

# ശബ്ദം

Vol 59 January - February 2012 Nos 1 & 2



**Ordination of Deacon V. V. Joseph on  
Friday December 30, 2011 at**

**Mar Esthapanose Church, Nellangara, Thrissur.**

**L-R: Deacon V.V. Joseph, Mar Yohannan Episcopa,  
Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Awgin Episcopa and Rev'd  
N.J. Abraham. Back row: Rev'd A.C. Antony, Rev'd Jacks  
Chandy and Rev'd Michael Pazhumalil.**

# VOICE OF THE EAST



**Assyrian delegation visits Syriac Orthodox Church in Damascus; Rev'd. Archdeacon Toma Oraham and Rev'd. Toma Asitivo pictured with His Grace Bishop Jean Qawaq, Vicar of the Damascus Patriarchal Residence.**



**St. Thomas Church, Seattle, Washington, USA**

## **VOICE OF THE EAST**

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

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### ***Website Links***

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**Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation:** [www.theacero.org](http://www.theacero.org)  
**Unofficial:** [www.nestorian.org](http://www.nestorian.org)

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# Voice of the East

Vol. 59

January - February 2012

Nos. 1 & 2

Editorial

## Golden Jubilee of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV was consecrated Bishop of Iran on Sunday 11 February 1962. It was 50 years ago this day that His Holiness the late Mar Eshai Shimun, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East (residing in America at the time), stopped in Teheran on his return journey after the historic Patriarchal visit to India, and consecrated Rev. Khanania, grandson of the famous Qasha Benyamin of Iraq, as Bishop of Iran in Teheran by the name Mar Dinkha in the church of St George. The new bishop was only 26 years and 6 months old at the time of his consecration.

Khannania was born in the village of Darbandoki near Harir to the family of bishops by the name of Mar Dinkha on 15 September 1935. His father's uncle was the martyred bishop Mar Dinkha who was shot dead in February 1915 during the First World War. After becoming a young priest, ordained by his mentor Mar Yosip Khananisho Metropolitan, he crossed the border to Iran in 1957 and started rebuilding the churches in Iran which had not been properly cared for during the absence of a Bishop in the country between 1915 and 1962.

In an Aramaic poem penned by Mar Yosip Khnanisho Metropolitan in honour of the young bishop in 1962, the late Metropolitan writes:

*Do elect your servant that he may save his comrades to be the shepherd and the leader to your pasture and the country of Iran and in the big city of Teheran.*

*That he may tender the flock scattered in cities and countries.*

*God bestow on him strength and gift of the Holy Spirit that he may ordain priests in the towns and villages as need be.*

The prayer of the beloved Metropolitan of Iraq came to fruition with great speed and immense success. Not only were priests ordained; so were prelates after the young Bishop was consecrated as Catholicos Patriarch in October 1976 in England. In recent years the Catholicos Patriarch has consecrated a Metropolitan in Australia (December 2008), two Bishops in India (January 2010) and another Bishop in Teheran (August 2010).

Throughout his momentous and historic Patriarchate, His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV has built and consecrated numerous churches and ordained countless clergy for the benefit of the Holy Church.

We wish His Holiness a happy and blessed *Golden Jubilee* Anniversary.

May God Almighty grant our Catholicos Patriarch peace of mind and many more years of active service to the Holy Church universally.

Mar Aprem

## **The Middle East Council of Churches**

### **Final Communiqué of the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the World Council of Churches (29-30 November 2011 – St. George Hotel, Paphos – Cyprus)**

1 - Under the theme “and the multitude of them that believed were of one heart” (Acts 4:32), the 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Middle East Council of Churches was held in the ancient city of Paphos, Cyprus, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 2011. All the member churches that constitute the four families of the Council (Oriental Orthodox, Orthodox, Evangelical and Catholic) attended the meeting that was hosted by the Orthodox Church of Cyprus represented by its Archbishop His Beatitude Chrysostomos II.

2 - The General Assembly proceeded with its planned agenda that included words of welcome from the Archbishop of Cyprus, as well as the four presidents of the Council, the General Secretary, and a host of guests that came from the East and West representing their churches and other international ecumenical bodies. It discussed the reports of the General Secretary, the Finance Secretary and the coordinator of the Task Force that had been entrusted with the future restructuring of the Council. The Assembly also elected the presidents for the coming four years. These are:

1. His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Armenian Orthodox House of Cilicia – on behalf of the Oriental Orthodox family.
2. His Beatitude Theophilus III, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem – on behalf of the Orthodox family.

