



# صوت الشرق



Vol 58

Nov. - Dec. 2011

Nos 11 & 12



Function honouring the visit of Mar Aprem Metropolitan to Wiesbaden, Germany after Holy Qurbana on 23 October 2011. Left to right: Rev'd Petros Patros, Ph.D. (from North Iraq), Rev'd Archdeacon Pithyon Pithyon (retired), Mar Aprem Metropolitan & Rev'd Daniel Shimshon (Parish Priest).

Merry Christmas!

# VOICE OF THE EAST





**Wiesbaden Parish choir pictured with Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Rev'd Daniel Shimshon and Deacons after Holy Qurbana on 23 October 2011.**



**L-R: Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Ph.D, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis, Sister Jincy Othottil Ulahannan, PhD. pictured at the Assyrian Church of the East Youth Conference in Los Angeles, July 2011.**

## **VOICE OF THE EAST**

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)  
(Private Circulation only)

Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**  
Metropolitan's Palace,  
Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India  
Phone : 91487 - 2420978  
Personal : 91487 - 2442166  
Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

### ***Website Links***

**Official:** [www.news.assyrianchurch.org](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)  
**Archdiocese of India & UAE:** [www.churchoftheeastindia.org](http://www.churchoftheeastindia.org)  
**Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand:** [www.assyrianchurch.org.au](http://www.assyrianchurch.org.au)  
**Diocese of California:** [www.acoecalifornia.org](http://www.acoecalifornia.org)  
**Diocese of Europe:** [www.assyrianchurch-europe.org](http://www.assyrianchurch-europe.org)  
**Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation:** [www.theacero.org](http://www.theacero.org)  
**Unofficial:** [www.nestorian.org](http://www.nestorian.org)

### ***Contents***

#### **1. Editorial (Dawn O Year of Success)**

#### **2. Nativity Epistle from His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch**

#### **3. Aramaic Translation of a Malayalam Song by Rev'd P.K. Varghese B.A., B.D.**

#### **4. International News:**

- Assyrian Delegation Participates in the International Congress on the Anaphora of Mar Addai & Mar Mari
- Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi
- Holy Synod Secretary Meets US Congresswoman
- Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Kevin Rudd Visits Assyrian Church of the East in Sydney
- Assyrian Church of the East Delegates Attend Third Colloquium Syriacum
- Chinese Scholars Visit Catholicos Patriarch in Chicago

#### **5. Indian Archdiocese News**

- New Higher Secondary School Block
- Mar Awgin Golden Jubilee Building
- Visit of H.B. Mar Gewargis Sliwa to the UAE Parish

#### **6. Websites**

#### **7. Letter from His Grace Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis (Arizona, USA)**

#### **8. Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council**

\*\*\*\*\*

# Voice of the East

Vol. 58

November - December 2011

Nos. 9 & 10

Editorial

## Dawn O Year of Success

As we bid a fond farewell to 2011 and welcome 2012 into our lives, let us praise our Lord God for the blessings of 2011 as members of the hallowed Church of the East. The preceding year saw immense success for our Holy Church with the growth of congregations in the West, the ordination of priests and the consecration of houses of worship. We lament deeply though that it has also proven to be another year of terror in the Middle East where the Assyrian people continue to face the scourge of oppression and persecution. Let us enter the New Year with a determination to work with greater zeal for our Holy Church that we may make it a better church and in turn make our world a more just one.

On a personal note; I had the opportunity to visit our churches abroad twice. The first instance included visits to San Diego, Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Dubai in July. I consecrated the Holy Qurbana in all these places and baptized five children to the faith. My participation in the International Youth Conference of our church was a new and valuable experience for me.

The second visit was to England, Germany, Rome and Assisi in October. In England I was able to consecrate the Holy Qurbana in St. Mary Church in Westminster Road, Hanwell (close to Ealing). After Holy Qurbana we went to Ealing where a breakfast function was held in commemoration of the Catholicos Patriarch's 35<sup>th</sup> consecration anniversary in 1976. I was also pleased to meet with many Assyrians in Wiesbaden near Frankfurt where I consecrated the Holy Qurbana.

