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Vol 62

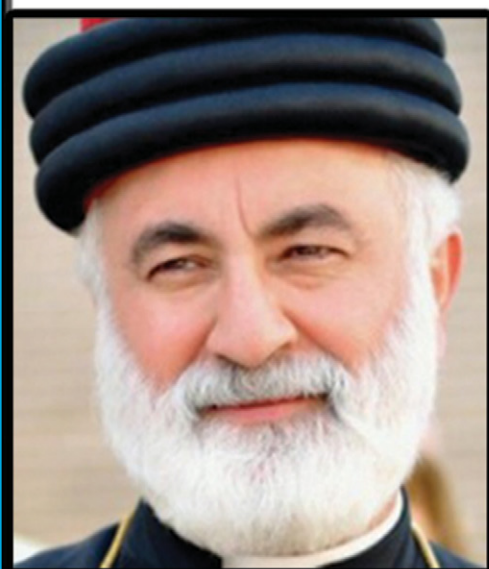
May - June 2015

Nos.5 & 6



The Council of Prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East
Arbil, Northern Iraq, June 2015

VOICE OF THE EAST



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Program of the Final Oral Examination
For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
of

Emmanuel Joseph Mar-Emmanuel

2:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2015
School of Graduate Studies
63 St. George St., Room 111

The Book of Resh Melle by Yohannan Bar Penkaye:
An Introduction to the Text and Study of its Literary Genres

Committee

Prof. A. Harrak
Prof. P. A. Beaulieu
Prof. A. K. Ali
Prof. K. Smith
Prof. A. Becker
Prof. V. Li

Supervisor

External Examiner
Exam Chair

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

May - June 2015

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Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation: www.theacero.org

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Voice of the East

Vol. 62

May - June 2015

Nos. 5 & 6

Editorial

Next Holy Synod and Recent Developments

As the Locum Tenens of the Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East I am happy to greet the readers of the *Voice of the East*. I started writing in the *Voice of the East* from its early beginnings. During the past 61 years I have written editorials, articles and news items and remain in the hope that all Dioceses of our Holy Church will contribute items to this publication.

In recent news, I've learnt from H.G. Dr. Mar Awa Royel (Chairman of the *Commission on Inter-church Relations and Educational Development*) that a three-member delegation consisting of himself, Archdeacon Dr. William Toma and Co-bishop Dr. George Thoma of Chicago will visit Archbishop Hilarion and his office in Moscow on July 21-22, 2015. This dialogue was planned when His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV and His Holiness Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia met in May-June 2014 in Moscow. I was also present.

At the request of The Rev'd Fr. Nikademus Yukhanaev, our priest in Armenia, the delegation is planning to meet His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians and Supreme Head of the Armenian Apostolic Church (Etchmiadzin). The delegation will be in Yerevan from 22-27 July. We pray for the success of the meeting.

The Council of Prelates will soon convene to elect a Catholicos-Patriarch for our Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. We had postponed the election from the meeting held in June in Duhok – Erbil in order to get a favorable response from the Old Calendar faction under Patriarch Mar Addai II. The meetings will occur from 16 September in Erbil. The consecration date of the Catholicos-Patriarch to be elected has been fixed as 27 September. We ask all faithful to pray for the election process and a peaceful consecration.

Many of the readers of this magazine must have known through electronic media that His Beatitude Mar Louis I Raphael Sako, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch based in Baghdad has issued a statement expressing his willingness to step down in order to prepare the way for electing a common Catholicos-Patriarch for three parts of the Church of the East namely the Assyrian, the Chaldean and the Ancient Church of the East. Many of us wish to go back to 1552 AD before John Sulaqa went to Rome. A lot of thinking and praying is to be done before that happens. While the unity of the two calendar groups in India was considered to be impossible at the beginning of 1994 it was momentarily achieved on 13 November 1995. God is always with His church.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

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❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE PATRIARCHAL SEE

STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF HIERARCHS OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST

In this will My Father be glorified, that you bring forth much fruit, and that you remain my disciples (John 15:8)

In the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; One God, forever.

