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Vol 63

May - June 2016

Nos.5 & 6



H.H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa
Welcome to Thrissur, India.

VOICE OF THE EAST



First Session of the Commission for Bilateral Dialogue
between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East



Rev'd Fr NikademosYukhanaev, priest of the Assyrian Church of the East in Armenia who
successfully defended his Master's degree thesis on 25 May 2016 in Yerevan, Armenia

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East

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Editorial

The Historia Monastica

The above heading is the title of a book exploring the history of the monastery of Beth Abhe in the Middle Ages. At that time the monastic movement was great in the Assyrian Church of the East. Unfortunately that great history of our church has been forgotten by our Church in recent centuries. I believe monasteries for monks and convents for nuns is a must for every church even in this modern age.

The opening and blessing of the H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent in Thrissur, Kerala is scheduled for July 2016 and is a first step in reviving the glorious monastic tradition in the Church of the East. What we need is not only buildings, but also pious monks and dedicated nuns to reside in them.

The integration of monastic learning that the Patriarch Timothy I (d.843 AD) was involved in, along with a school culture, led to the flourishing of monasteries and schools in the Church of the East. When the monks went out from monasteries like Beth Abhe, whether to the surrounding areas or farther to the East, one of their activities was to build other monasteries. *The Historia Monastica* notes that the monks dispersed by “the dispensation of His will ... built holy monasteries in various places, and thus by the Divine Power which aided them ... at the last became a peace-making and friendly gathering together. And they filled the country of the East with monasteries, and convents, and habitations of monks.”

Patriarch Timothy himself in *Letter 47* already referred directly on this monastic mission to the East. The letter was addressed to his friend Sergius, who was the Metropolitan of Elam, a province of Persia. The letter closes with sections on ecclesiastical appointments that show the extent of the mission spread and the ecclesial structure Patriarch Timothy was overseeing in the second decade of the ninth century. These appointments covered places in Turkestan, Tibet, Persia, and closer to home, as well as even at Beth Abhe.

We currently have only three nuns in India and two deaconesses. With the inauguration of this H.H. Mar Dinkha IV Assyrian Convent it is my earnest prayer that the number of nuns will increase. As a matter of fact there are more than one 100,000 Catholic nuns in India. Nuns like Mother Teresa of Calcutta earned the respect of communists as well as fanatic Hindus. Therefore, these sisters have the ability to contribute very significantly to the communities in which they live and work.

We added the name of Mar Dinkha IV to the name of the convent because it was this Catholicos-Patriarch of blessed memory who encouraged me to start an order of nuns with just one sister (Dr.Sr.Jincy Othottil) in 1998 and this honour is owed to his vision and legacy.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News

First Session of the Commission for Bilateral Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East

The Commission for Bilateral Dialogue between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East was established during a meeting between His Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and all Russia Kirill and His Holiness Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, of thrice-blessed memory, which took place in Moscow on 28 May 2014.

On 28 September 2015, the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East co-established this commission with the following appointed representatives of the Assyrian Church of the East to the Bilateral Dialogue: His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Diocese of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod as Co-chairman; Chor-bishop George KanonToma, clergyman of the Diocese of Eastern USA; Priest Ephraim Alkhas, clergyman of the diocese of California and secretary of CIRED; Deacon Roland Bidzhamov, clergyman of the Diocese of Nohadra and the Russian Federation.

On 22 October 2015, the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church co-established this commission with the following appointed representatives of the Moscow Patriarchate to the Bilateral Dialogue: His Grace Bishop Kliment of Krasnoslobodsk and Temnikov as Co-chairman; Hegumen Stefan (Sado), chief librarian of the St. Petersburg Theological Academy; Hieromonk Stefan (Igumnov), secretary for inter-Christian relations of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate (DECR); Mr. Sergey Alferov, DECR staff member.

On 18 May 2016, the first session of the Bilateral Dialogue met in Moscow, Russian Federation, which concluded in the agreement and publication of this communiqué. The official dialogue between the Assyrian Church of the East and the Russian Orthodox Church opened in consideration of the full-scale persecution of Christians in the Middle East, suffered especially in Iraq and Syria. The Commission recognized the importance of the Russian Orthodox Church's solidarity with the Assyrian Church of the East and all persecuted peoples of the Middle East. Middle Eastern Christians are being forcibly exiled from the land of their ancestors and many are martyred in the flesh. Their cities and settlements are collapsing, and ancient shrines are being desecrated and destroyed. The Commission expresses solidarity with all suffering brothers and sisters among which are thousands who belong to the Assyrian Church of the East. Support of efforts to preserve Christian communities and the restoration of peace in the ancient biblical land of Mesopotamia and the Levant is an important objective of our dialogue. The Commission recommends practical measures of collaboration in assistance to persecuted Christians, especially through existing aid organizations of the two Churches.