3. His Grace Bishop Munib Younan, president of the Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land – on behalf of the Evangelical family

4. His Beatitude Mar Ignatius Yusuf III Younan, Patriarch of the Syrian Catholic Church of Antioch – on behalf of the Catholic family.

His Grace Bishop Boulos Matar was elected honorary president.

3 - The General Assembly also elected a new Executive Committee and concluded its deliberations by electing Father Dr. Paul Rouhana, of the Maronite (Catholic) Church, as the new General Secretary for a coming period of four years. He replaces Mr. Guirgis Ibrahim Saleh, who was elected as honorary General Secretary.

*Editor's Note: The full Communiqué has 16 paragraphs. Due to lack of space, only the first 3 paragraphs are produced here. Those who are interested in reading the remaining 13 paragraphs can write to [hgmaraprem@gmail.com](mailto:hgmaraprem@gmail.com). The Assyrian Church of the East is not a member of the MECC. However, the communiqué is produced for an update on activities in the ecumenical movement. The application of the Assyrian Church of the East for membership of the MECC was rejected some years ago. A full history of this dialogue and its results are discussed at length in 'Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV: The Man and His Message' by Mar Aprem (Published at Trichur, 2004).*

### **How much does gold, frankincense and myrrh cost today?**

They journeyed from the East to pay homage to the boy king bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they would struggle to complete the feat today.

Times for wise men have never been tougher. Gold prices are soaring on commodity markets, myrrh crops have been hit by drought - and now frankincense could soon be no more.

Solid frankincense resin can be sold at up to £37.33 per kilo, according to the International Centre for Research in Dry Areas. Myrrh is roughly twice as expensive, but prices are volatile - something that can also be said for the Wise Men's third gift. Four days before Christmas, an ounce of gold costs £1,029.20 on the international market - up by nearly 20 per cent this year.

But the worst news for biblical gift-buyers came this week, from Dutch ecologists studying populations of *Boswellia* in Ethiopia, who warned that numbers of the frankincense-producing tree could halve in the next 15 years and eventually cease altogether if factors such as fire, grazing and insect attack go unchecked.

Source: Who'd be a wise man? Gold's gone through the roof, frankincense is 'doomed', and as for myrrh – *The Independent*

## **Metropolitans Mar Gewargis Sliwa of Iraq and Hilarion of Volokolamsk Meet in Moscow**

His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Baghdad and Iraq, has met Metropolitan Hilarion of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, while on a sojourn to the Russian capital.

His Beatitude Mar Gewargis travelled to Moscow to take part in the Conference on the Freedom of Faith: the Problem of Discrimination and Persecution of Christians.

During the meeting, on 30 November, the hierarch of the Assyrian Church of the East thanked the Russian Orthodox Church for her attention to the needs of the Christian community in Iraq.

“Many Christians, who lived in Iraq for centuries, have left the country in recent years. These are the followers of the Assyrian Church of the East and of other Christian communities,” said a statement from the Russian Orthodox Church Department for External Church Relations (DECR).

On behalf of the Russian Orthodox Church, the DECR chairman expressed solidarity with the persecuted Christians in Iraq. He informed His Beatitude Mar Gewargis of the recent statement on the growing manifestations of Christianophobia in the world made by the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church. He also told him about the efforts the Moscow Patriarchate makes to draw the attention of politicians and the public to this problem.

Source: *Russian Orthodox Church Department for External Church Relations.*

*Editor's Note: A video report detailing His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa's recent sojourn to Russia can be viewed courtesy of ATRA NEWS at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oHmLmv5\\_14](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oHmLmv5_14)*

## **New Bishop for Bavaria, Germany**

Reverend Archdeacon Emmanuel Youkhana, Assyrian priest living in Germany and

representative of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM in Lebanon has attended the consecration of Professor Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria.

Prof. Bedford-Strohm was consecrated as the new bishop of Bavaria, succeeding Bishop Dr. Johannes Friedrich who spent 12 years in office (the maximum term able to be served as Bishop by a clergyman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria).

The consecration, which took place on 30 October 2011, lasted an hour and was carried widely by the national media in Germany.

At the reception following the consecration, all denominations presented gifts to the newly consecrated bishop. On behalf of the Assyrian Church, and in particular His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM and His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Archdeacon Emmanuel presented a book concerning the history of the Assyrian Church of the East to the newly consecrated bishop.

## **Assyrian School in Sydney, Australia Celebrates Graduations**

Graduation ceremonies have been held in recognition of Mar Narsai Assyrian College (MNAC) and St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School (SHAPS) students who will be continuing to the next level of their education in 2012.