By the grace of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Council of Hierarchs of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East convened at the episcopal residence in Nohadra (Dohuk), the Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq, from June 2-5, 2015. It was presided by His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of All India and *Locum Tenens* of the Patriarchal See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, with the participation of all the metropolitans and bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide, who gathered in a harmonious and fraternal spirit.

The Council began its working sessions with prayer and thanksgiving to God on behalf of all of His graces and spiritual gifts towards, while seeking the Lord's heavenly direction that this Council might be for the giving of hope to the Holy Church and her faithful children, who have participated and supported their shepherds with prayer for the welfare of the Church, our spiritual Mother.

The Council offered fervent prayer to God the Almighty Father for the repose of the soul of the thrice-blessed Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, of holy memory, in thanksgiving for having pastored the Church as Catholicos-Patriarch for almost 39 years. The fathers of the Council sought the prayers of the late patriarch, who by his dedicated pastoral guidance and wise leadership presided over the holy synods of the Church in a conciliar and paternal spirit, promoting peace and fraternity among its members, proving to be of the utmost benefit for all the Holy Church for some four decades.

1. The Council of Hierarchs discussed in depth the difficult conditions which the peoples of the region of the Middle East were forced to enter, particularly in Iraq and Syria, which represent the Church of the East and the Christian East at large historically and foundationally, and its deep presence, enriching the region and its peoples who are known by their ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity in a peaceful co-existence that makes known this national, religious and cultural diversity in a manner that is positive and supportive, proving fruitful for the development of civilization and human heritage.

The Council discussed the matters which presently threaten this enriching diversity and co-existence producing a state of instability in the region and bloody war which has caused great losses to countless innocent victims, mass exodus and forced immigration of millions of people from their

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OFFICE OF THE LOCLUM TENENS OF THE PATRIARCHAL SEE

homeland to neighboring countries, not to mention the great devastation of infrastructure, economy and historical heritage which has forced the entire region into chaos.

2. The Council of Hierarchs, faithful to the saving Gospel of Christ, continually proclaims peace and respect for the human being without distinction of identity, creed or opinion, and it confirms the stance of the Church that death and war are not the proper and acceptable means to a lasting resolution. Rather, dialogue and tolerance of the other are genuine and lasting resolutions to these conflicts.

From this very position, the Council of Hierarchs invites all sides of this on-going conflict who are at odds with one another to dialogue and to a national acceptance based on the dignity of the human person as the image and likeness of God, being above any other form of dignity. Thus, the diversity of ideas and dogma, which can be negatively utilized by the forces of evil and darkness to afflict and sow discord among peoples, ought to be utterly surpassed.

3. Again, the Council of Hierarchs calls upon governmental and political authorities in these countries, as well as the legislative and executive bodies, to fully investigate the sources and root-causes of these conflicts by means of discussion of the laws, constitutions and curriculum of teaching and instructional institutions, as well as media outlets, the religious pulpit, etc., all of which proclaim and make real the culture of forgiveness and the acceptance of one another.

4. The Council also discussed the human disaster forced upon migrants and the displaced. The hierarchs offer their gratitude and thanks to the officials of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq and to the government of the Republic of Lebanon for their great diligence in lessening the burden of this catastrophe which has befallen those forced to migrate and have become displaced from their homes and villages, though their economic resources are limited in the face of the great number of the displaced and their many needs. The Council further offers its thanks to the various Churches and human aid organizations within these countries, in the region and in the world at large. It is our hope that the international community will also realize in kind its own role in alleviating the plight of the millions who have been forced to leave their homes and villages.

5. The Council of Hierarchs offers fervent prayers and supplications on behalf of the captives and kidnapped, among which include entire families, children, the elderly and women from all origins and places. Particularly, the Council calls for the immediate and safe release of the over 200 hundred sons and daughters of the Assyrian Church of the East from the villages of the Khabur River Valley in Syria held captive, who are all innocent and peace-loving people. Prayers are further offered for the safe return of the two kidnapped bishops, metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim and Metropolitan Paul Yazigi, as well as Fr. Jaques Morad and other clergy who are held against their will, in the hope that they will be released safe and sound.

