

ܩܘܘܨܐ ܕܩܘܪܒܢܐ

Vol 57

Jan. - Feb. -2010

nos 1 & 2



H.H. Maran Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East after the consecration of two bishops Mar Yohannan Joseph and Mar Awgin Kuriakose on Sunday 17th January 2010 in Trichur, Kerala, India.

VOICE OF THE EAST

VOICE OF THE EAST

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

January - February 2010

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

Websites : India : www.churchoftheeastindia.org
Australia : www.Assyrianchurch.com.au
Assyrianchurchnews.com
Churchdiscussion.com
Russia : www.Assyrianchurch.narod.ru
Iran : www.margivargis.012.webpages.com
Los Angeles : www.stmaryassyrianchurch.com
Unofficial site : www.nestorian.org

CONTENT

1. Editorial (A Historic event)
2. Report from Indian archdiocese to the 13th Holy Synod. Mar Aprem
3. The 13th Holy Synod. A Detailed Report by Mar Awgin Kuriakose, episcopa, India
4. Report of the UAE Mart Mariam Parish. Visit of the Catholicos Patriarch and prelates to Dubai, Sharjah area. By Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa,
5. Letter from Australia
6. World's youngest Catholic Archbishop.
7. WCC congratulates newly elected Serbian orthodox patriarch Irinej
8. Holy Qurbana in English in Chicago
9. New Bishop in Iran
10. Calendar 2010
12. News
13. Mar Narsai Metropolitan

New Bishop in Iran

On Monday September 13, 2010 (Festival of finding the Cross) is going to be a red letter day in the 2000 years history of the Assyrian Church of the East in Iran. His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, If God willing, will consecrate a new bishop (Episcopa) for Iran. The candidate proposed is a young Iranian citizen, Cor episcopa Gewargis Benyamin, who was ordained a cor episcopa by Metropolitan of Iraq Mar Gewargis Sliwa in Teheran a few months ago.

Mar Joseph Parish Kunnankulam

Fr.David K.John M.A., M.Ed was appointed as the vicar of the Mar Joseph parish Kunnankulam in the place of Mar Yohannan Yoseph who was elevated as one of the two Episcopas in India.

ADDRESSES of two new bishops in Trichur, Kerala, India

1.H.L.Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishops' Palace, Anchangadi, Trichur 680005, Kerala, India

2.H.L.Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishops' Palace, Anchangadi, Trichur 680005, Kerala, India

Receptions to new bishops

Various parishes and organizations are arranging receptions to the new bishops. Owing to the lack of space In **Voice of the East** we are not able to provide all details. We request all churches around the globe to report news of the various activities connected with our church. **Help us to help you.**

Mar Narsai Metropolitan

Mar Narsai de Baz, Metropolitan of Lebanon, Syria & Europe, passed away at 3 p.m. afternoon of Sunday 14th February 2010 in Arizona USA. Mar Narsai Metropolitan, who was going to be 70 years this May had a minor operation for Prostate enlargement in Beirut in September, 2008 and hence could not attend the Holy Synod in Dohuk, North Iraq in October 2008. However, he was very active

in the Patriarchal Council and the Consecration of Metropolitan of Mar Meelis Zaia in Sydney, Australia in December 2008. Later in 2009 he had a major operation in Beirut and a few months ago he was taken to Arizona, USA for better medical treatment.

Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Arizona, who visited the Metropolitan in Hospital on 8 February, reported that he was very weak physically. He received Holy Qurbana from our Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV and peacefully passed away. Let us all join with all Assyrians in praying for this departed soul He is the younger brother (7 years) of Archdeacon Aprim de Baz, retired Archdeacon in Chicago. His body will be taken to Chicago to be buried near other members of his family.

Mar Narsai Metropolitan has visited India 4 times, first in November 1995 for the unity in India, second in March 1998 for the funeral Of Mar Poulouse, third in January 2000 accompanying the Patriarch and finally in August 2001 for the funeral of Mar Timotheus Metropolitan. He was sorry to miss the Holy Synod in India in January 2010. But he telephoned to Mar Aprem metropolitan from Arizona to wish all the best for the Holy Synod.

Mar Narsai was born in Syria in the village of (Tal Roumman) on the Khabour River Valley, on 17 May 1940, son of a scholarly priest Qasha Elias de Baz. Like his elder brother Aprem he chose priesthood. The 28 year old Narsai was made a priest on 23 March 1968 and bishop on 28 July 1968. He was promoted as Metropolitan on 17 October 1976 in England when H.H. Mar Dinkha was made the Catholicos patriarch. Baz is the name of his tribe.

Mar Narsai Metropolitan attended all the 11 Holy Synods presided over by Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, upto 2008. As Deputy to our Patriarch, he was with His Holiness when our Catholicos Patriarch signed Common Christological Declaration with Pope John Paul II in Vatican in November 1994.

He was co Chairman of the Assyrian Vatican Dialogue committee, (Except some years when Mar Aprem of India was in that position). He has also participated in some Dialogues of the Pro-Oriente, Vienna. He is Deputy to the Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV.

(These details are written here because the Wickipaedia in the internet, which provides a lot of information on the Assyrian Church, does not have any information on him except his name).

Voice of the East

Vol. 57

January - February 2010

Nos. 1 & 2

Editorial

A Historic Event

The Holy Synod of the universal Assyrian of the East held in January 2010 in Thrissur, Kerala, India was a unique event. The publicity given by the local newspapers and television channels made the public to realize that this Church now based in Thrissur is the continuation of the Pre -Portuguese Christianity in India. Ever since Mar Thoma Shleeha preached in South India in 52 AD this Christian Church established its link with the Persian Church. St. Thomas became the Apostle of India only after he became the Apostle of Persia or Edessa.