The graduations, held on 13 December, were honoured with the presence of His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon, along with Reverend Moshe Barkho and Reverend Younan Dawood, St. George Parish Priest.

The SHAPS ceremony commenced with the performance of the Australian National Anthem, The Assyrian National Anthem, the Church Anthem and an opening prayer.

In his keynote address, His Beatitude spoke on the current academic year and the educational plans that are to be implemented to further serve the Sydney community in the near future.

During MNAC's graduation ceremony later that evening, school principal John Haskal gave a review of the 2011 school year and mentioned the outstanding HSC results from this year's graduation class.

Academic excellence certificates were awarded to students in Years 7 to 11, and awards were distributed by Member of Parliament for Smithfield, Andrew Rohan.

The Assyrian Schools in Sydney now educate more than 1000 students across MNAC, SHAPS, the Early Learning Centre for Children and Grace Childcare Centre.

## **Two Deacons Ordained in Melbourne**

By Joseph Haweil (Melbourne, Australia)

The Melbourne congregations of the Assyrian Church of the East have seen the momentous ordination of two young faithful to the Holy Diaconate on Sunday 22 January 2012.

Lector Morris Daood and Hindren Youkhana were ordained as deacons by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon on the fourth Sunday of the epiphany during the Metropolitan's Arch-Episcopal sojourn to Melbourne.

In addition to serving the Assyrian congregations of St. George and St. Odisho, the newly ordained deacons will also take an active role in serving the faithful attending the English Eucharistic Liturgy that is celebrated on a fortnightly basis in Melbourne and also ministers to faithful through Bible study groups and a Youth Association.

In the evening following the ordination, a fundraising dinner was held at Ishtar Reception Centre where His Beatitude provided an update on the progress of the construction of St. Odisho Church in Coolaroo with the end of 2012 envisioned as a completion date.

In his remarks at the dinner, the Metropolitan beseeched the faithful to enhance their support of the Holy Church's ministries and labour tirelessly to foster greater faith and morality within the loving and nurturing embrace of the Christian family.

## Damascus Congregation Meets with Iraqi Tribal Leader

Faithful of St. George Parish in Damascus, Syria along with parish clergymen have met with Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Dulaimi, representative of the National Council of Tribes in Iraq.

The delegation included Archdeacon Toma Oraham, parish priest Rev. Toma Asitivo, parish committee members, members of the administrative board of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO) and many faithful.

The purpose of the visit, on 9 November, was to congratulate the Sheikh on the occasion of the Islamic feast, Eid al-Adha.

In response to the visit, the Sheik thanked the clergymen and parishioners for the courtesy and respect expressed during the visit and offered his hope that peaceful co-existence may be restored in the Iraqi homeland and abroad.

## Damascus Delegation Visits Sister Churches

A select delegation representing the Assyrian Church of the East in Damascus, Syria have visited His Grace Bishop Jean Qawaq, Vicar of the Patriarchal Residence of the Syriac Orthodox Church in Damascus and His Grace Bishop Samir Nassar of the Maronite Catholic Church in Damascus.

The visit, on 9 January, saw the delegation offer the blessings and congratulations of the Assyrian Church of the East to the leaders of the sister churches on the occasion of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the New Year.

The delegation was headed by Rev. Archdeacon Toma Oraham, Rev. Toma Asitivo (Damascus Parish Priest), deacons along with the members of the administrative board of the parish and of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO).