6. Concerning the affairs of Assyrian Church of the East, and specifically the important matter of the election and ordination of the new Catholicos-Patriarch for the holy and apostolic see of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, the Council of Hierarchs discerns and realizes its obedience to the command of Christ our

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❖ *The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East* ❖

OFFICE OF THE LOCUM TENENS OF THE PATRIARCHAL SEE

Lord and Savior: "That they may all be one" (John 17:21). The Council finds it proper and meet to give sufficient time at the present juncture to dialogue and realize the unity of the two branches of the Church of the East, namely the Assyrian Church of the East and the Ancient Church of the East, by rehabilitating formal talks and efforts for reunification that have ceased for many years now.

Therefore, the Council of Hierarchs has unanimously decided to presently postpone the election of the new Catholicos-Patriarch, now to take place on September 16, 2015, followed by the ordination of the patriarch-elect on Sunday, September 27, 2015 in Erbil, Iraq. The Council requests that the clergy and faithful of both Churches fervently pray to the Lord for the unity of the Church and for the election and ordination of the new Catholicos-Patriarch, who will be elected by the Holy Spirit from among the hierarchs of the Church meeting in council in mid-September of this year. The Holy Church will work towards making this council the one and only unified Council of Hierarchs for the greater glory or the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and for the good of the Holy Church.

7. The Council expresses its gratitude to the officials of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq for the reception and hospitality accorded to the members of the Council during their stay in Iraq, and for the accommodations extended to the Council, and for its commitment to meet the needs of the Church in the region.

8. Also, the Council of Hierarchs offers its thanks to the hierarchs and clergy of the sister Churches who joined the hierarchs of the Assyrian Church of the East and their conciliar work in prayer and solicitude. Particular thanks and heartfelt gratitude are extended to the clergy and faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide for their support and prayers for the Council of Hierarchs during the course of the council meetings this past week.

9. In conclusion, thanks are expressed by the Council to His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, the Metropolitan of Iraq, and to His Grace Mar Isaac Yousif, the Bishop of Nohadra and Erbil for the hospitality accorded to all the hierarchs present during their stay, and for having made all proper arrangements for the convocation of the Council. We pray that the Lord might bless them with heavenly benediction and good health. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, forever; Amen.

Given at the episcopal residence of the Assyrian Church of the East, Nohadra (Dohuk), this 5th day of June, 2015 AD.

International News

His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yosip Awarded Doctorate in Canada

His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yosip, Bishop of Canada has received the award for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Syriac Studies from the University of Toronto after many years of diligent study.

His Grace's dissertation is entitled 'The Book of Resh Melle by Yohannan Bar Penkaye: An Introduction to the Text and Study of its Literary Genres'. It was defended in a Final Oral Examination at the University of Toronto's School of Graduate Studies on May 28, 2015.

The examination committee for defense was comprised of:

1. Professor A. Harrak (Supervisor)
2. Professor P.A. Beaulieu
3. Professor A.K. Ali
4. Professor A Becker (External Examiner)
5. Professor V. Li (Exam Chair)

In addition to his undergraduate studies, His Grace also holds a Master's Degree in Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations from the University of Toronto.

Voice of the East offers its congratulations to His Grace on this significant achievement, praying for his continued success as shepherd of the Assyrian Church of the East in Canada.

Press Release from the Holy Council of Bishops of the Assyrian Church of the East

The holy Council of Prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East, presided by His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of All India and Locum Tenens of the Patriarchal See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, was officially called into session at the Episcopal residence in Dohuk, Iraq on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. All the metropolitans and bishops were present for this council for the first full day of the ongoing extraordinary session of the Council.

By the Grace of the Holy Spirit, the prelates began the important process of electing the Catholicos-Patriarch to the Holy See of Seleucia-Ctesiphon, after the vacancy of the Holy See with the falling asleep in the Lord of the late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, of blessed memory. The prelates, in a fraternal and charitable spirit, are in the process of discernment and election, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The other work of the extraordinary Council of Prelates is concerned with the matter of our present dialogue with the Ancient Church of the East. The Council of Bishops met in a special assembly on June 1, 2015 in Arbel, Iraq, in order to respond to the requests of their bishops. As of the release of this statement, the Council of Prelates awaits the decision of the prelates of the Ancient Church in regards to the formal response of June 1, 2015 given to their recommendations. We hope that their response to our proposals for the unity and re-unification of our holy Church in a timely fashion.