Now there are more than 7 million Christians in South India who claim the common heritage of Apostle Thomas, the doubting disciple of Jesus. The Patriarchal reception meeting was an indication of the fact the all these different denominations claim that their forefathers were converted by St. Thomas, the Apostle. The Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church, Mar Andrews Thazhath was there on the stage. His church has more than 3.8 million members with one Cardinal and 39 other Archbishops and bishops. The Catholicos Designate of the Indian Orthodox Church, His Beatitude Poulouse Mar Milethius representing His Holiness Baselius Mar Didymos I st was there. Mathews Mor Aprem Metropolitan of the Syrian Orthodox Church was there to represent Catholicos Baselius Mar Thoma I (under the Patriarch Mor Zaka I of Antioch). Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan of the one million strong Mar Thoma Syrian Church presided over the function. Prof K.V.Thomas, Minister of the Federal Government from New Delhi inaugurated the function. The presence of all these dignitaries on the stage along with our Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV and our prelates from around the planet earth was a sight worth seeing. Some speakers reminded us that the Holy Synod held now in 2010 is the 1600 th anniversary of the first Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church 410 AD under Catholicos Mar Isaac.

The Holy Qurbana conducted in the morning of the same day was again a unique event in the annals of the history of our once-glorious Church. In recent history this is the first Holy Qurbana in any part of our universal Church with 12 prelates, The Catholicos Patriarch, 3 Metropolitans and 8 bishops, dozens of priests and deacons. The Holy service which began with a procession to the temporary built high altar at 7 a.m.concluded at 11 a.m. as four prelates were giving communion at four places at the same time.

The Choir sang both Assyrian and Malayalam songs. The seven deacons who came from Sydney, Australia made the choir more enriching as they were singing from the altar. The Holy Synod Choir practiced Assyrian songs, although the Indian youth cannot read or write this language. The lay men and women also joined in some responses in the Assyrian language.

His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, our Catholicos Patriarch led the Holy service from 7 to 11 a.m. without showing any sign of fatigue. His sermon delivered in the language of our Lord Jesus Christ was read in Malayalam translation by one of the two new bishops, Mar Yohannan Yoseph. I am personally grateful to the kind reference His Holiness made regarding my humble service to this church. In the evening speech in the public meeting the Catholicos Patriarch expanded it a bit more. In all humility let me record it here.

"Although, we have not visited you, the Beloved sons and daughters of the Church of India. But we have been fully apprised of the continued and steadfast progress and expansion of the Church, by our official representative, His Beatitude Metropolitan Mar Aprem. He has participated in all the Holy Synods of the Church. **We are grateful to His Beatitude who has been an alert shepherd. Diligently he has watched over the flock which has been entrusted to him.** Now, we have added two shepherds to help him in his labour. We have a steadfast hope that they will be obedient to His Beatitude, so that Christ will bless them, and stand by them."

Mar Aprem.

Report to the 13th Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East Held in Trichur, India on January 13 – 20, 2010

The Church of the East in India

Submitted to the Holy Synod by Mar Aprem Metropolitan.

1 I thank God for all blessings on the archdiocese of India and on me especially at the time of sickness called vertigo (ear balancing) in February 2007 while visiting our parish of Mar Gabriel in Bombay. Then in Sept-Oct 2008 I was able to travel to USA, UAE and Iraq again in December 2008 to Australia for the consecration of Mar Meelis Metropolitan.

2. Clergy

God provided us with needed clergy. Now we have 54 priests and 20 deacons. We have 3 nuns and three deaconesses. Four of our priests are unable to do Holy Qurbana. Four deacons are also unable to do service. We are educating our priests with academic degrees.

1. Our Ph.D. candidates are four. Fr. Jos Jacob Vengassery B.D., M.Th (Heidelberg) is a married priest who had done Master Degree in Hebrew and Old Testament. After 18 years his professor in Germany invited him to write his Ph.D. thesis. He is in Belfield since October 2007. He is on a scholarship allotted for a member of the Orthodox Church by the Lutheran Church. He is expected to return to India by October 2011 after obtaining his Ph.D.

2. Sister O.U. Jincy has submitted her thesis for Ph.D. to M.G. University in SEERI on Mart Mariam. She went to Sydney, Australia in 2009 to do part of her thesis under the guidance of Prof. Riffat Ebied of Sydney University. Thanks to Metropolitan Mar Meeliz Zaia of Australia who has been sponsoring her studies for M.A. and then Ph.D.

3. The two unmarried priests doing Ph.D. under the scholarship from CCC in Rome, (arranged through our former Bishop in California in 2003 with the Catholicos Patriarch's permission) were expected to complete Ph.D. The senior Fr. Joju Anto aged 43 is expected to submit his thesis in 2010 on the revelation of Mar Poulouse Shleeha. He is now

Vicar General of our Church in India. He has studied in Baghdad, Iraq from January 2001 to March 2003.

The second unmarried priest in that programme Fr. Shaju Paulose aged 35 and a half started his Ph.D studies in Dharmaram College, Bangalore (run by CMI fathers of the Syro Malabar Catholic Church) where he had studied for M.Th. Degree, but moved to Auckland, New Zealand to do research for his studies for Ph.D. He went there for 3 or 6 months and stayed in the Auckland University where he registered for Ph.D. in Biblical studies, somewhat related topic of his Dharmaram Ph.D. After completing the study of 2 years he came back to Dharmaram College, Bangalore for 3 months to renew his Ph.D. He is expected to finish Ph.D. from New Zealand University at Auckland in 2011 and taking another Ph.D. from Dharmaram College later.

4. Future Episcopas

When I was in hospital two years ago, I took an opinion Poll to find out of the support of the two priests doing doctorate among all Clergy and Members of the Representative council and Fr. Joju Anto had 98 votes and Fr. P.P. Shaju had 96 Votes. Although the last Holy Synod which met in Nuhadra in Oct 2008 decided to consecrate only one bishop for India, Your Holiness in Australia in Dember 2008 asked me to tell the clergy and the Representative council to make it two so that there will not be any division in India. Since the votes are close. Fr. Joju Anto & Fr. Shaju Poulouse have been proposed for consecration as episcopas to assist me in the archdiocese of India. I obtained the consent of both councils which met in 2008 December end in Trichur and I communicated the consent in January. The final decision is expected in this Holy Synod. We have announced the letter from Bishop Mar Awa Rouel that the consecration is proposed for Sunday 17 January 2010.

I had made it clear to all that it is only an opinion poll and not election. The final decision is done by the Holy Synod and Catholicos Patriarch of our Church.