The Commission established a cooperation of the Assyrian Church of the East and the Russian Orthodox Church in upholding our common tradition concerning moral values, which are under threat most especially in the diaspora. Furthermore, an agreement of shared moral teaching via respective media outlets was made.

The Commission agreed on the exchange of students and mutual participation in theological studies between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East. Students, professors and experts from the two communities will collaborate to share their respective traditions with each other.

The Bilateral Commission formed its agenda for theological consultations, which will prove fruitful for a possible future Pan-Orthodox and Assyrian Church of the East dialogue. A platform for theological dialogue was established based on understanding the differences and commonalities of the two communities. Prior respective ecumenical dialogues of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Assyrian Church of the East will be studied. Additionally, historical exchanges between the Russian and Assyrian Churches, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries will also be studied.

Priest Ephraim Alkhas, from the Assyrian Church of the East, and Mr. Sergey Alferov, from the Russian Orthodox Church were appointed co-secretaries of the Bilateral Dialogue Commission.

The next meeting of the Commission will take place at the invitation of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East in the Spring of 2017.

A Clarification on Recent Misinformation in the Assyrian-American Media

From the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation

Clarification

23 May 2016

The Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation (ACERO) has become aware of recent claims broadcast in a number of Assyrian-American media sources pertaining to the release of Assyrian hostages held in north-eastern Syria from February 2015. These claims have included suggestions that members of other churches, politicians and/or others have helped with efforts to bring about the release of our people.

In response to such claims, ACERO takes this opportunity to affirm that these claims are totally unfounded and without truth. As such, we ask kindly that the individuals who made and the media organisations who broadcast these false and untruthful statements retract them without delay. Such fabrications are irresponsible and could have consequences to the people making them.

By way of our Facebook page, website and other social and mass media, ACERO has always released accurate and timely information relating to the matter at hand on a breaking-news basis. This information is still available online and a matter of public record. It is the only accurate information on these matters.

ACERO urges caution and prudence from all persons in relation to these matters given their sensitivity and direct and indirect impact on the lives of Assyrians and other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Middle East.

Note of Thanks

ACERO takes this opportunity to thank the following people and organisations who have helped our Assyrian people in these difficult times.

Firstly, we extend our thanks to thank all individual donors, who make donations directly, either online or through direct payments. These donors include Assyrians as well as many non-Assyrians from around the world who wish to show their support and offer help to our people.

We would also like to thank the many social, church-based and political societies in Assyrian communities around the world who have provided support over the past year and more.

In addition, we are grateful to all of the non-Assyrians organisations, including charities like The Barnabas Fund, who helped our people in these most difficult times; particularly in providing much-needed help for those who have had to flee their towns and villages. ACERO would truly not have been able to achieve what it has without this support.

Finally, ACERO is grateful to all of the parishes, clergy and prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East who have lent the hand of support to our church and people in Syria and to His Grace Mar AframAthneil, Bishop of Syria, in the matter of the release of Assyrian hostages. They have done this by providing housing and household supplies, food, medication and clothing to settle those persons who have lost everything.

ACERO's Trustees, Executive Committee and Chapters around the world are indebted to His Grace Mar AframAthneil for his tireless and selfless dedication to his suffering flock in Syria and pray for the health of his body and spirit that he may continue to give able leadership to our suffering people.

At the same time we send our condolences to the families of Assyrians and all others who have lost their lives in Syria. We pray that those innocent people who remain unaccounted for return to their loved ones without delay.

Andy Darmoo
Secretary – ACERO
London, United Kingdom

**Master Degree for The Rev'd
Fr NikademosYukhanaev of Armenia**

Congratulations to The Rev'd Fr NikademosYukhanaev, priest of the Assyrian Church of the East in Armenia who successfully defended his Master's degree thesis on 25 May 2016 in Yerevan. Fr Nikademos is working tirelessly in the service of Armenia's Assyrian community.