It was an honour to read a paper at the International Congress on the Anaphora of Addai and Mari held at the Gregorian University in Rome. During the same visit I was privileged to travel on the same train as His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI from the Vatican to Assisi and back. I thank God for the health I enjoyed to participate enthusiastically without illness.

*Voice of the East* has endeavored to report on activities and news from different parts of the world. With the help of the internet it is my hope and prayer that further information is available to readers who ventured to the official website of the Assyrian Church of the East. Some friends ask us to report with more detail on the activities in the Indian Church. It is noteworthy that a monthly magazine is published by the church in India in Malayalam which reports at length on these matters. This publication has a very wide circulation.

Over the more than 57 years of its existence *Voice of the East* has attempted to keep friends, scholars and ecumenical contacts abreast of Assyrian Church of the East news. Wider dissemination of church news and the history, theology and tradition of the Church of the East will make our church a better and more open one. In this sense, the mission of this humble publication is a worthy one.

We beseech Almighty God for 2012 to be a year of peace, tranquility and prosperity for the world and one of great success for our blessed Assyrian Church of the East.

Mar Aprem



Our Lord Jesus Christ declares, *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"* (John 6:35). Seeing that we all believe in the one and same Lord Jesus Christ, as members of the one Christian household, do celebrate the feast of the Nativity in peace and love. On this joyful occasion, we take this opportunity to extend to all of you, beloved sons and daughters of the Holy Church, to all our blessed Assyrian Christian community and to all our fellow Christians:

***May the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed unto you all!***

We earnestly pray that in the same manner the glory of God shone upon the shepherds on the day of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the light of heaven may also shine and enlighten the hearts and minds of all the nations of the world so that they might be live together in peace, tranquility and love. As Christians, we in particular are in great need of the peace and unity that our Lord Jesus Christ has left for us on earth. Our Lord Jesus said to His Apostles: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you"* (John 14:27). We must remember that we are all brothers and sisters, united together as living members of the one mystical Body, which is the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the sacrament of the Holy Baptism is the one and same spiritual mother of all the baptized faithful. We continually profess, saying: *"We believe in one Holy Apostolic Catholic Church"* that our Lord Jesus Christ Himself established on earth.

The Church here on earth is a part of the Church in heaven, and has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit of God abides in the Church and remains in the Church continually until Christ comes again. This same Spirit also sanctifies the Christian believer by the divine grace of the Father given to us by mystery. This sanctification enables the Christian believer to obtain eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ established only one Holy Church on earth. He, the Lord, is the only and invisible head of the Church. Even though at the present time the one Holy Church of Christ is called by many different names, yet all the Christian faithful are members in the one Church which our Lord established on earth. Therefore Christians should not disrespect their fellow Christians. The supreme head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ, commands all of us to love and respect one another so that we all will be worthy to delight in the divine love of Christ.

Today, we Christians who are dwelling in the various countries of the Middle East are known and labeled by three different ecclesial names: the Chaldean Church,

bettering the condition of our people and nation, being guided in their social and political work by the principles of Christ our Lord and of His holy Gospel. We beseech you to work towards unity and understanding; these ought to be the foundation on which we have embarked upon for the bettering of the condition of our people, in particular in the Middle East, where persecution continues for our nation and martyrdom for the Gospel of Christ.

We ask all the faithful sons and daughters of our Holy Church to continue to support and tirelessly extend their aid to the prelates and priests who are in need of their prayers and who minister to their spiritual needs. It is the obligation of all members to support the Holy Church. The obligation of a baptized faithful is not merely restricted to paying her annual dues, rather the most important obligation of a member is to maintain her faith, to be obedient to the canon laws of the Church, to attend the spiritual life and in particular the celebration of the Holy Mysteries of the Body and Blood of Christ and to hear the Word of God proclaimed by the prelates, priests and deacons of the Holy Church.

We encourage the faithful worshipers to be mindful to apply themselves to prayer together with their families, to attend classes of catechism offered in each parish, to place their children in the Sunday School, the Youth Ministry activities, and to sing in the Choir, etc.

It is a must that each parish maintains a parish committee. Each parish should designate the most faithful and active members to serve as members of the parish council and the parish committee in order to function as advisors and helpers to the priest, the bishops, and the metropolitans. They must work together in faith, love, and in obedience for the greater cause of the progress and benefit of the Holy Church.