CALENDAR 2010

January

2. Mart Mariam
6. Epiphany
7. Mar Zaia
8. Mar Yohannan Mamdhana
15. Patrose, Poulouse & 4 Evangelists
22. Mar Esthapanose Sahda
- 25, 26, 27 *Ba'utha* of Ninavites
29. Greek & Syriac Malpans
31. Mar Yonan

February

5. Mar Awa Catholicos
12. Friday of Anneedhe
14. Lent Begins

March

10. Mid Lent
16. Mar Benyamin Shimun, Martyr(1918)
25. Tidings to Mart Mariam from Angel Gabriel.
26. Friday of Lazar
28. Oshana

April

1. Pis'ha of our Lord (Maundy Thursday)
2. Good Friday
3. Great Saturday
4. Easter
9. Confessor's day
11. New Sunday
15. Mar Shimun Bar Sabbae
24. Mar Giwargis Martyr
25. Mar Khannanya
27. Rabban Hurmizd

May

1. Memorial for Indian Prelates
2. Mar Addai Shleeha
6. Shmonie and her Children
13. *Sulaqa* (Ascension)
23. Pentecost
26. First Holy Qurbana offered by Mar Yakob
28. Friday of gold

June

3. Memorial of Mar Milies

July

3. St. Thomas day
9. Memorial of 72 Apostles
11. Mar Yosep Khananisho (d.1977)
11. *Nusardeil* & Memorial of 12 Apostles
15. Mar Kuriakose Sahda and his mother Yolethe
23. Mar Mari Shleeha
24. Mar Yakob of Nisibis

August

1. Beginning of 15 day fast
6. Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor
7. Mar Iyyob Hdayyavaya
10. Mar Shallitha
15. Death of Mart Mariam (*Shunaya*)
27. Mar Qardagh Sah'da

September

8. Birth of Mart Mariam
13. Festival of the cross
14. Mar Bhishe
17. Mar Elia Nwiya
18. Remembrance of Yonakhir and Hanna
19. Mar Shallitha

October

12. The 300 saints of Shizar
Mar Yohannan evangelist, Son of Zabdee
17. Maran Mar Dinkha IV
Patriarch's Consecration (34th)
Mar Moshe Nwiya
31. Hallowing of the Church

November

1. Mar Gewargis Sahda
7. Tithe festival
19. Mar Yakob M'paska
Mar Augin Thuvana
22. Memorial of 12000 Martyrs

December

1. Subara (Advent) begins
1. Subara (Advent) begins
3. Mar Gabriel, Mar Abdisho
20. Mar Awa of Nineveh
8. Mar Gabriel
25. Christmas
29. Mar Yakob Shleeha
31. Memorial of Mart Mariam

World's youngest Catholic Archbishop

Mosul, Iraq, Jan 27, 2010 / 09:09 pm (CNA).- The new Archbishop of Mosul, replacing his kidnapped predecessor who died in captivity, says his mission is to give "hope and confidence" to persecuted Iraqi Christians who face bombings, killings and other pressures to leave the city, an ancient center of Christianity. The 42-year-old Archbishop Amil Shamaaoun Nona replaces Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho, who was kidnapped outside his cathedral nearly two years ago and died ten days later. The new archbishop, formerly a priest of the nearby Alqosh diocese, was installed in his cathedral on Jan. 22, about two weeks after his episcopal ordination. In a statement to the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), Archbishop Nona responded to the ongoing killings, abductions and bombings targeted at churches and other Christian centers across Mosul.



Serbian Orthodox Church is based in Serbia and Montenegro. It has 8 million members, 45 bishops. Priests 3000 in 37 dioceses.

WCC Congratulates Newly Elected Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Irinej

In a congratulatory letter to Bishop Irinej (Gavrilovic) of Nis, who was elected patriarch by the holy assembly of bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church on Friday, 22 January, the general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit expressed "extraordinary joy" at the news of the election.

"On behalf of the entire fellowship of the WCC member churches, in their deep commitment to make our unity in Christ visible, please accept, Your Eminence, our warmest congratulations and assurance of prayer that God will continue to bless the Serbian Orthodox Church through your leadership," Tveit wrote.

Holy Qurbana in English in Chicago

St. Andrews parish, Glenview in Chicago will be celebrating the English Mass once a Month on the last Friday of the Month at 7:00 PM. Assyrians can

6. Seminary, Church of the East, Mulankunnathukavu

Now there is one resident priest Fr. Jacks Chandy and a retired priest Fr.P.K.Raphael. There are 2 students who can go to B.D. Colleges after their B.A., preferably after spending one year full time course of our Liturgy and faith in our Seminary.

Our Seminary is situated in a 52 acre of cashew estate donated by Athletha O.T. Inasu of our Church in 1955. Two years ago we cleared 22 acres of Cashew trees and planted Rubber trees and 7000 banana plants. The project has invested more than 2 million rupees, but I hope that we will get enough profit within four years after the tapping of the rubber begins in 2014 and returning the loans taken for the rubber plantation.. The Seminary compound will yield enough income for educating our clergy. For a small church like ours we cannot expect many students each year in the Seminary. We should get students from other countries then it will be an international Seminary for our church.

7. Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara.

His Holiness our Catholicos Patriarch inaugurated the Hospital in January 1991.

It has an active committee with Metropolitan as the Patron-President and two central trustees are nominated as the Vice Presidents by the Metropolitan. Mr. K.A. John, elder brother of late Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse, is elected again as the Secretary of the committee. There was a subsidy of Rupees 6 Lakhs from the Church funds approved by the Representative Council on an annual basis in recent years. We are trying our best to run the hospital without the subsidy from the Church. In recent years the income has increased, but not enough to meet all expenses needed for development. This year's church grant is 4.8 Lakhs only. We are maintaining this hospital at a high cost in order to get admission for our church members to the Christian Medical College, Vellore. If we run the hospital with less than three doctors and five nurses, our sponsorship right for M.B.B.S, Nursing etc. will be suspended.

Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital's compound has the Dr. Santhosham Home for the aged. Since there

are no rooms available as per the need, we have started for construction of additional rooms.