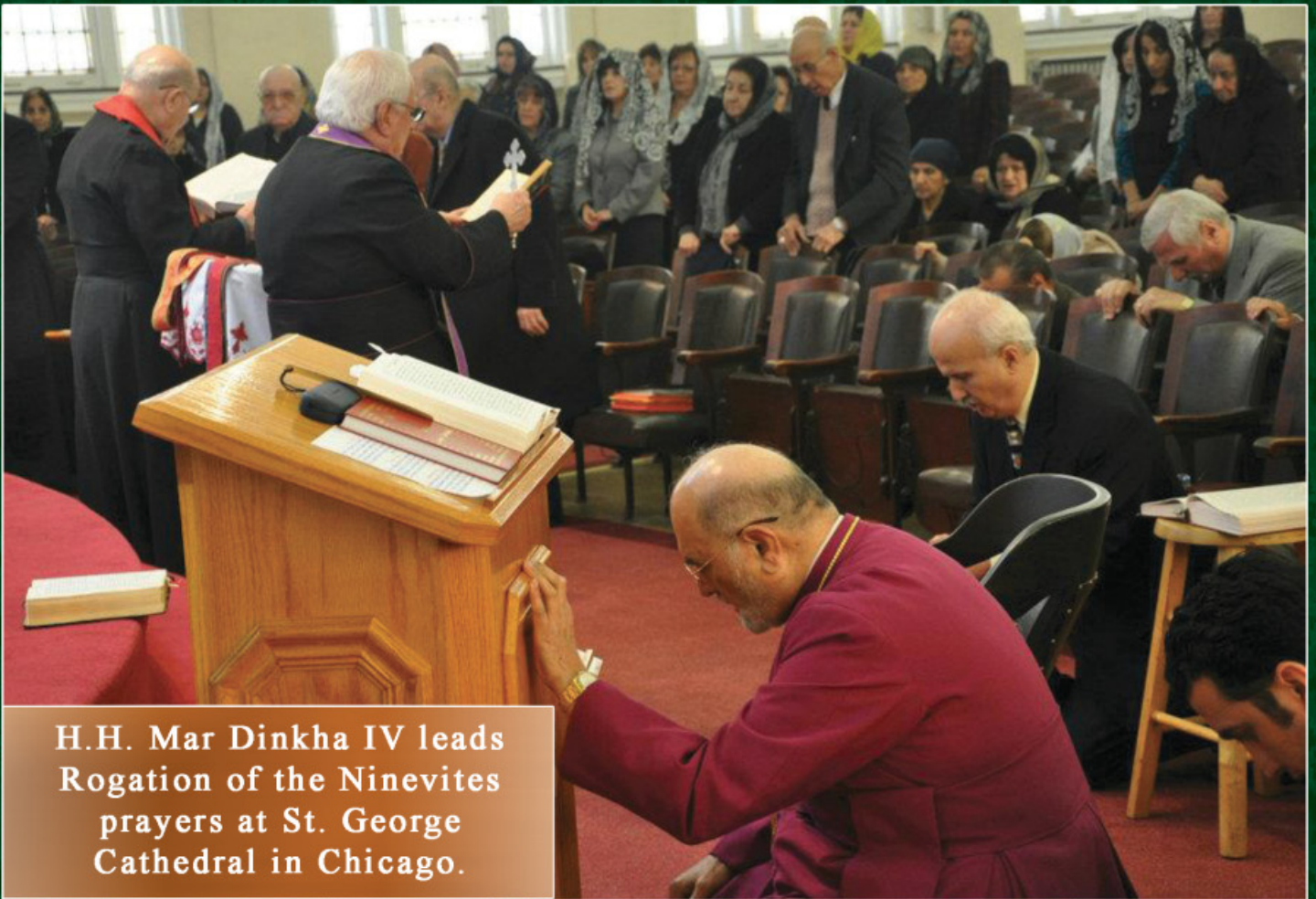
### Correction

The photo that was printed on the back cover of the last issue (November-December) of Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis was not the correct photo matching the caption noting the ordination of priests in Lebanon. The photo was actually of Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis after Holy Qurbana in Orange County, California. In the photo, the priest to the left of the bishop is the Priest of the Orange County Parish, Rev'd. Ashur d' Beth al-Khoury and on the bishop's right is Chor-bishop George Bet-Rasho of the Los Angeles Parish. We regret the technical error.

### Obituary Notice

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Emmanuel Mirza Benjamin; a loyal and dedicated parishioner of the Assyrian Church of the East's St. Mary Church in London, UK. *Voice of the East* offers its deepest condolences to his friends and family and prays for the repose of his soul.





H.H. Mar Dinkha IV leads Rogation of the Ninevites prayers at St. George Cathedral in Chicago.



Assisi Prayer Meeting on 27 October 2011



Pope Benedict XVI speaking at Assisi on October 27, 2011.



Mar Aprem reads paper in the International Congress in Rome



**84th anniversary celebration of the Chaldean Syrian High School in Thrissur inaugurated by Adv. Therambil Ramakrishnan MLA on 3 February 2012:**  
 L-R: Rev'd. Sunil Kumar, Mr. John J. Ollukaran, Corporation Councilor Adv. Nancy Akkarapatti, Mr. A.A. Johnson, Adv. Therambil Ramakrishnan MLA, Mr. I.G. Joy (Corporate Manager), Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Head Mistress Annie Francis, Head Mistress of Mar Timotheus High School, O.D. Sudha.