The defence was at Yerevan State University's Faculty of Theology, Department of Dogmatic Theology. The dissertation was entitled *Christology the Church of the East as reflected in the collection of "Synodicon Orientale"*.

The Master's dissertation was the first work in the Armenian language about the Christology of the Assyrian Church of the East. As part of the study Fr Nikademos translated a large number of synodical texts into Armenian focusing on the Christology of the Church of the East and conclusively refuting the misnomer, 'Nestorian'.

Having successfully completed the Master's program, Fr Nikademos will now embark on study for a PhD doctorate and is planning on publishing an authoritative study on the theology of the Church of the East in the Armenian language.

May God continue to bestow His blessings on Fr Nikademos in his work for the faithful of the Holy Church in Armenia and his ongoing efforts in building closer fraternal relations between the Assyrian and Armenian peoples and Churches.

Diocesan Spring Youth Retreat of Illinois

There was complete silence as we walked through the 2 mile hike. We saw wild turkey, eagles, and beautiful spring scenery in the forest of Kansasville, Wisconsin without a word. When else would children get an opportunity to be completely cut off from the world and learn how to be silent, still, and listen to the voice of God through nature? The 2016 Assyrian Church of the East Spring Youth Retreat was a perfect chance for our youth members (ages 14-21) to not only have fun and grow closer as a youth, but also to learn biblical skills through bible studies and activities. We were blessed during the retreat from April 22nd-24th to have His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, and St. Andrew's Parish Priest, Rev. Cor-Bishop Fr. George Toma join us during the weekend.

The retreat theme was *discipleship* and the bible verse from Matthew, "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." You are never too young to disciple to others and as church leaders we want to ensure that our children know how to preach the Word to their peers and family members. The weekend was split into three parts. Friday's lesson was regarding silence and hearing the voice of God, the silent walk through the woods, with no cell phones, helped emphasize the need for youth to cut off from the world and allow quiet time with God. To disciple to others you first must go to God and ask for his guidance, but to do this you must be silent and learn how to be still. Saturday's lesson built on top of Friday's and was about how to listen to others. Most Christians forget during discipleship that you must first listen to the questions and concerns of others about faith before trying to just make your point.

Lastly, on Sunday the lesson combined the previous bible studies and focused on how to disciple to others through silence and listening. The weekend was filled with fun with nightly get together of dancing, a bonfire, flashlight tag, and visiting a farm where the kids got to meet horses, ducks, sheep, and even a peacock. We also had daily prayers celebrated in the chapel every morning and evening according to the liturgical rites of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

We are very grateful to the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, apart of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago where the staffs were very flexible with fulfilling to our church's requests and needs. We are hoping that this will be an annual or bi-annual event where youth from the entire diocese can come together to become stronger in their relationships and faith. We are hoping to plan another retreat for this Fall! If you are interested or for more information please contact your local youth president, all registered youth members are welcome.



Deaconess Ammini Kalathottukaran



Jose Davis Mookan (eldest brother of Dr Mar
Aprem Metropolitan)



Rev'd Fr.O.A. Jacob hands over his will containing his and his wife's assets
to the Church in India



Photo taken in connection with the release of a CD of 100 traditional songs of
(GAANAMAALIKA) in Trichur on 12 June 2016



After Holy Qurbana on Sunday 19 June 2016 in the Chapel of
Christava Mahilalayam School, Aluwaye



Visit of Dr Brian Butcher of Canada to Thrissur L-to-R: Rev'dFr Jackson Chandy, Dr Brian Butcher, Mar Aprem Metropolitan & Rev'dFr Justin Neelankavil



After inaugurating the new basketball court, Mar Aprem Metropolitan presents a memento to Sajan Thomas who donated half a million rupees for the project

ACERO Easter Aid Campaign in Turkey – 272 Individuals

A Report from ACERO Headquarters – England, United Kingdom

ACERO has implemented a new aid campaign supporting 51 Assyrian Christian families (272 individuals) living in 10 Turkish cities. Aid was distributed in Yozgat, Istanbul, Düzce, Samson, Afyon, Nide, Çankýrý, Kýrýkkale, Amasya and Tokat. As always, the campaign was organised by ACERO's Turkey Chapter and prioritised families with disabled members and those with serious illnesses requiring ongoing care.