8. **Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage, Kalathode** is helped monthly by the people in Sweden. They are not our church members. This Orphanage was started in 1962 when my mother (Mrs.J.D.Mookan) donated 75 cents of land for the purpose when late Catholicos Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun visited India in 1961. Two sisters (nuns) are staying and working in the Orphanage. Sister Jincy who was living in SEERI, Kottayam for M.A. and Ph.D. studies lives here whenever she is in Trichur

9. Our Church Schools

The Chaldean Syrian School started by late Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan 83 year ago was rebuilt according to new specification of the size of class rooms.

As the name of the school is difficult to be changed, we have named this 24 million Rupee building for the High School **H.H. Maran Mar Dinkha IV building** with permission from His Holiness. There are 22 class rooms for classes from 1 to 10. Each sponsor was asked to pay Rs.1 Lakh (\$2500). It is a necessity, not a luxury, to have this new building. It is near the Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse building for Higher Secondary classes (Plus One and Plus Two), inaugurated by Your Holiness in January 2000. The Mar Timotheus High School upgraded as High School during the time of late Mar Thoma Darmo has also produced good results in examinations in recent years.

Chaldean Syrian College, a parallel College for women is functioning well in Mar Yohannan Mandhana parish.

Now Mar Addai Shleeha parish has started another parallel college for boys and girls. These are not regular colleges. Because we have to provide play ground and facilities costing millions of rupees to make it a regular college.

.10. ACERO

The Assyrian Church relief Organization sent our Church in India in 2008 about 4 thousand dollars for charitable purpose. Actually every year the Indian Church raises about 4 thousand dollars and distribute to the charitable work. But the amount sent by

ACERO was used as a separate account by the Charity committee of our Church. Every year the Charity committee has a fund raising dinner for the distribution of the needy people for education, medicine, etc. Several parishes also have charity programmes. The Women's Youth is giving scholarships to students. Our Church in India is helping a student Tinto Tony who is in 4th year of Medicine in Tbilisi, Georgia, Europe struggling hard to pay his tuition and food expenses.

11. UAE Mart Mariam Parish

About hundred people from India and 50 Assyrians had attended our Holy Qurbana in 2005 & 2006. Now we have two priests employed in Sharjah, UAE in a rented chapel of the St. Martin Anglican church. Every Friday there is a Holy Qurbana from 7.30 to 9.30 a.m. Our Church plans to request Sheik of Dubai, Abu Dhabi or Sharjah for a piece of free land for building a school, church etc. We do not have rich people in UAE to support us. Still we can make an effort. This is the 30th Parish of the Church of the East in India.

12. Church Constructions

In the last Holy Synod in 2008 I had reported that the Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church consecrated by Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan in 1910 was rebuilt in 2007 (nearly 97 years later). It cost twenty million rupees that is about half million US dollars. It is a huge amount in Indian standards. With rent from shops in the church compound and loan from the South Indian Bank we built a nice, expensive Church. I hope that the loan will be cleared soon. The Mar Mari Shleeha Church was rebuilt costing about 3 million rupees. The Mar Abdisho Church in Kottayam was built costing about one million Rupees. It is a small church.

Mart Mariam Church in Chalakudy was dismantled when the Government widened the Road from Trichur to Cochin. The Government gave a compensation of about half a million Rupees. Now we constructed a church in that parish costing 2.7 million Rupees. The Central Trustees had bought a suitable land for the Church about 3 years ago as the land price was going up. I consecrated this Mart Mariam Church on November 15 2009. We also renovated the Mar Joseph Church, Kunnankulam costing another one million rupees.

The Mar Bhisho Church, Puthur is being rebuilt as the 50 year old church is not strong. The cost is coming to be at least 2 and a half million rupees. The Mar Qardagh parish in Madras built a hall named Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse Building. It is now used for breakfast after Holy Qurbana etc.

New Delhi priest is working honorary, but not able to do holy Qurbana, as there is no deacon. As it is two thousand miles from Trichur it is not easy to send a deacon or a priest to assist. I do Holy Qurbana there in November when I go for Church's Auxiliary for social action Board meeting. New Delhi is the only parish in India which does not have a church of our own to do Holy Qurbana. The Bishop of Mar Thoma Syrian Church has kindly allowed using Bishop's chapel for our Holy Qurbana when we have occasions.

13. In India the Parish Trustees, Parish council, representative Council and Central Trustees are elected every three years. The next election is due in March this year. Several Central Trustees and parish trustees (Kaikars) are doing hard work in parishes and at Centre without any financial remuneration.

14. Mahila Samajam

The ladies Society is active. Their younger members have formed Women's Youth, Mahila Samajam has Bethany Ashram to take care of older women. Late Dr. Dorothy Chacko started Mahila Samajam. It has new buildings. Mahatma Gandhi had visited this old building.

Apart from this, there is an active prayer group known as Suvishesha Sangaam mainly women. Some priests and deacons also work with them. They meet near the hall next to the tombs of the Prelates.

15 Clergy Salaries

We have a scale of pay for priests starting from Rs. 4 thousand per month. With 10% benefit fund. The senior-most priests were getting Rs.7100 plus Rs 710 as Benefit fund. There was unhappiness among clergy that their salaries were not enough. So from December 2009 all our full time clergy and deacons as well as retired clergy were given 60% increase as D.A. (Dearness Allowance). Therefore the beginner's salary is Rs.4000 plus Rs 2400, which is Rs.6400. The present senior priests are getting Rs.7100 plus Rs.4260, making a total of Rs.11360.



Bishop Mar Isaac of Dohuk, Bishop Mar Emmanuel of Canada, Bishop Mar Awa Ruel of California, Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, Bishop Mar Yohannan of India, Bishop Mar Odisho of Sweden, Bishop Mar Athniel of Syria, Padmasree Yusuf Ali, Mr. Joy Alukkas, (both business magnates from Trichur Kerala living in UAE,) on 20 January 2010 at dinner reception in Dubai.

LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

Greetings with great respect

Dear Your Beatitude, Dr Mar Aprem, Archbishop of India

I would like to take this personal opportunity, Your Beatitude, to thank you for everything during our visit and stay in Your Archdiocese.

This was the best experience of my life, the history that was completed in the Archdiocese of India, can never be removed from our hearts. I personally had a wonderful time, being among the Blessed Prelates of the Holy Synod. I thank Your Beatitude for welcoming us. I thank all the priests, deacons and sisters, every committee member who was in the organization and structure of putting all the work together and all the volunteers.