**14th Annual Day of the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School, Thrissur on 6 February 2012:**  
 L-R: Mar Aprem Metropolitan, George Immatty, Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Corporation Councilor Adv. Nancy Akkarapatti, Kalyan Silk Proprietor Pattabhiraman, Jose Chriankandath (Former Student)



**College Day of Chaldean Syrian College, East Fort, Thrissur on 27 February 2012**  
 L to R: Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Parish Trustee Mr. Babu Konikara, College Committee Secretary Mr. Varghese Ollukaran, Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University Dr. Vishawambaran IAS, Dy. Mayor Adv. Subi, Corporation Councilor Mrs. Lini Happy, Vicar Fr. A.P. Varghese and Principal Dr. Sister Jincy.



**54th Annual Day of Mar Timotheus High School, Kuriachira, Thrissur on 25 February 2012:**  
 L-R: Mr. I.G. Joy (Corporate Manager), Adv. Nancy Akkarapatti (Corporation Councilor), Archdeacon Simonton (Anglican Church of Canada), Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Head Mistress O.D. Sudha and Mar Aprem Metropolitan (Patron of the Church Schools).



**Bangalore Parish Choir  
performing for 1st prize in Choir Meet, Thrissur, 25 December 2011.**



**Mar Meelis Zaia Metropolitan ordains Deacon Ninos Elia as priest in  
Sydney, Australia on Sunday February 5, 2012**

## **ACERO Fundraiser Held in California**

*“Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:33-34)*

In obedience to the words of our Lord Jesus Christ to give alms and help those who are in need and much less fortunate than ourselves, the Diocese of California of the Assyrian Church of the East hosted a special fundraising dinner for the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO).

The event, on 21 January, was attended by well over 400 people from different parishes and organizations who filled the beautifully decorated Mar Zaia Cathedral parish hall.

The program began promptly at 6:00 pm with an hors d'oeuvres hour, followed by the official dinner reception and program. The dinner opened with a prayer by His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod, and a member of the trustees committee of ACERO; the diocesan clergy were also in attendance.

Following the dinner, which was accompanied by songs from the youth choir, His Grace gave a brief talk on the importance of supporting ACERO as it aids in the alleviation of the sufferings and material needs of our Assyrian people in the Middle East, and elsewhere as the need of our faithful arises. His Grace also outlined the amount of monetary help which has been raised by the Church in California in the past three years. During the years 2009 to 2011, the Diocese of California donated over \$80,000 to the ACERO fund.

Later in the evening, the guest speaker Andy Darmoo of Kent, England (secretary of ACERO) gave a more complete talk on the

mission and work of ACERO in the Middle East. Both talks were accompanied by a slide presentation of photos depicting the practical work that ACERO achieves for the aid of our Assyrian people. Finally, at the end of the fundraising banquet, the winners of the silent auction items and raffles were announced and received their prizes. The special diocesan fundraising committee made the gala evening a success, coupled with the commendable work of the diocesan youth association in serving during the evening and the clean-up afterwards.

The Diocese of California offered a special thanks to major sponsors John Zia Ismael from Uno's Chicago Grill and Alis Youkanna from Flowers by Alis. Finally, a general vote of thanks was offered to all donors, sponsors, fundraising committee members and the attendees for their continued support of ACERO and the Church's efforts.

*Editor's Note: The new website of ACERO is [www.theacero.org](http://www.theacero.org)*

## **Altar of Mar Zaia Church in Modesto Consecrated**

The consecration of the newly reconstructed altar of Mar Zaia Church in Modesto, which was severely damaged by fire in January 2011 took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California, assisted by His Grace Mar Yosip Sargis, Bishop of Baghdad (now living in Modesto), along with the diocesan priests, deacons and clergy, commenced with the liturgy for consecration of the altar, according to the Church rites.

Following the consecration service, the Holy Qurbana was celebrated by His Grace Mar Awa who announced that both Mar Zaia Cathedral and St. Thomas Parish in Seattle, Washington, were both made debt-free by funds paid from the A.C.O.E Debt Reduction and Development Campaign.

## **Altar of Patriarchal Cathedral in Chicago Consecrated**

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch has re-consecrated the altar of St. George Patriarchal Cathedral in Chicago, following a number of recent renovations.

The consecration, which took place on 18 December 2011, the Fourth Sunday of Annunciation according to the ecclesiastical calendar, was succeeded by the offering of the Holy Qurbana by His Holiness.

The Cathedral was first purchased in 1980 and first consecrated by His Holiness in 1981.