Inauguration of the 10th anniversary of U.A.E. Parish by the Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan on 29 May 2015



After the ordination of Babu Varghese Kattookaren on Sunday 21 June 2015 as Deacon in the Bangalore parish by the Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan



Patriarch H. H. Mar Dinkha IV with Zivah, the daughter of Mr. Sanil Mookken, nephew of Mar Aprem Metropolitan, in Chicago



Late Mr. K A John, Ex-Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees and the Secretary of Mar Thimotheus Memorial Hospital for 13 years



Patriarchal Vicar H. B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan with Mr. Wilson Chitalan and family in U.A.E. in connection with his 75th birth anniversary.



Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrating his 75th birth anniversary with the inmates of Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage, Kalathode, Trichur as well as the Mar Thimotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara, Trichur.



Mr. Gleetus John Eluvathingal is donating 1 acre land, worth Rupees five crore, to the Assyrian Church of the East, Thrissur.
L to R: Mr. I G Joy, Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees, Mr. Gleetus John Eluvathingal, Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, Patriarchal Vicar H. B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, and Mr. M A Thomas, Vice Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees



Deacon Sijo Johny with clergy after the ordination as Priest By Patriarchal Vicar H.B. Dr. Mar Aprhem Metropolitan on 16 May 2015 at Mar Addai Shleha Church



Victory Day of Youths Association of the Chaldean Syrian Church on 19 July 2015 at Chaldean Center, Thrissur in the presidentialship of Patriarchal Vicar Mar Aprhem Metropolitan

The Council of Prelates expresses its pastoral gratitude to all the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East for their continued support in prayer and fasting for the prelates, as their shepherds and fathers in Christ, as we gather to elect the new Chief Shepherd and Father of Fathers for our holy Church. May the Lord bless you all in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One Living God. Amen.

Given at the episcopal residence in Dohuk, Iraq, this 3rd day of June, 2015.

Mar Awa Royel

By Grace: Bishop of California

and Secretary of the Holy Synod.

Meeting between the delegations of the Assyrian Church of the East and the Ancient Church of the East for the achievement of a unified ‘Church of the East’

A cordial and fraternal meeting took place in Chicago, IL USA at the premises of St. Andrew’s Assyrian Church of the East on Friday, the 22nd of May 2015.

The representatives of the Ancient Church of the East were:

1. His Beatitude Mar Yakoob Daniel, Metropolitan of Australia & New Zealand
2. His Beatitude Mar Zaia Khoshaba, Metropolitan of Canada & the U.S.
3. His Grace Mar Gewargis Younan, Bishop of Chicago, IL

The representatives of the Assyrian Church of the East were:

1. His Beatitude Mar Gewargis Sliwa, Metropolitan of Iraq & Russia
2. His Grace Mar Iskhaq Yousif, Bishop of Nohadra, Erbil, & Russia
3. His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod

The common secretary of this meeting was the Very Rev. William Toma, Archdeacon.

The meeting began with the Lord’s Prayer in a singular love, as King David says in the Old Testament: “How very good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in Unity!” (Psalms 133:1) Representatives of both branches showed sincere love and the desire in fulfilling a complete unification of the Church of the East, after nearly fifty years of separation within our Holy Church.

The recommendations for unity of the Assyrian Church of the East and the Ancient Church of the East were submitted to each other through the representatives chosen by the leadership of each branch. They will be submitted and discussed in their individual Holy Synods. After the recommendations are discussed, a date and venue shall be designated for a second meeting – for further examination of the responses to the recommendations submitted today.

In conclusion, the meeting came to a close with a positive awareness and belief of both delegations in the fulfillment of unification, as is the will of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Who said, “That they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be one in us” (John 17:21).