This just shows the great love in which Christ has taught us, Your Beatitude, that great love in which you show to your loved Children in Christ, all the parishioners and the hardworking team of people who are always at Your Beatitudes side. This also shows the great effort and work that Your Beatitude puts in and reflects upon yourselves.

I can not show much words of gratitude to everything and everyone, as I was truly surprised in the beloved work, commitment, devotion, dedication and understanding of those faithful members of Christ. This historic moment in which we were apart of, nothing can ever beat it.

No words can describe my feelings, and I would love to visit you again, although this was our first visit, it won't be my last. The priests were so wonderful, so guidefull and pleasing, and the deacons were outstanding. I thank everyone; please send my regards to all.

Your Beatitude, from the depths of my heart, I thank you, I thank you for this exquisite work and thank you for giving us this opportunity.

I continually pray that our Lord Jesus Christ, guide you, protect you and give you the strength to do His will, Amen.

Msheekha Nishma Slawathakh, Msheekha nzaheh Ra'yootha B'malkootha d'shmaya.

God Bless +

Yours in Christ

Your Son Deacon Oliver D Slewa Kind regards,
Oliver D Slewa

This was indeed History in making for the Members of the Mart Mariam Parish. They were given a golden opportunity to establish themselves in UAE. It was remarked by every Bishop who attended the function that they will be happy to come to UAE on their journeys to

other parts of the world which was a honor for the Mart Mariam Parish, as now it is in a rising stage from no where when Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated the first Holy Qurbana in Dubai in April 2005 with the permission of our Catholicos Patriarch. His Holiness



Mart Mariam UAE parish members. Seated left to Right: Fr. Sachin Timothy, Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Mr. Chacko Konikara, Fr. Victor Kollannur.



Patriarch and prelates with some parishioners in UAE

Our priests get a 13th month salary in April every year as festival allowance.

Some smaller parishes have no money for this 60 % increase suddenly. So I gave a promise to pay this 60% increase for parishes which cannot afford. From April a new budget will come as usual. So I hope that some arrangements can be done to relieve me from this additional burden. At the same time the annual increment of salaries will come as usual. Personally I feel that money is not a serious problem. It is love between lay people and clergy that will help all of us to adjust. I believe there should be some sacrifice in the life of clergy. Because, it is a vocation and not a profession.

We have priests working in different professions, doing free service for the church. Some priests receive Rs.2000 per month for their honorary service for the church. What we lack are deacons, like all other countries except India, willing to serve free, like Sunday school teaching, choir etc. I hope in future such part time deacons will increase to reduce the financial burden in small parishes. Otherwise our church should permit a priest to celebrate Holy Qurbana without deacons in small parishes and distant parishes. If it is permitted like many other denominations we can start Holy Qurbana in Delhi every Sunday. If one of our two priests working in UAE will lose the secular job, our weekly Qurbana will stop there, as there is no deacon. We cannot afford full time deacon or priest in UAE, which is a small parish.

We have only 3 nuns. In India the Roman Catholics have more than one lakh (hundred thousand) nuns. I pray that at least 12 nuns will come from our church to do the needed service.

Our website www.churchoftheeastindia.org has been updated with photos of all prelates, clergy and Central Trustees.

16. CONCLUSION

THE Church of the East in India is progressing. There are a lot of activities and constructions in different parishes. Due to lack of space in a brief report they are not mentioned here. The unity of November 1995 has strengthened the Church to grow. Some small problems may come. But Maran Esho Mshiha has always helped us to solve the problems. The dispute of the church in California

did not affect the church in India. I pray God Almighty to protect this church from the attacks of evil one. Our Sunday Schools, Youth Association, Women's Youth, Men's Association have made good progress in recent years. Our prayer groups and Ward meetings in parishes are also working well in many parishes. I thank God for allowing me to serve the Church for 41 long years as a Metropolitan.

The Church of the East in India, although has only 30 thousand members today with thirty parishes, is known among churches in India as the oldest Church dating back to Mar Thoma Shleeha, the disciple of Jesus Christ. Some members are joining Born Again or Pentecostal churches from all churches all over the world. We have to work hard to stop this trend. It is not easy.

We publish **Voice of the East** magazine in Malayalam every month and in English once in two months. I request the prelates to see that all important news of their dioceses is sent to me for announcing in this magazine to the whole world.

We also thank Our Catholicos Patriarch and prelates for holding the 13th Holy Synod in Trichur, Kerala, India.

I also thank God and pray for the health of our Catholicos Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, who has celebrated 33rd anniversary of the Patriarchal consecration in October, 2009. We look forward to February 2012 to celebrate 50 long years of His Holiness as prelate of this Church. I pray for all my brother prelates gathered India where our Church was from the time of St Thomas. May God bless *edtha d Madnkha* to prosper, keeping its ecumenical and secular relations in good spirit.

Mar Aprem,,

Metropolitan of India

13 January 2010,

Trichur, Kerala, India

N.B. There are many more activities in the church. We hope to get report from all parishes and organizations to be included in the Souvenir being published in connection with the 13th Holy Synod.

13th HOLY SYNOD AND CONSECRATION OF TWO EPISCOPAS IN INDIA

Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East and the noble nation of India by the grace of God almighty, have been witnessed and blessed by the historic third Patriarchal visit of His Holiness Maran Mar Dinka IV, the Catholicos Patriarch, along with other 8 prelates of the Church of the East from across the world in order to convene the Holy Synod and holy consecration of two Bishops in India, both the Holy synod and Bishop Consecration for the first time in the history of the church of the east in the Indian soil. The Holy Synod was convened from 13th – 19th January 2010, at the Metropolitan's palace, Thrissur, the cultural capital of Kerala, is popularly called "God's own Country" the southern state of India.

Arrival and warm welcome: His Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha IV, the Catholicos Patriarch and the Arch Bishops and Bishops and their staff, arrived at Kochi Airport on 13th January 2010 for the Holy Synod, were wholeheartedly received by His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of the Church of the East in India and both designated Bishop candidates: Rev. Joju Anto, Rev. Shaju Paulose; along with the Chairman Er. K.A. John and all the members of the Board of Central trustees, Mr. P.C. Chacko (Member of Parliament of India), Rev. Fathers, Deacons, Sisters, and the office bearers and members of various church organizations together with a mass of faithful of the church of the east in India.