Present during the consecration and Eucharistic Liturgy were: Archdeacon Shlemon Khazziel, Archdeacon Aprim DeBaz, Archdeacon Qardagh Hakim, Chor-Bishop Paul Benjamin (St. George Cathedral Priest), Reverend Antwan Lachin (St. John Church Priest), Reverend Tawar Andreyos, many deacons and thousands of faithful.

### **Information from the Website of the Assyrian Church of the East in Armenia**

Name: Rev'd Isaac Timrs  
Address: Armenia  
Phone: No.0037494419672  
Email: [churcheast2000@yahoo.com](mailto:churcheast2000@yahoo.com)  
Country: Armenia  
Message: Add website  
[www.assyrianchurcheast.am](http://www.assyrianchurcheast.am)

#### **In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Welcome to the official website of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East in Armenia, Krasnodar, Ukraine (Kiev, Donetsk, Krasnoarmeysk and Zaporozhye).

Our website is created with the blessing of His Holiness Mar Dinkha the IV Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East and under the leadership of His Grace Mar Ishaq Yousuf, Bishop of Assyrian Church of the East in Northern Iraq and CIS countries.

The Profession of Faith of Assyrian Church of the East

(The Nicean Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty: Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, the First Born of all created. Begotten of His Father before all worlds and not made:

Very God of very God: of one essence with His Father, by Whom the worlds were established and everything was created. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by The Holy Spirit and became Man: And was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary: He suffered and was crucified in the days of Pontius Pilate. He was buried and Rose again on the third day as it is written and ascended into Heaven and sat down on the right hand of His Father: And He shall come again to judge the dead and the living. And, in one Holy Spirit, The Spirit of Truth: who proceedeth from the Father, the Life-giving Spirit: And in one Holy, Apostolic, Catholic Church. And, we confess one baptism for the remission of sin. And, the resurrection of our bodies, and life for ever and ever: Amen

I hope our website's information will help many Assyrians to learn more about the rich history of Assyrian Church of the East and about our nation that is spread around the world. And I hope that by God's help this site will be a bridge between sons and daughters of our nation.

Let God bless you.

Reverend Isaac Timrs, Priest of Assyrian Church of the East in Armenia and Ukraine (Kiev Donetsk, Krasnoarmeysk and Zaporozhye)

## Historical St. Thomas Church Consecrated in Seattle, Washington

After a long awaited period, by God's grace the parish of St. Thomas in Seattle, Washington has received the first Episcopal visitation of His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California.

His Grace arrived in Seattle in the late afternoon of Thursday 12 January, accompanied by the Very Reverend Archdeacon Nenos Michael, parish priest of Mar Narsai, San Francisco, and Deacon Emmanuel Benjamin.

After visiting many homes, the highlight of the visit was the service of the consecration of the altar of St. Thomas Church in English, which began at 8:30 am. The church was consecrated by His Grace with the assistance of all the clergy. The consecration was followed by the celebration of the Holy Qurbana in English and Aramaic. There were some 50 attendees, which included not only the regular parishioners of St. Thomas Church but faithful who had come from Modesto, Turlock, San Jose and British Columbia. After the liturgical services, all went down to the parish hall for fellowship.

There was a joyous and brotherly atmosphere all around, and the faithful of St. Thomas were indeed very joyful to receive their diocesan Chor-Bishop Michael J. Birnie, parish priest; the Reverend Father Richard Holberg, assistant pastor, the Rev. Deacons Michael Hertel and Ron Hanson, as well as the parish committee.

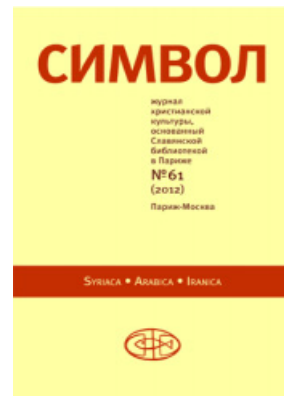
As a historical note, the community of St. Thomas in Seattle was received into the Assyrian Church of the East by the late His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos-Patriarch, in 1967/1968, and the present church building, with the rectory attached, actually goes back to 1910. St. Thomas Church in Seattle has therefore been a parish of the Assyrian Church of the East since this time in the late 1960s. All of these properties are officially registered in the name of the Assyrian Church of the East and the church is the sixth parish in the Diocese of California.