We ask you all, O faithful sons and daughters of The Holy Church and the Assyrian Nation, to be observant of the laws and constitution of the country in which you live and/or hold citizenship. In this manner, you will be respected and accorded the rights of those governing your country and as citizens you will be able to live in peace and harmony with all men.

As sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church of the East, make every effort to maintain and preserve your Faith, liturgy, sacraments, canon laws of the Holy Church with great care and diligence. In the presence of all men, be ready to give an account of your faith and the hope which you hold, namely Jesus Christ. In all things and in every action, be Christ-like and faithful to your vocation.

As a nation, always be proud that you are Assyrians. Keep your Assyrian and Aramaic language, knowledge of your history and literature. Make every effort to keep your love toward each other pure and sincere.

In conclusion, again we extend a most blessed Christmas and an equally blessed New Year 2012. We pray that the coming year will be filled with every blessing, peace, and tranquility in the four corners of the world, and especially in Middle Eastern countries. We also pray for the unity and understanding among all Christians, while offering prayers for the health and prosperity of all the faithful of the Holy Church and the Assyrian believing Community.

May the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all, forever; Amen.

+ *K. Mardinkha*  
 †Khanania Mardinkha IV  
 By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch of  
 the Assyrian Church of the East



Written at our Patriarchal Cell in  
 Morton Grove, Illinois (USA); This  
 8th of December 2011

Notation of the song  
 'Mlyshookha' in page No. 11

## MLY SHOOKHA

Tune of the Malayalam son 'Mahathwam'  
 (No. 88) from *Ganamalika*

Rev. P K Varghese

Tempo 200

1  
 Mly shoo kha mly shoo kha ya teer Ukh da na deel

5  
 ha kha zee na Ma al koo d'too wa wadh la shoo

9  
 la ma la Ma al koo d'too wa wadh la shoo la ma la

13  
 baa gal en nna maa thee na

15  
 baa gal en nna maa thee na





**Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Ph.D., celebrates the Holy Qurbana in Rome on 23 October 2011. Rev'd William Toma, Ph.D. (Mar Sargis Church, Chicago) is on the left of the Bishop and Rev'd Tyari Awshalom (doctoral candidate in Rome) standing to the right.**



**Left to Right: Rev'd Tyari Awshalom, Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Rev'd Afram Dawoud in Rome on 25 October 2011. Both priests are doctoral candidates in Rome.**



**His Beatitude Mar Gerwargis Sliwa Metropolitan of Iraq & Russia with U.A.E. parish members after the Holy Qurbana on 11th November, 2011.**



**Inauguration of the three storied building built next to the Mar Awgin Thuvana Church in West Fort, Thrissur on Sunday 20th November 2011 by Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan.**



**Mar Aprem pictured with Delhi Parish members after Holy Qurbana on 27 November 2011. Rev'd Mohan Konikara (Vicar) and Rev'd O.A. Abimalec are seen.**



**Laying the foundation stone for the 25-million-rupee extension to a church high school in Trichur on 30 October 2011. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Bishop, Mar Awgin Bishop, Rev'd David K. John and Mr. George Emmatty are pictured.**



**Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph pictured with Hyderabad Parish members after Holy Qurbana on 6 November 2011.**



**Mar Aprem delivers a paper at the International Addai and Mari Congress held in Rome on 25 and 26 October 2011.**



**Mar Aprem Metropolitan during the Holy Qurbana in Germany on 23 October 2011**



**Bishop Mar Awa Royel delivers a paper at the International Addai and Mari Congress held in Rome on 25 and 26 October 2011.**

## ❖ مَلِيْ عَجِيْن ❖

### SYRIAC RENDERING OF A MALAYALAM LYRIC NO.88- GANAMALIKA WITH SAME CHENCHURUTTY RAGA.

Malayalam Lyric is composed by the late T.D.Paulose and published it in *Suriyani Ganamaliika* in 1929 with an introduction by the then Metropolitan of revered memory Abimaleck Mar Timotheus. The present Syriac rendering has been done by **Rev. P.K.Varghese** (Retd). The transliteration is herewith attached. ([email-runovarghese@gmail.com](mailto:email-runovarghese@gmail.com), Ph: +919061806036)

