

# ܡܠܚܡܐ ܕܝܗܘܕܝܬܐ

Vol 63 September - October 2016 Nos. 9 & 10



H. H. Mar Gewargis III Sliwa inaugurates the Cultural Youth Centre in Baghdad on 7 October 2016. Bishop Emanuel Dabaghian, bishop of Armenian Catholic Church is also seen.

# VOICE OF THE EAST



**H. G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan hosting the Patriarchal flag with H. L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph in Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur on 2 October 2016**



**His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan leading the inaugural function of Alumni Association for the Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College, Sydney on 21st June 2016**

**VOICE OF THE EAST**

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# Voice of the East

Vol. 63

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Editorial

## YOUTH COLUMN

Saro Jose Ollukaren, a young member of our Indian church wrote the following remarks in a Facebook post honouring one of her teachers. It's an ideal example of the esteem in which teachers should be held:

***“There is huge difference between GOOD teachers & GREAT teachers....Good teachers will teach us the best way they can...But great teachers along with teaching will inspire our lives dynamically.”***

Saro Jose is one of the most talented youngsters I know in our Church in India. I conducted her baptism some years ago. By acting in the famous Malayalam movie known as Pranchiyettan she proved her artistic talents. She obtained full A plus grades in all subjects in the Higher Secondary School examinations. She is continuing her college education with a view to enter the civil service with the IAS (Indian Administrative Service).

I recognize her talents to write in English and I hereby welcome her to write in a **Youth Column** for **Voice of the East**. I invite young writers in our Church in India and abroad to send their small articles, poems and other items for publication in this magazine. **Voice of the East** is a magazine committed to encourage young budding writers of our church.

One young student I spotted during my visit to Melbourne in December 2008 is Mr. Joseph Haweil. In recent years he has been correcting the proof of the **Voice of the East** magazine and supports this magazine by getting subscriptions in Australia. At the moment I am praying for Joseph Haweil to win the election in the City of Hume where he is currently running and where thousands of Assyrians live. I see in him a great political leader in the Melbourne area.

If there is a great response from all over the Assyrian Church of the East to write in the **Youth Column** we will have to pick and choose. Please do not write long articles. We have no space. **Voice of the East** magazine has only 16 pages out of which we set apart the middle four pages for colour pictures of the activities of our church universal.

I ask young people to please send us their email addresses so that they may receive Voice of the East electronically rather than in the mail. Please send small news items from Iran, Syria, Sweden, Germany and elsewhere for the benefit of our readers around the world.

I invite you, my young friends, to work actively in the service of your ancient Church.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

*International News*

## **Clergy of the Diocese of California Receive Master's Degrees in Theology and Philosophy**

Two clergy of the Diocese of California have recently completed their graduate theological studies and have been awarded Master's degrees from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, at Berkeley, California. These clergy are the following:

### **Rev. Fr. Ephraim Alkhas**

Fr. Ephraim Alkhas completed a Masters of Arts in Philosophy as well as a Master of Arts in Theology from the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California.

He is a priest in the Diocese of California serving as the sole dedicated servant in the *Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development* (CIRED). Fr. Ephraim's thesis, which was applied towards both degrees, is titled: *Philosophical Terms and Anthropology in the Christology of Mar Babai the Great and Saint Maximus the Confessor*. This thesis studied how philosophical language was used in Greek (by Maximus the Confessor) and in Syriac (by Mar Babai the Great) to describe the person of Jesus Christ as both fully God and fully man.

Today, Fr. Ephraim continues serving CIRED and in the Diocese of California. He is also in his second year of graduate studies at the University of California Berkeley's Department of History. Primarily concerned with how canon law functioned in the creation of Christian societies, Fr. Ephraim is interested in the development of Church of the East canon law from its sources in Roman (Byzantine) church councils and collections of church law texts. As a Ph.D. student his primary field is Byzantine Studies.

Fr. Ephraim's prior education includes an M.Div. from Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, New York, and a B.A. in Spanish Literature from California State University Northridge. He is also a member of the Assyrian delegation in the official Russian Orthodox-Assyrian Church of the East Bilateral Dialogue.

### **Rev. Deacon Brother Emmanuel Benjamin**

Deacon Emmanuel as born in Modesto, California, on May 15, 1986. He graduated from Beyer High School in 2004, and graduated from the University of California at Davis in 2008, with a major in communication. He was ordained a deacon on November 20, 2011 by His Grace Mar Awa at Mar Zaia cathedral in Modesto. He was tonsured as a monk-deacon on November 30, 2012 by His Grace Mar Awa, and was incardinated into the Monastery of Mar Isaac of Nineveh, Modesto.

He began his theological studies at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California in 2014. After two years of studies, in September of 2016 he successfully defended his Master's Thesis (with honors) titled: "A Study of Mar Narsai's Three Homilies on the East Syrian Liturgical Season of Annunciation. He received the degree of M.A. Th.