This project was made possible through the generosity of ACERO project partner, the Iraqi Christian Relief Council (ICRF) of Chicago, USA. ACERO extends its deepest appreciation to Juliana Taimoorazy and all members and supporters of ICRF for their generosity and concern for displaced Assyrian refugees in Turkey.

ACERO is the only organisation supporting these displaced people. We need your financial support to continue his work. We appreciate your likes and shares, but without your donations we cannot reach these people.

Death of The Very Rev'd Archdeacon Yonan Youel in London

The Very Rev'd Archdeacon Yonan Youel Yonan of London, England passed away on May 10, 2016. The sad news was communicated to all prelates by the Bishop of the Diocese of Europe, His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham of Sweden. The funeral was conducted by His Beatitude Mar MeelisZaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon as well as His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop.

He was the oldest Archdeacon of our church universal. His family were living in Ealing, London for more than three decades. He had served as a member of the Assyrian-Vatican Dialogue committee and was recording secretary of the Holy Synod for many years.

His wife passed away a few months ago. Condolence messages from two prelates are reprinted below:

Dear Mar Odisho,

Thank you for informing me the sad news of the death of Archdeacon Yonan Yuvel Yonan. I talked to his son Onar and offered the condolence.

I stayed in his house in 1962 in Basra when I was a deacon and Qasha Yonan was the parish priest of Basra,

*I visited him in Ealing two years ago. May his soul rest in peace.
Mar Aprem Metropolitan, India 10 May 2016*

Beloved brother in Christ:
H.G. Bishop Mar Abd-Isho

Thank you for your message to our prelates informing of the sleep in the Lord the late Archdeacon Younan Youel. I contacted his son Owner and expressed my condolence to him and his entire family. Last time when I spoke to late archdeacon Younan, he asked me to keep in touch with him.

May our Lord rest him with His Saints in Heavenly Kingdom, and reveal the shadow of sorrow from the hearts of his family.

Thank you again beloved brother for your message.

*God bless your endeavors always.
In Christ
+ Aprim Khamis*

The Order of Preparing the Holy Eucharist

John 3:17

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

The Order of Mixing the Dough and Preparing (Baking) the Bread for the Eucharist Service
The priest and deacons begin reciting from the first psalm till the mixing of the dough is done. Blessed is the one. Who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners.

The priest brings some pure wheat flower, olive oil, hot water; add some salt to it and some yeast. Then he mixes them well while reciting the psalm. When he is done with mixing will seal the dough with his fingers in five places; in the middle, on the east side, on the west side, and on the north and on the south and covers the dough well till the time of baking. The order of mixing has concluded.

Assyrian Legacy From Ancient Civilization to Today's Culture Revival

A Conference at the American Library of Congress

Friday, June 10, 2016

8:30am – 3:30pm

Welcoming Remarks

Robert Newlen, Chief of Staff of the Library of Congress.

Session I: The Assyrian Legacy in the Cradle of Civilization

Moderator: **Dr Mary-Jane Deeb**, Chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division – Library of Congress

Amir Harrak, (University of Toronto) **The Neo-Assyrian Winged Bulls and their Origins**

Christopher Woods, (Oriental Institute, University of Chicago) Mesopotamian literature in general and possibly on the preservation of the Gilgamesh Epic

Simo Parpola, (University of Helsinki) Assyria after the collapse of the Empire and the impact of Assyrian statecraft, religion and visual arts on the ancient and modern world

Tea and Coffee Break

Session II: The Assyrian Christian Past and Present

Moderator: Dr. Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist – Library of Congress

Mark Dickens (The King's University, Edmonton, Alberta) The Church of the East along the Silk Road Network

Jonathan Loopstra (University of Northwestern St Paul) The Church of the East and the Transmission of Ancient Knowledge

Tala Jarjour (University of Notre Dame) Syriac Chant as Cultural Heritage
+ Demonstration of two Syriac liturgical chants

Lunch Break

Session III: Assyrian Culture in the Middle East and in Diaspora

Moderator: Dr. Muhannad Salhi, Arab World Specialist – Library of Congress

Fadi Davood (University of Toronto- Toronto) Of Patriarchates and their place in Assyrian Identity

Alda Benjamin (University of Pennsylvania Museum & Smithsonian Institution) Between Negotiation and Resistance: Baghdadi Assyrian intellectuals (1970s-1980s)

Eden Naby (Independent Scholar, Cambridge, MA): Preservation of Aramaic through Word and Music.