Transliteration:

**Mly shuwkha**

*Oonaya*

Mly shuwkha mly shuwkha v'yateer  
Ukhdana deel ha khaze na

*Pythgame*

1. Malkoo thawa wadhla shoolama la  
Baagal enna mathe na
2. B'yadh hymanu enna hashha khzet la  
Kma enna mithbuyya na
3. Thayyiw marya khlapai umra shapeer  
Michael kayem wamsaky
4. Umka d'mota kyath mathe na le  
Khawra lee gear nihwi be
5. Zil att zil att zil att sathan deelaak  
Yulpan beesha la sneek lee
6. Echal tamman pere d'eelan d'khayye  
Hachan ekhi l'aalum na
7. Ma dhen eewar yordhnan dethe mota  
O mar etheik bethgawsa
8. Khaze na dhen goodhai maalaachaihon  
Zmeerat kinar shama na
9. Dhalwaita dheel ezal wadhemthe l'hal  
B'chullidhaneen sawe na
10. Ekhze appai dhawa d'khabeewa dheel  
K'ma khaadhoota timle be

ܘܥܩܬܢܢ CHORUS

ܡܠܝܥ ܥܥܝܢܢ ܡܠܝܥ ܥܥܝܢܢ ܘܢܘܡܝܢܢ  
ܘܘܫܬܝܢܢ ܕܝܠܢ ܘܗܝ ܗܝ ܗܝ ܗܝ ܗܝ

ܦܝܪܝܩܩܝܢܢ VERSES

ܕ. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܝܬܢ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܟ. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܁. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܂. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܓ. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܄. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܅. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܆. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܇. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

܈. ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ ܡܠܟܘܗ

❖ ܡܠܟܘܗ ❖

## **International Congress on the Anaphora of Mar Addai & Mar Mari**

*By Joseph Haweil*

His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of Malabar and India and the United Arab Emirates, His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, and Rev. William Toma of the Diocese of Eastern USA participated in the International Congress on the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, held in Rome on 25 and 26 October 2011.

Under the theme: *'The Genesis of the Anaphoral Institution Narrative in Light of the Anaphora of Addai and Mari'*, the Congress was jointly organized by the Pontifical Oriental Institute and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

The first day of Congress proceedings were devoted to reflection through historical and canonical lectures on the Assyrian Church of the East, the Chaldean Catholic Church and the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church which all use the Anaphora of Addai and Mari in their liturgical life, though the latter two Churches have greatly changed the original text of this most ancient anaphora. The Congress' second day was devoted to lectures bringing to light the origins of the Institution Narrative of the eucharistic prayer, with specific reference to the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, and analogous instances, especially of the Syriac, Maronite and Ethiopian anaphoric traditions.

His Beatitude Mar Aprem Metropolitan presented a paper titled: *'The Assyrian Church of the East Throughout History'* on 25 October. His Grace Bishop Mar Awa's paper, *'The Mystery of the Holy Leaven (Malka) in the Assyrian Church of the East'* was delivered the following day. Other participants in the International Congress included eminent Syriac Studies scholars and representatives of the Roman Catholic and Oriental Orthodox Churches.

## **Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi**

Following the participation of an Assyrian Church of the East delegation in the International Addai and Mari Congress, the delegation continued their sojourn in Rome and, at the invitation of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch, attended the Day of Prayer for Peace in Assisi on Thursday, October 27, 2011, representing His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV. On Friday, October 28 His Holiness the Pope met with the delegates of the Assisi Prayer Day.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan presented to Pope Benedict XVI fourteen DVDs containing digitized Syriac manuscripts in India. The Metropolitan conveyed to the Pope the greetings of Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Awa Royal and Rev'd William Toma were the delegates of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Notable attendees included His Holiness Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch (Istanbul, Turkey), Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, three Catholic Patriarchs (Maronite, Melkite and Syrian Catholic), Catholicos Clemis of the Malankara Catholic Church from Trivandrum, Metropolitan Mar Gregorius Ibrahim Hanna of Aleppo (representing H.H. Mor Zakka Iwas), Mar Timotheus Metropolitan of the Indian Orthodox Church (living in England) and many other religious leaders.