## 'Symbol' Publication in Russia

Nikolai N. Seleznyov, PhD, MTh  
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*Editor's Note: Dr. Nikolai N. Seleznyov Ph.D., M. Th. is a good friend of the Assyrian Church of the East in Moscow. He was a constant companion and organizer when Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan visited Moscow in 2007.*

**Recent Syriac, Arabic, and Iranian studies in Russian as represented by the "Simvol" 61 (Paris-Moscow, 2012, 380 pp.)**



The new volume of "Simvol" ("Symbol") a Russian periodical founded in Paris in 1979 and being published now by St. Thomas Institute in Moscow has a special subtitle "Syriaca • Arabica • Iranica" and represents a collection of studies by Russian scholars who work both in Russia and outside it. Most of the studies concern the cultural and literary heritage of the Church of the East.

- Sergey Minov, Iranian motifs in the "Cave of Treasures" and the problem of acculturation of Syriac Christians in the Sasanian Empire.
- Reuven Kiperwasser, Serge Ruzer, To convert a Persian and to teach him the Holy Scripture: A Zoroastrian proselyte

in Rabbinic and Syriac Christian narratives.

- Evgeny Barsky, "Zardosht who is also Barukh the Scribe": On identification in the "Book of the Bee" by Solomon of Basra.
- Yulia Furman, Persians and their religion in the "History" by Yohannan bar Penkaye.
- Alexander Treiger, Al-Ghazali's "Mirror Christology" and its possible East-Syriac sources.
- Dmitrij Bumazhnov, The world, so beautiful in its weakness: St. Isaac the Syrian on the fall of Adam and the imperfection of the world, according to the unpublished *Centuria* 4.89.
- Grigory Kessel, Shem'on d-Taybuteh and his literary heritage. Selected chapters of the Book of Grace.
- Yury Arzhanov, "Let us consider how the soul was praised by those who were skilful in wisdom...": Syriac translations of the Greek popular philosophy.
- Yury Arzhanov, Syriac Collection of Sayings of Diogenes, Socrates, Plato and Aristoteles.
- Alexei Muraviev, The legend on Julian the Apostate in the "History" by al-Tabari and its Syriac sources.
- Nikolai N. Seleznyov, Heraclius and Isho'yahb II: An eastern episode in the 'ecumenical' project of the Byzantine emperor.
- Anton Pritula, Khamis bar Qardahe – an East-Syriac poet of the late thirteenth century and his ode dedicated to Bar Hebraeus.
- Dmitry Morozov, On the textual criticism of Arabic Christians documents.
- Constantin Panchenko, The destruction of the church of Mart Mariam in Damascus in AD 924: An eye-witness.
- Dmitry Morozov, Ekaterina Gerasimova, Carolus Rali Dadichi and the "Bibliotheca orientalis" by J.S.Assemani: A letter of the Oriental author on the popularization of Syriac literature in Europe.

## ***Indian Archdiocese News***

### **Chaldean Syrian College Celebrates Its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day**

The Chaldean Syrian College of the Church of the East on the premises of Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, Thrissur has celebrated its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day. College Committee Secretary Varghese J. Ollukaran welcomed the chief guests at the gatherings. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, the founder-patron of the first ever College of the Church of the East in India, presided over the function. Dr K.R. Vishwambharan I.A.S., Vice Chancellor of Kerala Agriculture University, inaugurated the function.

The founder-patron Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan B.D., M.Th., S.T.M., D.Th., Ph.D. expressed his satisfaction in seeing that the College he had established for his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday has grown in size to impart knowledge to one thousand students every year. Both girls and boys are studying in this College. He asked the Principal and the College Committee to start teaching the Syriac (Aramaic) language, as the current Principal, Rev. Dr. Sister Jincy has M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in the language of Jesus Christ and the liturgical language of the Church of the East.

### **Ordination of Deacon Sujo Jose**

Sujo Jos Ollukaran was ordained deacon on Sunday 19 February 2012 at Mar Aprem Church, Trichur by Mar Aprem Metropolitan assisted by Bishops Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Fr. Lazar Madathumpadi and Fr. Michael Vallavanthara This is the second deacon in two months. Deacon V V Joseph was ordained on 30 December 2011. Some seminary students will be ordained this year as deacons.



## Mar Timotheus Church, Nellikunnu

Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated festival Holy Qurbana at Mar Timotheus Church, Nellikunnu, Thrissur on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The evening public meeting was conducted in the hall behind the Church. A balcony was constructed in this church recently as well as the raising of the roof. Renovations to the church will be completed by April.