As a long motorcade they were driven to the headquarters of the Church of the East in India at Thrissur, Kerala. On their way to Metropolitan's palace, at different occasions, the workers and staff of Tiles factory of the Church in India, the students and teachers from the Schools of the church in India along with a number of faithful, waved from road side expressing their fidelity and love, welcomed the Catholicos Patriarch and all prelates to Indian Soil and His Holiness kindly blessed them all. His Holiness and all prelates were also given a royal welcome at the Cathedral, named Marth Mariam Big

Church, Thrissur which is the first Christian Church built in the 18th century, inside the erstwhile fort of Thrissur Town. Rev. Fr. Sunny S. Koola, Vicar of the Cathedral Church welcomed His Holiness by presenting a golden brocade decorated candle and the Secretary of the Clergy Council, Deacon Nipun with incense, received His Holiness into the Church. After a special prayer inside the cathedral along with other Arch Bishops and Bishops, His Holiness kindly blessed all faithful and moved on to the Metropolitan's palace adjacent to the Cathedral Church.

Holy Synod: January 2010

The Holy Synod was convened at the Metropolitan's palace, Thrissur, from 13 – 19th January 2010, regularly at 10 am to 4.30 pm. It was the first time the Holy Synod held in Indian soil under the supreme leadership of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, which is written forever in gold letters in the history of the Assyrian Church of the East. Historically it was the 13th synod which is presided by His Holiness being the Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East for last 33 years. The following attended the synod;

1. His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of Thrissur and all-India.
2. His Beatitude, Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Baghdad and all-Iraq and all Russia.
3. His Beatitude, Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia and New Zealand.
4. His Grace, Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Western America.
5. His Grace, Mar Emanuel Joseph, Bishop of Toronto and All-Canada.
6. His Grace, Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Sweden and All-Europe.
7. His Grace, Mar Aprim Athneil, Bishop of Syria.
8. His Grace, Mar Isaac Yosip, Bishop of Nuhadra, North Iraq and Russia.
9. His Grace, Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California. Apologies,
10. His Beatitude, Mar Narsai De Baz, Metropolitan of Lebanon and all-Europe. (could not attend due ill health)
11. His Grace, Mar Sargis Yousip, Bishop of Baghdad. (could not attend due ill health)

Holy Synod in India and the consecration of the new episcopas. He also praised the rulers of UAE for their kind co-operation towards the Christian community and helping them to have their opportunity to pray in their own cultural backgrounds.

At 7:30 His Holiness and all other Bishops came for the reception. We had two distinguished guests Mr Yousuf Ali, Chairman EMKE Group and Director of Chamber of Commerce, Abu-Dhabi, Mrs Jolly Joy & Mr Joy Alukkas, owners of the famous Joy Alukkas (Jwellery) Group who in their busy schedule has come to be part of this gathering. The program began with the hosting by John Paul Ematty. The programme has begun with a prayer song to praise the Lord and his presence in this function sang by Ms. Tessa Raphy. The welcome speech by Vicar Fr. Victor Kollanoor. We also had an important guest Mr Zaiya d Malik Yacob d Malik Ismael, Deputy of the Syrian Parliament for many years and spokesman to the Assyrian people in Lebanon who attended this function. The distribution of the bouquets was done by the Sunday school children.

A token of remembrance of this function was given to His Holiness and the Bishops in the form of mementos. As well some people who have worked for this Parish to happen was remembered by receiving mementos from his Holiness-

1. Mrs. Julie Ashok
2. Mr. Chacko Konikkara.
3. Mr. Blesson Antony.
4. Mrs. Thressiamma Kurian.
5. Mr. Sinoj Devassy.

After this His Holiness addressed his people in Aramaic and His grace Mar Awa translated it to English. Felicitation was given by Mr. Yousuf Ali, Chairman; EMKE group offered our Church all support in acquiring a place of worship in UAE. Vote of Thanks was given by Rev Fr. Sachin Timothy and the program was concluded by His Holiness Benediction and the Dinner was served. After the Dinner members had their chance of

getting a snap with His Holiness and the prelates. This entire function was organized in the strong will of Kurian Thomas Poovathingal and his name should be mentioned as well.

Jan 21 Thursday, Evening - Venue at City Centre Hotel at 7.30 pm. His Holiness and all other Bishops attended the reception conducted by our Assyrian members. the programme has begun with a welcome speech by Mr. Zaia George. His Holiness conveyed the message and explained about the Holy Synod, the consecration of the two Bishops to India and about the gathering and the functions conducted by the Indian Church. Really it was a time of honour to our Indian Archdiocese.

Jan 22 Friday,

Holy Qurbana was arranged in the Mar Thoma Church in Sharjah at 10:30 Am. His Holiness and all other Bishops reached the Church in time. Rev Fr. Chacko, Vicar of the Mar Thoma Church, Sharjah greeted His Holiness and the Bishops by handing over a candle. The entire qurbana was in Aramaic. His Holiness, His Grace Mar Aprim Athneil, His Grace Mar Isaac Yousip, Rev Fr. Victor Kollanoor, Rev. Fr. Sachin Timothy assisted in the Holy Qurbana. A baptism was done by His Grace Mar Yohannan for the son of Mr. Paul Chakola. His Holiness blessed the child with the last *Rushma*. In the Evangaleon sermon His Holiness conveyed the message that we should be faithful members of the Church and the community we live in.

Whole Holy Qurbana was in Aramaic and it was a new experience for the Indian members. There were about 300 members both Assyrian and Indian members. After the Holy Qurbana there was Photo session with all the members who attended the Holy Qurbana and with Rev Fr. Chacko, Vicar, Mar Thoma Church and the parish Committee.

Lunch was served for both Assyrian and Indian Members and all went well accordingly as planned. At about 2:30 His Holiness said farewell to the members of the Church and promised to come here again if the Lord wishes.



His Holiness lays flowers on the tomb of Mar Timotheus who died one year and 7 months after the last Patriarchal visit in January 2000. The Patriarchs and all prelates offered prayers and flowers.