Also present as Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and representatives of the reformed and protestant churches.

Non-Christian leaders like Rajmohan Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) living in Chicago, Swami Agnivesh (Arya Samaj), Jewish, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist and atheist leaders were also present.

## **Holy Synod Secretary Meets US Congresswoman**

Posted on 03 November 2011

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, accompanied by Rev. Genard Lazar, Secretary to the Bishop, has met with The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA), Congresswoman representing California's 14th District.

During the meeting, held on 20 October, the current circumstances of the Assyrians in the Middle East and the Diaspora were discussed, as well as local issues concerning the Assyrian community at large.

His Grace, who was warmly received by Congresswoman Eshoo and her staff, expressed his thanks to the local representative for her tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

At the same time, the Assyrian Church of the East communicated its deepest gratitude to Congresswoman Eshoo for her concern and active interest in the situation of her Assyrian brothers and sisters in the United States and in the Middle East, as well as the congressional action taken to address the plight of the latter in particular.

Congresswoman Eshoo is of Assyrian and Armenian ancestry and was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1993 and has since been reelected consecutively.

*Source: [www.news.assyrianchurch.org](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)*

## **Australian Minister Visits Assyrian Church, Sydney**

Former Australian Prime Minister and current Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Kevin Rudd MP has met with His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon in Sydney.

Accompanying the Foreign Minister was the Hon. Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and Member representing the Federal Electorate of McMahon.

His Beatitude along with school administrators, parish priests, Cr. Anwar Khoshaba OAM, Fairfield City Councilor, along with numerous representatives of Assyrian social, cultural and political organisations warmly received Mr. Rudd and his delegation at Edessa Hall where afternoon tea was served.

## **Assyrian Church of the East Delegates Attend Third Colloquium Syriacum**

Posted on 30 November 2011

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod has represented the Assyrian Church of the East at the Third Colloquium Syriacum, an international conference for scholars of the Syriac tradition.

His Grace (standing member of the Forum Syriacum) was accompanied by the Rev. Fr. William Toma, parish priest of Mar Sargis Parish, Chicago.

Organised by the Pro Oriente Foundation, this year's Colloquium was convened in Vienna, Austria from 9-11 November under the theme: Middle Eastern Christians Facing New Challenges.

The Colloquium was comprised of papers and presentations by both prelates and scholars reflecting on the Special Synod for the Middle East 2010, held at the Vatican in early October of 2010. Representing the Assyrian Church of the East at this synod was His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of all Iraq, who attended as a delegate of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch.

Among the papers presented, other important themes taken up were the ramifications of the Special Synod of October 2010, Christian-Muslim Implications of the same synod, as well as Christian-Jewish Implications. A very important theme taken up in this year's Colloquium was the ecumenical (Christian-Christian) dimension of the synod and of the on-going plight of the Christians of the Middle East, among them the Assyrian Christians.

The past three Colloquia have been concentrating on the worsening condition of the Christians of the Middle East. For the future, Pro Oriente would like to further promote the ecumenical efforts among the Syriac-speaking Church in the upcoming Colloquium.

*Source: [www.news.assyrianchurch.org](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)*

## **Chinese Scholars Visit Catholicos Patriarch in Chicago**

*Posted on 30 November 2011*

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East has warmly welcomed visiting Chinese scholars to the Chicago Patriarchate.

Meeting with the Catholicos Patriarch on Tuesday 29 November 2011 were: Professor Sun Xiangchen, the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy at Fudan University in Shanghai, along with Daniel H. N. Yeung, Director of the Institute for Sino-Christian Studies in Hong Kong.

The meeting, lasting one-and-a-half hours, included an in-depth discussion on the history of Christianity in China and particularly the missionary roots of the Assyrian Church of the East, whose missionaries were the first Christians to evangelise China in the early 7th century.

Prof. Xiangchen and Mr. Yeung used the opportunity to request that important texts relating to the Assyrian Church of the East be translated not only into modern Syriac but also into English from which translations to Chinese may be produced. The scholars noted the deep interest in the history, theology, tradition and philosophy of the Assyrian Church of the East amongst scholars and other individuals in China.