†+Mar Gewargis Sliwa Metropolitan

+Mar Yakoob Danil Metropolitan

May 22, 2015

Chicago, Illinois USA

Authenticity in Unity

A Personal Reflection on Present-Day Questions Concerning the Unity of the Church of the East

Bishop Mar Awa Royel

(Diocese of California)

Recently, the Chaldean Catholic Patriarch, His Beatitude Mar Louis Raphael Sako, offered his vision of an initiative towards full communion of the Assyrian and Ancient Churches of the East with the Chaldean Catholic Church. His Beatitude's words, no doubt, proceeded from a genuine love and demonstrated a sincere desire for unity. In the love of Christ, the Church of the East seeks in every true and honorable way that all schisms may be quelled, and we thank His Beatitude for attempting to step forward with some boldness. At the same time, Church history provides many examples that premature attempts at union can produce even deeper divisions. I Also, any true union must be based on the Apostolic, Orthodox, Catholic, and True Faith that was deposited by Christ's own disciples in the East, and has been preserved by the Church of the East to the present day. We cannot be united as one Church of the East while violating the very ecclesiological, theological, liturgical, canonical, and spiritual tradition of our Church.

It is painful but necessary to point out that the first examples of this are the many "Eastern Uniates", where, (except amongst the Maronites), further and deeper disunity has resulted. Other examples, such as the *Henotikon* and *Three Chapters* schisms also present themselves. See also, painfully and recently, footnote 4.

We see His Beatitude's humble willingness to set aside his personal position for unity, and we respond that we shall never prevent unity because of a dispute "...which of them should be accounted the greatest". (Luke 22:24) In the same humility, we must accept that the tradition bequeathed by Christ through his apostles, and preserved by the grace of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church of the East cannot be violated. The 'Church of the East' describes an ecclesial reality that cannot change who she is. Any authentic and acceptable union with the Church of the East cannot be under the ordinary jurisdiction of any Western bishop, but as the free acceptance of a great inheritance practiced according to the ecumenical and apostolic model of the first Christian millennium.

By divine design beyond the grasp of men, the Church of the East is the autocephalous and continuous canonical Church of the Eastern Middle East, India, Central Asia, and China. It would be a violation of the orthodox and catholic Faith, as manifested throughout the ages, to consider this tradition as belonging to the Roman See, or any outside see or jurisdiction, claiming canonical jurisdiction over the Church of the East. Indeed, if a Church is under the jurisdiction of any "Western" bishop, then that Church cannot legitimately be the heir of the name "Church of the East."

The Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East has the sole prerogative and obligation to protect and continue the ancient tradition of her Fathers in preserving the Sacred Liturgy, holy prayer, canonical order, spiritual wellbeing, and moral life of the Church's children within Her traditional territorial boundaries and for those displaced from their lands. Such a solemn and canonical vocation does not permit the Holy Synod to legitimately put aside the truths of the Church of the East's identity. Just as the sacred texts of prayer and Liturgy were given to us by the Holy Fathers cannot be shortened or amended by secular influences or modernist ideas, so too the sacred canonical vocation and duty of this Holy Church to the lands of the East cannot suffer reduction to being a particular jurisdiction of, or in submission to, any outside ecclesiastical authority that has never held any true claim or even presence in our lands. We are the Church of the East, and the Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East has its authority drawn from a historical duty to protect the Deposit of Faith as passed down through the generations from the very apostles themselves. We will never abandon our divinely-inspired traditions by submitting to any other Church or ecclesiastical authority, no matter how compelling their arguments may seem to them, because our history is not up for debate. Just as the other ancient Churches stand up for their territorial rights, we too will defend ours as a precious gift from God.



His Beatitude Dr. Mar Aprem

B.D., M.Th., S.T.M., D.Th., Ph. D.
Senior Metropolitan
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MTCH 119-15

02.07.2015

Andy Darmoo , Secretary. ACERO

Dear Andy,

Thank you very much for your initial donation of Dollar 26,000 for the equipments in our Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara, Thrissur.

It is indeed a great help at time of urgent need to renew the equipments in our laboratory. As you know this hospital has been inaugurated by Late Maran Mar Dinkha IV in January 1991.

We have done charitable work by giving concession to the poor patients in our Church. The services to the people of all religions around the hospital area are given by a dedicated team of doctors and nurses. We were able to equip new doctors and nurses from our church by an arrangement with the most famous medical college in India i.e. Christian Medical College in Vellore. We need the help of all people in India and abroad in continuing these services of this hospital to the people around us.

I also appreciate the charitable work you are doing in Kurdistan area as well as in Syria.