The thesis is a study which focuses on Mar Narsai's teaching on Divine Revelation, and what role Divine Revelation played in God's Divine Dispensation (*Mdabbranutha*). A large portion of the study focuses on the person of Abraham since his role in the Divine Dispensation is of utmost importance in Mar Narsai's teaching. Mar Narsai presents a history of the world in which God makes a gradual revelation of his own person, while at the same time causing the receivers of this revelation to undergo a transformation. This revelation and transformation find a climax in the coming of Jesus Christ. He stands as the culmination of a long history of revelation and in him we also see the fullness of man's transformation, the resurrection. Thus, Mar Narsai presents a theological world-view which places Jesus Christ as the object of all revelation which came prior to him, and the object from which all revelation proceeds after his coming. He intends on eventually publishing full translations of these homilies.

## **Alumni Association of the Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College, Sydney**

On the evening of Tuesday 21st June, Sydney's Saint Narsai Assyrian Christian College hosted an inaugural dinner celebrating the establishment of the St Narsai Alumni Association. The word alumni, in its Latin definition means pupil and is commonly used to refer to a graduate or former student of a specific school, college or university. Therefore, an association of alumni collects the graduates in an organisational manner.

The College saw it fit to establish such an organization due to its growth over the years, reaching over 500 enrolments currently. The main purpose of this initiative was the reuniting of the graduates in maintaining their social and familial ties, as they once had during their schooling years.

A number of the graduates from the classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 attended the evening; reuniting friends after so many years.

The official program was graced by His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan along with clergy, Assyrian Schools' board of directors and staff members. The program consisted of speeches, musical performances and video presentations.

In His Beatitude's remarks, the concept of fellowship and keeping close ties was emphasised. As the Assyrian Schools were founded on solid foundations, the friendships should last a lifetime, said the Metropolitan.

His Beatitude, clergy and staff members had the chance to catch up with students who had gone onto their tertiary studies, graduated from university and are even set into their long-term careers.

The College prays that this Alumni Association grows and flourishes in its journey, adding new graduates to its ranks each year.

The College has compiled a database of these graduates and is in the process of setting short and long term plans for this Association's activities.

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus' prayer for his disciples that "they may be one so that the world may believe" (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

The theme for the week of prayer in 2017, "Reconciliation – the love of Christ compels us", is inspired by verses from the Second Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 5. The resources for the week have been prepared by members of different churches in Germany.

The Week of Prayer in January every year is jointly celebrated by the Catholics as well as Orthodox and Protestants all over the world.

## **Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland**

The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey is an institution belonging to the World Council of Churches, Geneva. The sound of a bell "calling across fields and cities, re-assembling the community that celebrates the new creation" opened the Sunday service prepared to commemorate 70 years of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, on 2 October. The celebration closed a three-day programme of activities around the historic institute's anniversary.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan recalls his participation in the summer course in 1962 when he was a 22-year old deacon and returning from England having studied for one academic year on the scholarship of the World Council of Churches.

## **Evidence of Ancient Christianity Discovered in Kazakhstan**

By Tom Davis – September 22, 2016

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following report is by the Tandy Institute for Archaeology's Tom Davis, professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds at South-western Seminary as well as chair of its archaeology department.*

The ancient city of Ilyn Balik, known from pilgrims' travels and historical texts, has been discovered in Kazakhstan. Historians of Christianity along the Silk Road have known of travelers' accounts of Christian communities in the region and in the ancient city of Ilyn Balik, but now, recent excavations at the village of Usharal, 60 kilometers from the Chinese border, have uncovered the ancient city as well as the site's cemetery, where eight gravestones have been found.

This discovery is the first archaeological evidence for a Christian community in the borders of the Republic of Kazakhstan. This discovery supports the understanding of ancient Kazakhstan as a multi-cultural center between the East and West, with Muslims, Buddhists and Christians living among the local herdsman and nomadic tribes.

A local resident of Usharal reported the discovery of an inscribed stone marked with a cross two years ago. The stone was recovered, but the original location of that stone is not known. The Kazakhstan government, cognizant of their multi-cultural history, has created the Center for Cultural Rapprochement under Karl Baipakov, Kazakhstan's leading archaeologist and a world-renowned specialist on the Silk Road. Under Baipakov's leadership, the Center has encouraged archaeological work focused on illuminating the varied cultural strains in Kazakhstan's history and actively supports the joint teams' efforts.

Baipakov encouraged the formation of a joint international team from Archaeological Expertise LLC based in Almaty, Kazakhstan (under Dimitri Voyakin), and the Tandy Institute for Archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas (under the joint direction of Steve Ortiz and Tom Davis), to investigate the discovery. The joint team began investigations of the site of Ilyn Balik, a medieval city never before excavated, within the boundaries of Usharal late this summer.

The team discovered seven inscribed gravestones clustered on the surface outside of the main area of settlement of the site. The suspected grave markers all have inscribed Nestorian-style crosses, and two of them have fragmentary inscriptions.