Patriarchal Visit to UAE Mart Mariam parish

Report by Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph

It was a joyful moment for the members of Mart Mariam Parish UAE, as his Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha and the prelates had decided to land in Dubai on their journey back after the synod to see his flocks in UAE.

January 20 Wednesday-

Representing the Indian Church and as decided by His Beatitude Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mar Yohannan Yoseph the new Episcopa was sent to witness this event on behalf of Mar Aprem. Mar Yohannan who earlier was the correspondent to Mart Mariam Parish had visited UAE and the members do remember him as a Qasha. His Grace Mar Yohannan arrived much ahead in time that day to greet His Holiness and the Prelates.

At about 12:30 on 20th January his Holiness arrived in Dubai Airport with the following prelates.

1. His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yosip
2. His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham

3. His Grace Mar Aprim Athniel
4. His Grace Mar Isaac Yousip
5. His Grace Mar Awa Royel.

The Assyrian members and Indian members were present to greet their Spiritual leaders along with His Grace Mar Yohannan, Vicar and Asst. Vicar to Mart Mariam Parish UAE (which comes under the Archdiocese of India). His Holiness was greeted with Bouquets and they were taken to Al Bustan Rotana Hotel where their stay was arranged and all dispersed for the grant reception in the Evening.

January 20 –Evening-Venue Marco Polo Hotel.

Before the event started a press conference was arranged by Mr. Seby who was in charge of the Press releases for the entire function. Various press men came for the function. The Press meet was addressed by His Grace Mar Awa Rouyel, where he described the History of the church, the scattered members of this Holy Church around the world. His Grace also mentioned about the

The confirmation and consecration of the two new Bishops for the Arch-Dioecese of India was the first decision to be made in the Holy synod and His Grace, Dr. Mar Aprem, metropolitan of India was assigned to conduct the ordination of two designated Bishop candidates, Rev. Joju Anto and Rev. Shaju Paulose to the rank of Cor-Episcopa and Arch-Deacon on 15th Friday 2010. It was again a historical moment of blessing in the entire life of Mar Aprem Metropolitan that, it was the first time His Grace conducted such an ordination of Cor-Episcopas and Arch-Deacons in his church service of 41 years as the Metropolitan of India.

After the Holy Synod sessions on 14th January, the prelates of the Church of the East visited our Seminary and Rubber Plantation. It was a blessed experience for the faithful adjacent to the Seminary church and our prelates enjoyed the interaction with the faithful.

On 15th Friday morning, all Prelates conducted Holy Qurbana, at different churches, which was a unique blessed experience for the faithful of India:-

1. Metropolitan Mar Gewargis Sliwa conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East fort. Thrissur, after Metropolitan Mar Aprem raised the designated both Bishop candidates up to the rank of Arch Deacon.
2. Metropolitan Mar Meelis Zaia conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Timotheus Church, Nellikkunnu, Thrissur.
3. Bishop Mar Awa Royel conducted Holy Qurbana at Cathedral, Marth Mariam Big Church, Thrissur.
4. Bishop Mar Aprim Khamis conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Thoma Sreeha Church, Pattikad, Thrissur.
5. Bishop Mar Emmanuel Yosip conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Adhai Sreeha Church, Paravattani, Thrissur.
6. Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Aprem Church, Chelakottukara, Thrissur.
7. Bishop Mar Aprem Nathanael conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Mari Sreeha Church, Kuriachira, Thrissur.
8. Bishop Mar Iskhaq Yosip conducted Holy Qurbana at Mar Narsai Church, Nadathara, Thrissur.

After the synod sessions on 15th Friday evening, all prelates had a chance to visit the church Orphanage for children, Bathania Ashram for Old, and newly re-constructed Mar Yohannan Mamdhana Church, East fort, Thrissur.

After the morning regular holy synod sessions on 16th Saturday, His Holiness and all prelates had some exceptional time at evening for an exclusive photo session at the premises of Metropolitan's Palace, with the Board of Central Trustees, Clergies, Deacons, sisters, Representative Council, Parish Trustees, Steering Committee members and volunteers of the Patriarchal visit and Holy Synod — January 2010.

17th January 2010—the Big Day

By Divine will and unconditional grace, His Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha IV the Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East, consecrated the two Arch-Deacons as Episcopas (Bishops) on Sunday 17th January 2010, and thus the country India witnessed one more historical event. Arch Deacon Joju Anto received the name Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa and Arch Deacon Shaju Paulose, named Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa. The Holy Consecration and Holy Qurbana were conducted at specially prepared temporary Altar in the Chaldean Syrian High Secondary School ground, near to the Cathedral Church. At 7 am on this Big Day, His Holiness and all prelates, the designated bishops and the clergy of the church came to the altar in a procession. The faithful who attended the Holy consecration and Holy Qurbana overflowed the school ground.

His Holiness read the decree of the Holy Synod to ordain the two candidates as Bishops, then both read out the prescribed oath and signed, and then the consecration ceremony started. At the end of consecration His Holiness kissed the new Bishops on top of their heads and the metropolitans and other bishops embraced them. At the evangelion sermon His Holiness declared that, “the Holy Synod gives the new two Bishops as a spiritual gift to the children of the Indian Church. The bishops will serve you as the apostles of our Christ.” Then His Holiness blessed the new Bishops saying that, “labouring like brothers in the vineyard of the Indian church they would produce a rich harvest of sweet grapes

for Jesus Christ, the real owner of the vineyard.” More than 5000 faithful received Holy Qurbana on the occasion. The cathedral, Marth Mariam Big Church provided breakfast to all who were present on the occasion.

Public Reception: The faithful in India again been privileged to have His Holiness’ esteemed presence and apostolic message at the official reception being extended to His Holiness and the prelates of the Holy Synod and honoring the newly consecrated Bishops of India, at 6 pm on 17th January 2010, at Mar Abimalek Timotheus Nagar (Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School Grounds) Thrissur.