We look forward to a next installment of our total request.

We thank the members of ACERO committee of our Assyrian Church as well as the Barnabas Fund of England.

Yours in Christ,



Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Patriarchal Vicar

Locum Tenens of the Holy See of the Catholicos Patriarch
Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East

Copies to:

1. H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Vice President of Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital Committee,
2. Secretary, Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara

Indian Archdiocese News

The 10th Anniversary of U.A.E. Parish

The U.A.E. Mart Mariam Parish celebrated its 10th anniversary in 29 May 2015. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Patriarchal Vicar and Bishop Awgin Kuriakose have participated in the auspicious occasion on their way to Erbil for Synod. Mar Aprem inaugurated the function.

The tenth anniversary was in April. The function was postponed as a result of the unexpected demise of H.H. Mar Dinkha IV on 26 March 2015. The prelates from India arrived on Wednesday May 26. A press conference was held on Thursday and Holy Qurbana was in Emirates National School in Sharjah, as the space in our regular place in St. Martins Church is insufficient to hold all people. The Principal and the Vice Principal of the Emirates National School came to meet the Metropolitan and the Episcopa after the Holy Qurbana. We are glad that some of our Assyrian members attended Holy Qurbana.

In the evening a dinner reception was given to celebrate the event. Guests were also present. A detailed souvenir with a lot of photos and articles is being published by the UAE parish. Those interested please email to Mart Mariam UAE parish soon before the copies are finished.

Donation of Rs. Five Crore

A Church member, Mr. Gleetus John Eluvathingal has donated 1 acre land to the Assyrian Church of the East, Thrissur. Rs. 5 crore is equivalent to Rs. 50 million. The purpose of his donation is educational aid for students. From this 1 acre land the Church is planning to sell 10 cent soon to meet the registration fee and other documentation charges. The remaining land we will sell later when we get good land value. The amount will be deposited in the bank for the help of student's aid.

Certificate Course

A one year certificate course was conducted in the prayer Hall near the tombs of the prelates of the church in the premises of the 200-year old Mart Mariam Cathedral; Thrissur. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the convocation ceremony granting diplomas to all those who completed the course successfully on 17 June, 2015. The second year Advanced course has commenced in July 2015. A second batch of the first year course has commenced their studies. Fr. Sunny Koola is the President and Fr. Jacks Chandy B.A. is the Secretary & the Course Director. The following are in the Faculty:

Bishop Mar Yohannan Yoseph B.Com., B.D., M.A.

Bishop Mar Awgin Kuriakose B.A., B.D. M.Th.

Fr. Jos Vengassery B.D. M.Th.(Germany)

Fr. Antony Kaitharan B.A., B.D., M.A. (Syriac)

Fr. Binu Joseph B.A., B.D.

Fr. B.O. Timothy B.A., B.D. M.A. (Syriac)

The patron of the Institute is H.B. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan B.D., M. Th., S.T.M. (N.Y.), D.Th., Ph.D. (Syriac)

Mar Aprem Metropolitan Visits the Mar Timotheus Orphanage and Charitable Hospital on His Birthday on 13 June 2015

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Patriarchal Vicar visited the Mar Timotheus Memorial Orphanage, Kalathode as well as the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara. The Metropolitan cut a cake and distributed it in the inmates. In the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital the Metropolitan distributed school bags and books to needy children. All the guests and committee members wished the Metropolitan a happy 75th birth anniversary.

Feast of May 1st

This year's memorial of the Indian prelates was commemorated with the additional name of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV who passed away in Chicago on 26 March 2015. Holy Qurbana was consecrated on 1 May. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and the two Episcopas recited Anneedhe prayers at the tombs of the prelates and went to the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School grounds. A memorial meeting was held. About 15,000 people ate a vegetarian lunch at the memorial. A blood donation camp and eye camp were conducted as usual.

Ordination at Mar Thimotheus Parish, Bangalore

Babu Varghese Kattookaren was ordained on Sunday 21 June 2015 as Deacon in the Bangalore parish by Mar Aprem Metropolitan assisted by the Episcopa in charge of that parish, Mar Awgin Kuriakose. Fr. Lijo Raphael B.A., B.D., M.Th. (2nd year student) is the Vicar. Deacon P.J. David is the Assistant Vicar of that parish. Bangalore is a growing parish. We will need to build a second church at the other end of this expanding city in the future.