### Visit of H. E. Cardinal Sandri

His Eminence Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Pontifical Council of Eastern Catholic Churches in Rome paid a visit to Kerala and was received in Kottayam, Cochin headquarters of the Major Archbishop Mar George Alenchery as well as at the Basilica in Trichur, Kerala,

### A Day in the Life of Mar Aprem Metropolitan Documentary Now Online

The documentary *Humour, Music, Scholastic Divinity: A Day in the Life of His Grace Mar Aprem* – Metropolitan of Malabar and India, Assyrian Church of the East which was originally aired on the Night Show – DD-Doordarshan National Network India is now available online:

#### Part 1:

[http://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=GefLnojxZ1A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GefLnojxZ1A)

#### Part 2:

[http://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=siaB7ZKfGds&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siaB7ZKfGds&feature=related)

### Change of E-Mail

Please note that Mar Aprem Metropolitan's E-Mail ID with Gmail was hacked in the beginning of November, 2011. His new e-mail ID is **hgmaraprem@gmail.com**

## Church Calendar 2012

### January

- 4. Mar Zaia
- 6. Epiphany
- 13. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
- 20. Pathrose & Poullose
- 20. Four Evangelists
- 27. Mar Esthapanose Sahda
- 30-31. Ba'utha of Ninevites

### February

- 1 Ba'utha of Ninevites
- 2 *Kubalthaibutha*
- 3. Greek & Syriac Malpans
- 5. Mar Yonan
- 10. Mar Awa Catholicos
- 15. Mar Geevarghese
- 17. Friday of Departed (Anneedhe)
- 18. Forty Martyrs crowned in Ghieda
- 19. Lent begins

### March

- 14. Mid Lent
- 16. Mar Benyamin Shimun, Martyr (1918)
- 25. Tidings to Mart Mariam from Angel Gabriel.  
Mar Michael, friend of angels
- 30. Friday of Lazar

### April

- 1. Oshana
- 5. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy Thursday)
- 6. Good Friday
- 7. Holy Saturday
- 8. Easter
- 13. Confessor's day

- 13. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
- 15. New Sunday
- 23. Rabban Hormizd
- 24. Memorial of Mar Geevarghese

### May

- 4. Mar Sargis, Mar Bachos
- 6. Mar Addai Shleeha
- 15. Shmonie & Children
- 17. *Sulaqa* (Ascension)
- 27. Pentecost
- 30. First Holy Qurbana by Mar Yakob

### June

- 1. Friday of gold

### July

- 2. Mar B'hisho
- 3. St. Thomas Day
- 11. Mar Yosip Khananisho (d. 1977)
- 13. Memorial of the 72 disciples.
- 15. Nusardail & Memorial of 12 disciples  
Mar Kuriakose & Mother
- 20. Mar Yakob of Nisibis
- 27. Mar Mari Shleeha

### August

- 1. Beginning of 15 day fast
- 5. Mar Yakob of Nisibis
- 6. Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor
- 7. Mar Iyyob Hdayyavaya
- 10. Mar Shallitha & Mar Awgin
- 12. Mar Mari Shleeha
- 15. Death of Mart Mariam (*Shunaya*)
- 24. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
- 31. Mar Qardagh Sahda

### September

- 1. Rabban Hurmizd
- 2. Shmonie & Her Children
- 8. Birth of Mart Mariam
- 13. Festival of the Cross
- 14. Mar Bhisho
- 18. Remembrance of Yonakhir and Hanna
- 19. Mar Shallitha
- 28. Mar Elia Prophet

### October

- 14. Mar Khanania, who baptized St. Paul
- 12. The 300 Saints of Shizar
- 17. Consecration of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV (36<sup>th</sup>)
- 19. Mar Elia Prophet
- 21. Mar Moshe Nwiya
- 25. Mar Pithyon

### November

- 4. Hallowing of the Church
- 5. Mar Gewarghese Sahda
- 9. Mar Augin Thuvana
- 11. Tithe Festival
- 15. Memorial of All Saints
- 20. Mar Yakob M'paska
- 22. Memorial of 12000 Martyrs

### December

- 1. *Subara* (Advent) Begins
- 2. Mar Gabriel, Mar Abdisho
- 18. Mar Awa of Nineveh
- 25. Christmas
- 28. Memorial of Mart Mariam



**H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan, Ordains Two Deacons in Melbourne, Australia on 22 January 2012**



**Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California, Pictured on 21 January 2012 at AssyrianChurch of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) Fundraiser in California.**



Edited by Fr. Michael Vallavanthra, M.A.  
Printed & Published from Mar Narsai Press, Thrissur

**Pope Benedict XVI greets Mar Aprem in Vatican on 28 October 2011**