Indian Archdiocese News

10th Anniversary of UAE Parish

A very useful and informative souvenir of the Mart Mariam Parish, Sharjah, UAE was published. It contains articles in Malayalam and some in English. Many colour photos of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, as well as the present Catholicos-Patriarch H.H. Mar Gewargis III Slewa are given with many photos of our prelates and activities recorded.

The editor of this souvenir, Mr. Anil Emmatty has to be congratulated for this very attractive publication. The events in the history of this desert parish are clearly depicted in this publication.

This book has pictures of all the 7 rulers of the United Arab Emirates. Our parish has members scattered in the following seven Emirates, namely Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Rash al Khaimah, Ajman, Fujairah and Umm al-Qaiwain.

Visit of Stephen Andrew Missick to India

Stephen Missick of Houston, Texas, visited Trichur and was the guest of Mar Aprem Metropolitan. Here is what he posted on Facebook about his visit:

I want to thank Mar Aprem for his hospitality during my trip to Kerala, India. Mar Aprem is a bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East. He is the bishop of India for the Assyrian Church. The Assyrian Church of the East has about 30,000 adherents in India. (At one time almost all Christians in India belonged to the Assyrian Church-until the Roman Catholic Church severed the relationship the Indian Christians had with their mother church during the colonial period.)

Mar Aprem told me that he has seen my "Nathaniel" short experimental film (and oddly enough the weekly Gospel reading for that Sunday mentioned Nathaniel!) and had seen the Leah Sayad interview-which he thought was good-and he enjoyed Leah's beautiful voice! Hopefully, Leah will soon be an international sensation! I was able to visit half of the churches founded by Thomas, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, in India.

Visit of Dr. Brian Butcher of Canada

Between 27-30 May 2016 Dr Brian Butcher, Professor at St Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada visited Mar Aprem Metropolitan in Thrissur, Kerala, India. He enquired about our Church and its practices. He expressed interest in hearing about the deaconesses in the Church of the East in India. He noted that in the Ukrainian Orthodox Church tradition Deaconesses are allowed to enter the altar and assist the priest in distributing the holy sacraments during Holy Qurbana.

Scholarship Distribution

The Women's Youth Organization under the leadership of Sr. Dr. Jincy Othottil held a scholarship distribution programme on Sunday 29 May 2016. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the function held in the Auditorium of the Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School. Mr M.A.Thomas, the new Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees and Mr. Gifton, General Secretary of the Youths Association spoke. School kits were distributed to the scholarship students. More than a hundred students are in this programme from our different parishes.

Men's Association of the Church of the East

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Men's Association was held on 29 May 2016. President Rev'd Fr Sunny Koola and General Secretary Advocate Paul C. Joseph announced that this was their final general body. Metropolitan Mar Aprem inaugurated the meeting. Elections in parishes are urged to take place by June and new committee can take charge by the last day of July.

United Evangelistic Committee, Kunnamkulam

The 46 th Annual General Body Meeting was held in Kunnamkulam, St.Mary's Hall. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was re-elected as the President. Mar Aprem Metropolitan was in this committee from the beginning, first as Vice President, then as President. We have a church in the name of Mar Joseph. It is next to the United Gospel Committee ground in Kunnamkulam.

Rev'd Fr. O. A. Jacob's example

Rev'd Fr. O.A. Jacob, aged 77, whose wife Gracy had passed away recently made an example to the clergy as well as to the laity of the Church of the East in India by writing a will signed by both of them stating that all their wealth (house, cash, ornaments etc.) will go to the church after their death as they have no children. May Almighty God bless Fr. O.A. Jacob and the soul of his departed wife.

Youth Conference – India

The Youth Conference in India will be held between July 21 to July 23, 2016. Youth below the age of 45, men and women, can apply to hgmaraprem@gmail.com

Election of New Board of Central Trustees

The following nine Central Trustees were elected for the period of May 2016 to March 2017 on 4 May and they took the oath of office on 4 May 2016.

They have elected Mr. M.A. Thomas as Chairman and Mr. C.P. Jose as Vice Chairman of the Board of Central Trustees. They took charge on the same day.