Holy Qurbana in Chennai (Madras)

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in Mar Qardagh Church in Maras, the city of the martyrdom of St. Thomas, the doubting disciple of Maran Isho Mshiha. The parish celebrated the 75th birth anniversary of the Metropolitan who built Mar Qardagh Church in 1969, the first church building outside Kerala state in recent centuries. Mar Awgin Kuriakose episcopa who is in charge of this parish spoke about the history of the Madras parish in the meeting that followed the Holy Qurbana. The meeting also felicitated Fr. Jose K. John B.A., B.T., M.Ed. on his 73rd birth day.

Ordination at Mar Addai Shleeha Church, Paravattani, Thrissur

Deacon Sijo Johny who completed 4 year B.D. course in the Orthodox Theological Seminary in Kottayam, Kerala was ordained Priest on 16 May 2015 at Mar Addai Shleha Church. In the congratulatory meeting held in the church after the service Fr. Antony Kaitaran, Vicar of the Parish expressed his happiness as it is the first time this parish got the rare honour of a Patriarchal Vicar conducting an ordination service in India.

CMC Admission of Sponsored Candidates

M.B.B.S:

1. Ms. Susan Inasu
2. Ms. Namitha Varghese

B.Sc. Degree (Nursing):

1. Ms. Ginu George
2. Ms. Milna Mohan

B.Sc. Degree (Optometry):

Ms. Ancy Chacko

B.Sc. Degree (Medical Lab Technology):

Ms. Greety Johnson

These candidates are sponsored by our Church for admission to the Christian Medical College, Vellore for 4 or 5 years study in the foremost medical college in India. We wish them all the success in their future. All the six students selected this year are girls. Let us wish all the best for the future career of these young members of our church.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Dr. T.T. Paul, the leading nephrologist of Thrissur participated in the Council meetings of the Christian Medical College, Vellore on 25 and 26 June. His Grace Dr. Yacob Mar Irenaeus Metropolitan of the Indian Orthodox Church on behalf of the CMC Council offered felicitation to Mar Aprem Metropolitan for being elected as the *Locum Tenens* of the Assyrian Church of the East based in Erbil, Iraq.

Meritocratic Day of Chaldean Syrian School

Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School celebrated its Meritocratic Day to congratulate those students of the school who got good grades in public exams. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the function. The Deputy Collector of Thrissur Mr. Peer Muhammed was the Chief Guest. Dr. Aby Paul M.Sc., M.Phil, B.Ed., Ph.D. Principal of our Higher Secondary School was given a special award for leading our schools to higher levels, academically as well as in extra-curricular activities.

Mar Dinkha I Parish, Chiyaram

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated Holy Qurbana in Mar Dinkha I Church on July 12, 2015. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa assisted. In the public meeting held after the Holy Qurbana the prelates distributed prizes to the toppers in the Sunday School exam. A new organ presented to the church by a member of our Church was inaugurated by Mar Aprem Metropolitan who played the devotional song *Papi yurangunnuvo chinthika nin* from a Malayalam song book.

102-year-old Lady Elected Vice-President of the Village Panchayat in Karnataka

Gauthama, a 102-year-old lady was elected unanimously as Vice President of the Panchayat in Karnataka State. She contested the seat as an independent candidate and campaigned vigorously like youngsters.

OBITUARY

Mr. K.A. John, Secretary of the Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital, Kunnathumkara passed away on Monday 20th July 2015. He was aged 76. He was the elder brother of late Bishop Poulouse Mar Poulouse. He had served as the Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees during the time of the visit of Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV in January 2010.



**After the meeting between the delegations of the Assyrian Church of the East and the Ancient Church of the East in Chicago, IL USA
on Friday, the 22nd of May 2015**



**The Holy Council of Prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East
4 June 2015**



The Institute of Mission & Evangelism of the Church of the East (IMECE).
1st batch of 1st year Bible Course conducted by the Gospel Association,
Church of the East (2014-15) on 17th June 2015