The scholars went on to request that His Holiness endeavor to delegate academics and experts on the Assyrian Church of the East to visit China and present lectures on all aspects of the church to students currently studying in the fields of history, theology and Christian studies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Prof. Xiangchen and Mr. Yeung presented a number

of gifts to His Holiness including a rendering of the famous Nestorian Stele erected in 781 in X'ian and rediscovered in 1625. The original limestone block contains text in both Syriac and Chinese and describes the presence of Christian communities in several Northern Chinese cities in the 7th and 8th centuries.

Also present during the meeting were Archdeacon Shlemon Khezziel, Cor-Bishop George Toma (St. Andrew Church, Chicago) Cor-Bishop Paulus Benjamin (St. George Church, Chicago) and Reverend William Toma (St. Sargis Church, Chicago).

It is noteworthy that in late 2010 His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, paid a historic visit to Hong Kong where he met with scholars, gave a number of lectures in institutes of higher education and consecrated the Eucharistic Liturgy for the first time in over 600 years. This visit was met with great enthusiasm and has led to expanded interest in the history of the Assyrian Church of the East in China.

*Source: [www.news.assyrianchurch.org](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)*

### **Indian Archdiocese News**

## **New Higher Secondary School Block**

In January 2010 the 'His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV Building' costing 25 million rupees (2.5 crore) was inaugurated by the Catholicos Patriarch himself immediately after the consecration of two bishops in Thrissur. Recently a computer science course for Plus 1 students was sanctioned by the government of Kerala in our Higher Secondary School. More facilities including classes, laboratories and a library are required.



Another 25 million rupees (2.5 crore) project was inaugurated by Mar Aprem Metropolitan, the Patron of the church schools on 30 October 2011. The construction of the new block is to be completed by April. Mr. I.G. Joy, Corporate Manager of the Church Schools and Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees of the Church noted in the function that half this amount is currently available. We therefore embark on this project with immense faith in the hope that the other half will come from donations and bank finance.

For those wishing to contribute the cost of a classroom or make a donation to this worthy project, please write to Mr. I.G. Joy. via the email of Mar Aprem Metropolitan: hgmaraprem@gmail.com.

### **Mar Awgin Golden Complex**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph and Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose dedicated the new three-story building built next to the Mar Awgin Thuvana Church in West Fort, Thrissur on Sunday 20 November 2011. The inauguration was held on the parish festival of the Mar Awgin Thuvana Church. The Metropolitan announced that as soon as the loans taken for the commercial complex are repaid, work on the renovation of the church and parsonage will commence.

The Metropolitan and the Bishop in charge of this parish, Mar Yohannan jointly celebrated the Holy Qurbana in the morning assisted by Rev'd P. K. Raphael (former Vicar), Rev'd C.K. Yohannan (current Vicar) and Deacon Chakunny (assistant Vicar). In the evening function Deacon P.D. Kunjuvareed, the oldest deacon in the Indian Archdiocese was honoured by the parish.

### **Visit of H.B. Mar Gewargis Sliwa to the UAE Parish**

The Visit of His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa Metropolitan of Iraq & Russia to the Mart Mariam Parish, U.A.E. was another mile stone in the parish History. H.B. was invited by UAE authorities in response to his desire to visit the 6th Century Monuments of Ancient Assyrian Monastery in Baniyas Islands of Abu Dhabi Emirate. H.B. arrived here on 10th November, 2011.

On 11th November, 2011, H.B. offered Holy Qurbana along with Vicar Rev. Fr. Victor Kollannur in Syriac language, in which both Assyrian & Indian community participated. Though, a Holy Qurbana in full Syriac language is not very common in our Indian churches now days, it was reminder of our old tradition and it went very well.

In the Buffet/meeting arranged in honor of H.B. at City Center Hotel, Dubai on Monday, 14th Nov, 2011, Mr. Sunny Panakkal, Mr. Anil Emmatty (Trustees) & Mr. Kurien Thomas attended on behalf of Indian Community. H.B. was very kind and shown keen interest in the matters of the UAE parish. H.B.'s expressed his full support for the need of a Piece of land for church construction and also in the Assyrian faithful/Indian faithful unity in Parish affairs. H.B. influence in Middle East & with Assyrian may help in this regard. H.B. was presented with a memento on behalf of U.A.E. parish. H.B. returned to Baghdad on 19th Nov, 2011.