1. MaprananAnthappan Thomas (M.A. Thomas) - Chairman
2. ChiriankandathPalu Jose (C.P. Jose) - Vice Chairman
3. MaliyekkalAnthiriLonappan George (M.L. George)
4. Pudurkara Varghese Job (P.V. Job)
5. Thazhatha Thomas Joby (T.T.Joby)
6. Thelappilly Joseph Rappai (T.J.Rappai)
7. Emmatty Thomas Dr Rishi (Dr Rishi Emmatty)
8. Cheruvathoor LonappanTenny (Tenny C.L.)

Letter from H.G. Mar Aprim Khamis of Arizona

My beloved brother in Christ
H.B. Mar Aprem Metropolitan of India

Heartfelt greetings in Christ to Your Beatitude, The Prelates, The Clergy, and all The faithful of our blessed Archdiocese of India. Supplication prayers offered to Heavenly Father to watch over you all and to richly bless our beloved Archdiocese of India.

This morning I received with thanks and gratitude the "Voice of the East" magazine. I read it to finish, and enjoyed all information included. The photos are just wonderful. Thank you Your Beatitude for excellent job done.

How is your health condition? I pray and wish that our Savior, Jesus Christ to watch over, give you perfect health, and to strengthen you always for the glory of His Holy Name, and His Holy Church of India.

Please Y.B. remember me in your prayers. Thanks
Fraternally Yours in Christ
Mar Aprim Khamis

Death of Deaconess Ammini Kalathottukaren

Deaconess Ammini Kalathottukaren, aged 79, passed away on Thursday 19 May 2016. The Metropolitan, Episcopas and several priests, nuns and deaconesses were present for the burial. May Almighty God rest her blessed soul.

Death of Jos Davis Mookan in California

Jos Davis Mookan, aged 81, passed away in San Diego, California. He was the founder, printer and publisher of the Voice of the East, both English and Malayalam editions. In 1954 he was the first Assistant General Secretary of the Youths Association in India which established Voice of the East magazine, as the *Light from the East* published from Chicago had ceased publication.

He was the headmaster of the Sunday School branch in Kannankulangara in Mart Mariam Parish in Thrissur. He was in the first committee of the Bombay Mission parish. At the age of 31 he left India to study at Wayne State University in Detroit where he obtained a Master's degree in Pharmacology. Later he earned a Master's degree in Oriental Medicine and Accupuncture from Santa Barbara, California. He was an American citizen. He has two daughters, Miriam and Michelle, both of whom were married to American citizens.

He was the eldest of ten children of Mr and Mrs J.D. Mookan. Mar Aprem Metropolitan is the 4th child.

Shrine of H.H.Mar Dinkha IV in Chicago

It will cost to the Church \$200.000. His Holiness allocated \$100.000 (half of the price) from Patriarchal account, and \$ 30.000 was raised with in the Diocese of the Eastern United States.

We need \$70.000 to complete the total price; I hope that by the help of my Brothers Prelates will be completed prior to the end of next July.

According to our contract with cemetery, the shrine will be completed at the end of July.

Anybody willing to contribute, please email to me (hgmaraprem@gmail.com) or to Bishop in Chicago Mar Poulse Benjamin. (gashakbenjamin@yahoo.it).

Holy Qurbana in Alwaye, Kochi

A Holy Qurbana was conducted by H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa on Sunday 19 June 2016 in the chapel of Christava Mahilalayam School which was started in May 1928 by the members from 4 different Churches in Kerala namely Orthodox Jacobite Church, Mar Thoma Church, CMS Church and Chaldean Syrian Church. It is planned to have our Qurbana in this chapel every month. Fr. Franklin Varghese Vicar of Ernakulam parish, Deacon. Rajan V L. Central Trustees and others from Trichur and Ernakulam were present.

Subscription to Voice of the East

NidishThimothy, Pune, India (May 2016 onwards) – Rs.200/-



Mar Aprem Metropolitan with the late Archdeacon Yonan Youil Yonan
in June 2014 at St. Mary's Assyrian Church, London



Diocesan Spring Youth Retreat of Illinois from April 22-24 with His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin and St. Andrew's Parish Priest, Rev'd Cor-Bishop Fr George Toma



Kenoro, George Kiraz's son pictured on his summer internship at Beth Mardutho Institute, U.S.A. He is shown here cataloging all travelogues of Dr Mar Aprem Metropolitan



The newly elected Board of Central Trustees for the period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017