H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India welcomed the dignitaries and gathering. H.G. Dr. Joseph Marthoma Metropolitan presided over the meeting, and Prof. K.V. Thomas (Hon’ble Minister of State, Govt. of India) did the Inaugural address. H.G. Poulouse Mar Milithiose (Catholicos Designate, Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church) done the Benedictory address, and H. G. Dr. Mar Andrews Thazhath (Metropolitan of Syro-Malabar Church), H.G. Mathews Mor Aprem (Metropolitan of Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church), Sri. P. C. Chacko (Member of Parliament), Mr. Therambil Ramakrishnan (MLA) did felicitations. H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM delivered the reply speech and thanked everyone on behalf of the Holy Synod for this amazing reception. His Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha IV delivered the Apostolic Message and concluding Benediction. In his apostolic Message, His Holiness thanked and prayed for the Almighty God to help India in her mission of keeping peace and tranquility among all citizens of this country who are from a variety of races and religion. Also His Holiness blessed and prayed for peace and steadfast progress to all sons and daughters of the God protected unique land of India. Er. K.A. John (Chairman, and General Convener for Reception Committee) expressed the vote of thanks and the meeting dispersed for dinner at Metropolitan’s palace, Thrissur.

Youth Meet 2010: On 18th Monday after the regular Holy Synod sessions at the metropolitan’s palace, His Holiness and all members of Holy Synod met the Youths of our church in India at 6 pm at Chaldean Centre, our Church owned largest air-conditioned auditorium in the city. It was filled with an exciting

multi-talented programme which included Music show of Indian Youths, Devotional Hymns by H.G. Mar Oudisho Oraham Bishop of Europe, and hymn by six deacons from Australia, Key Note Address by H.B. Mar Meelis Zaia AM (Metropolitan of Australia and New Zealand), a Talk by Mar Emmanuel, Bishop of Canada on “Youth is the future of our Church: as a Monastic, as a Priest and as a lay man”, another presentation by Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California on “Discipleship: Following in Jesus’ foot steps” and a session of interaction between Indian youth and All Holy Synod Members of our Church. His Holiness blessed the youth by his Presidential and Apostolic Message and the final Benediction. It was an auspicious occasion in the lives of Youths in India where they received direction to keep them along the divine path and grow in spiritual strength, peace and unity. Rev. Sr. Jincy expressed Vote of Thanks for the day which turned a historic day in the history of Indian youths.

At the evening on 19th January 2010, after the Holy Synod, His Holiness and all synod members attended a special meeting of releasing a documentary named in Malayalam “Kizhakkinte Chaithanyam” (translated as “Radiance of the East”) along with a press conference at Metropolitan’s Palace. H.G. Dr. Mar Awa Royel, Secretary of Holy Synod briefed at the press conference about the first Historic Holy Synod which held in India and H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India translated and helped to answer various press questions.

Departure: On Wednesday 20th January 2010, His Holiness and all prelates and members of the Holy Synod departed from India after fulfilling their entire mission, embracing and hugging one another, smiled and waved hearty farewell to the clergies and faithful at the airport who had arrived to see them off. Indian Church is ever grateful to God almighty for these historic days and events and God’s blessings showered upon Indian church by this Holy Patriarchal Visit, Holy Synod and the consecration of two new Bishops in India. The Indian flock returned to their duties recollecting the historic events in the church that left them in much happiness and greater spiritual enthusiasm. May God Almighty continue to bless our Church.



Mar Aprem Metropolitan presents felicitatory Address printed on red silk to His Holiness Maran Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos Patriarch.

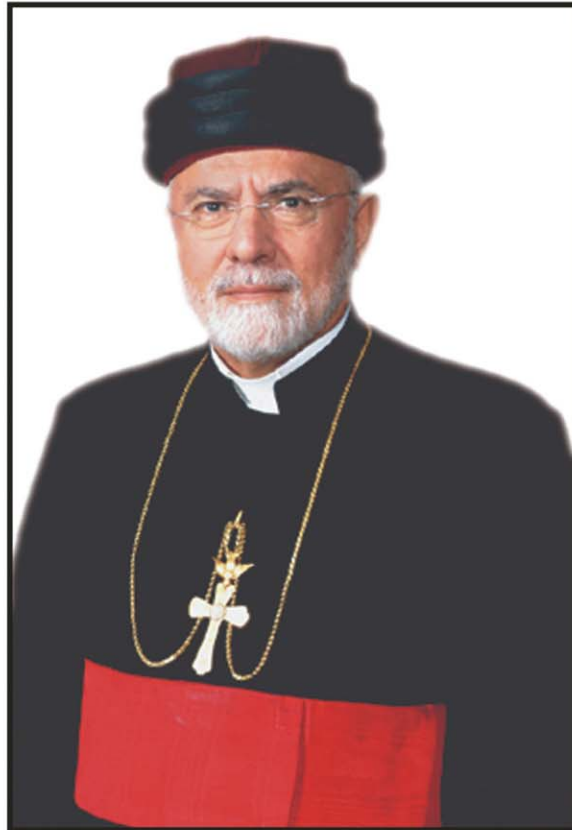


Prelates from various churches present for the public meeting. 5th from the left is Mar Melithius, Catholicos Designate of the Orthodox Syrian Church.



Rev. Sr.Jincy Othottil, President of the Women’s Youth looking at all prelates present at the Youth Meet in the air conditioned Conference Centre of our Church in Trichur.

REST IN PEACE



His Beatitude Mar Narsai De Baz

It is with a heavy heart and deep sorrow that we regret to announce the falling asleep in the Lord of His Beatitude Mar Narsai De Baz, Metropolitan of Lebanon, Syria and Europe of the Assyrian Church of the East on Sunday 14 February 2010. His Beatitude was called to his heavenly home by the Lord at 3:00 pm Pacific Time, in the healthcare facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, where he was hospitalized for the past week and a half. The late Metropolitan had received the precious Body and Blood of our Lord (Qurbana Qadisha) and Khusaya, as heard the reading of the Sacred Scriptures a few hours before his passing.

He was solaced by the prayers of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV and brother prelates present in Phoenix and globally, as well as the prayers of all the faithful and the presence of his family members. The funeral will be conducted at Mar Gewargis Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois (USA) on Friday 19 February 2010 We ask that you kindly pray for the repose of the soul of the late Metropolitan.

+Mar Awa Royel, Secretary of the Holy Synod