### **Websites**

Respected readers will notice in the opening pages of this periodical a new listing of websites which may be of interest. The Editors of *Voice of the East* have listed the official Diocesan and Archdiocese websites of the Holy Church online. Information and articles in English,

Assyrian and Arabic are available to interested parties through these websites. The official website of the universal Assyrian Church of the East ([www.news.assyrianchurch.org](http://www.news.assyrianchurch.org)) is a worthwhile destination for those interested in regular news and updates on parish, diocesan, ecumenical, academic and Holy Synod news and information. Why not save the international website as your 'home-page' to get the latest updates as they become available?

## **Letter from His Grace Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis (Arizona, USA)**

To : H.B. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Beloved brother in Christ

Greeting you, the prelates, the clergy and all the faithful of your blessed Archdiocese of India in the Holy Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I just want to inform your Beatitude that last week I arrived home from Lebanon. I visited Lebanon from Oct. 26 – Nov. 21, 2011. Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran visited Lebanon as well.

Nov. 6, 2011 we elevated three deacons to the priesthood namely, Rev. Gewargis Ismaiel Yohanna, Rev. Youhanna Shlimon Yousip, and Rev. Sargon Shino Zomaia. These young priests will serve our Churches in different parishes of Lebanon. The ordination took place in Mar Gewargis Cathedral of Beirut at the presence of a great throng of faithful including prelates of other Churches. It was truly a day of memory.

Nov. 18-19, 2011 on behalf of our Church I had meetings with European Bishops and Parliament Conference held at Kaslik University – Junieh. The main issue was the future of Christians in Middle East. I trust that our presence was very important as we enlightened the participants concerning our people and their dangerous situation in Iraq, protection they need, and their goal to live in peace in that country.

I have celebrated Holy Mass in different parishes of our Church in Lebanon. Also had social gatherings with the faithful.

I sent to you from Beirut two e mails updating you of my Church activities in that region, but, later I learned that your e mail was hacked by someone. Hope you are doing well.

Heartfelt greetings to all of you.

In Christ

+ Mar Aprim Khamis

## **Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council**

(Editor's note: Chaldean stands for the Chaldean Catholic Church under Cardinal Delly, Syriac stands for Syriac Orthodox Church under Patriarch Zaka I was of Damascus and Assyrian stands for the Holy Catholic Apostolic Assyrian Church of the East under Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV)

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch, has met in Chicago with Mr. Khamis Isho, Member of the Iraqi Parliament and the head of the Chaldean Syriac Assyrian Popular Council (CSAPC) Electoral List, Mr. Johnson Siyawish, Deputy President of the CSAPC and Dr. Odisho Khoshaba, United States representative of the CSAPC. Also present were Mr. Geliana Younan and Mr. Benjamin Zachariah.

During the meeting with the Catholicos Patriarch, the visiting delegation provided an update on the condition of the Assyrian people in Iraq and the action taken by Assyrian political institutions and parties in obtaining rights for our people in the homeland and abroad.

The visiting delegates overviewed the work done by the CSAPC in meeting all the demands of the Assyrian people in Iraq, mentioning that the most important element in political work for the nation is self-denial amongst all the parties and institutions and working together for the one cause.



His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East received delegates from Iraq in his Residence in Morton Grove near Chicago, USA.



Pope Benedict XVI speaking at Assisi, near Rome on October 27, 2011. Mar Aprem Metropolitan is seated directly behind the Pontiff.



**Assyrian Church Youth Conference in Los Angeles in July 2011. Left-to-Right: Sargon Youseffi, Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis, Rev'd Genard Lazar, Ramsin Nissan and Raman Beth Sayed are pictured in the back row.**



**Photo taken during the elevation of three deacons to priesthood by Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis namely, Rev. Gewargis Ismaiel Yohanna, Rev. Youhanna Shlimon Yousip, and Rev. Sargon Shino Zomaia. The ordination took place in Mar Gewargis Cathedral of Beirut on Nov. 6, 2011.**