the head of the Apostles and

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St. Paul, the chief of the Apostles. Thereafter, we celebrate the 'Dukhrono' (memorial feast) of the Apostle St. Thomas, our Father in faith. Besides these, during this season, the Malankara Catholic Church blessed through the observance of the memorial of Cheppattu Philipose Remban and Pulikkottil Joseph Remban, chief protagonists of the Reunion Movement and of Mar Theophilos of happy memory, the co-founder of the Reunion Movement, we commemorate the Servant of God Metropolitan Archbishop Mar Ivanios, the architect of the Reunion Movement and the second Apostle of the Malankara Church.

"In preaching the Gospel they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline. This was faithfully done: it was done by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received - whether from the lips of Christ, from His way of life and His works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit; it was done by those apostles and other men associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing" (Vat II, Divine Revelation No. 7). For this very reason, we pray thus in the Holy Qurbano: "Give us the grace O Lord, to follow the footsteps of the Holy Fathers and the Teachers who held the true faith. May we never alter their true teaching through deceit or misinterpretation. Rather, give us the grace to continue in your straight paths with innocence and purity that is pleasing to you" (Anaphora of the Apostles, the invocation after the fifth intercessory prayer).

This year, we are celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Feast of Commemoration of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios, who was sent by God to lead the Malankara Church with innocence and purity of mind, pleasing to God, at a time when the true teachings were altered in the history of this Church. This blessed Memorial Feast, which the Malankara Catholic Church observes every year, helps us to walk through the right path of Christian faith and grow in spiritual vigour.

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As the Malankara Catholic Church advances in her life-growth, God has blessed our Church through the Servant of God Mar Ivanios that she may remain as a model in ecclesial building-up, in the fields of her mission of service and the service of the unity of the humanity. His Grace was a man of action who accomplished dedicated service firmly anchored in Indian culture and vision founded on the sacred scripture. This ascetic, who lived to acquire God, fostered the love of God and love of neighbour in ecclesial life. The self-sacrificing mentality of His Grace to discern the truth and to bring the faithful of the Church to its realization is praise worthy.

As part of the canonical procedure for the canonisation of His Grace as a Saint, he has been proclaimed 'Servant of God'. Let us earnestly pray for further progress in the cause of canonisation. As further steps in the process for canonisation, we have to constitute the Theological Commission, the Historical Commission and the Tribunal to record the testimony of the contemporary witnesses of the life of Mar Ivanios to study the heroic love of God and the virtues that the Servant of God had practised. I hope, I will be able to inform the faithful in this regard without further delay. Along with this, I will publish the canonical petition of the Postulator for the cause of canonisation. Besides, arrangements are being made to inform the Holy See of Rome regarding the Cause. I know that all our faithful enthusiastically share in the cause of the canonisation. I heartily congratulate all of you and express my gratitude to you for the same.

By now, all our faithful might have come to know of the extension-work of the chapel, wherein are entombed the mortal remains of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios and those who were the heads of our Church, His Grace Benedict Mar Gregorios and the first Catholicos of our Church, His Beatitude Moran Mor Cyril Baselios. This will provide a calm and prayerful atmosphere for the numerous faithful, who come on pilgrimage to the tomb of the Servant of God Mar Ivanios. I sincerely hope and pray that this arrangement would be helpful to enhance our personal and ecclesial spiritual growth. It is my

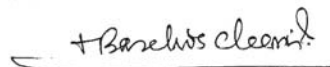
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earnest prayer that God may abundantly bless all those who cooperated in this work with the love of God and relying on the intercession of the Servant of God.

As in the previous years, the services of preparation for the Feast of Commemoration will be held in St. Mary's Cathedral, Pattom, at 5.30 p.m. from 1 to 14 July 2008. The 'Padayatra' held every year from Ranni-Perunad and other centres of our Church will commence on 10 July 2008. The pilgrims will be received at the entrance of the Cathedral church at 8.30 a.m. on 15 July, the day of the Feast of Commemoration and thereafter the Holy Qurbano and Memorial services will begin. I cordially invite all the faithful of the Church to be blessed by participating in all the services of the Feast. On the Sunday following 15 July, the Prayer of Incense shall be offered for the Servant of God in all the churches and places of worship of our Church. It is highly desirable to place a decorated picture of His Grace in our churches on that day.

" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:7-8). May this Word of God be fulfilled in us through this Feast of Commemoration! 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,



25.6.2008  
Catholicate Centre,  
Pattom

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

Our Father in Heaven...

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

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