The new discoveries provide context for the previously discovered inscribed stone and most likely indicate an extra-mural cemetery and possibly an associated Christian community. One of the inscriptions in Old Syriac has been partially deciphered by the Tandy Institute's epigrapher, Ryan Stokes, associate professor of Old Testament at Southwestern, and indicates a date of 1162 A.D.

The local Christian community has reacted with joy to the news of the new discoveries.

One believer responded, "So nobody can tell me that I don't have Christian roots." The Nestorian gravestones show that Christianity was present in Kazakhstan long before Western imperialism. It is, in fact, an element of historic Kazakh identity.

Voice of the East is grateful to Joby Davis Emmetty of New Delhi who forwarded this information to us.



**Museum with articles of Late Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV, Chicago**



**Bishop Dr. Mar Emmanuel leading the funeral of Rev'd Archdeacon Toma Rev. Awraham in Toronto, Canada on October 2016**



കാൽഡായൻ സിറിയൻ പർച്ച് സ്കൂളുകളുടെ നവതി ആഘോഷങ്ങളുടെ ഉദ്ഘാടനകർമ്മം ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ മന്ത്രി പ്രൊഫ. സി. രവീന്ദ്രനാഥ് നിർവ്വഹിക്കുന്നു.

**Education Minister Prof. C Ravindranad inaugurates the 90th anniversary of Chaldean Syriac Church Schools on 23 July 2016**



**Agriculture Minister Adv. V S Sunilkumar inaugurates the Diamond Jubilee celebration of Thirur Seminary on 4th Sep 2016**



**Honouring Function of the National Best Teacher Award Winner Dr. Aby Paul (Principal of Chaldean Syrian Higher Secondary School) in Chaldean Centre, Thrissur on 23rd Sep 2016.**

**Agriculture Minister Adv. V S Sunilkumar inaugurates the function**



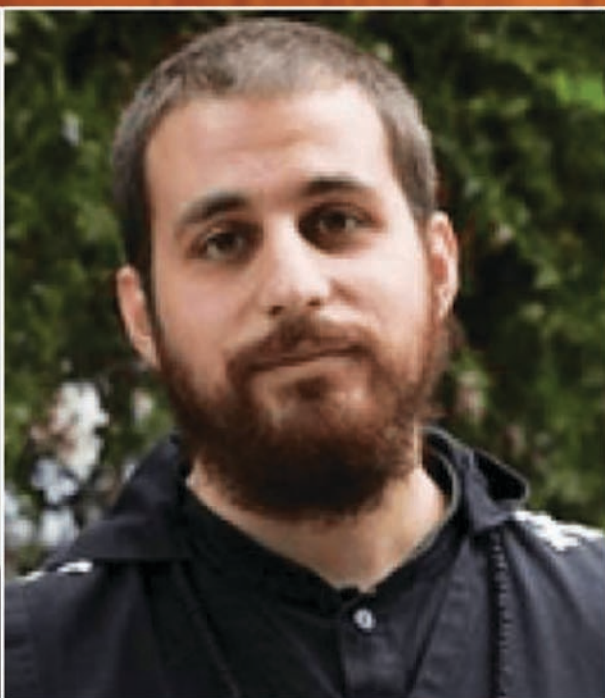
**Mart Mariam Big Church, Trichur Illuminated in connection with the *Qudash Edtha* Festival on 30 October 2016. The figure of Patriarch Mar Gewargis III is shining in the frontage of Cathedral.**



**H. G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan placing flowers in the tomb of Late Mar Thimotheus Metropolitan II on August 6, 2016 in his 15th Death Anniversary**



**Rev. Fr. Ephraim Alkhas**



**Rev. Deacon Brother  
Emmanuel Benjamin**



**Kuruvilachan Kalaamela (Sunday School Cultural programme)  
inaugurating by H. G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan with  
H. L. Mar Yohannan Yoseph and H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose 2 Oct 2016.  
The Secretary of Sunday School, Rev. Fr. Sijo Johny is also seen in the picture.**

## **Death of Very Rev'd Archdeacon Toma Rev. Awraham**

We mourn the loss of The Very Rev'd Archdeacon Toma Qashisha Awraham who passed into life eternal in Canada.

The late Archdeacon served the Assyrian Church of the East with pride and dignity from the years of his youth and until his repose; most notably as the parish priest of Mar Qardagh Church in the Al-Gailany Camp District in Baghdad, Iraq. He also served the Assyrian Church of the East for a period in the 1970s in the United States of America as the secretary and assistant to His Holiness the late Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Catholicos-Patriarch of Blessed Memory.

His manifold contributions to the Assyrian Church of the East in Iraq and world wide include the numerous texts and writings on the history and theology of the Church of the East which he prolifically produced.

### **Biographical Details:**

Born: 3 July 1949

Ordained Deacon: 1968 (Baghdad, Iraq)

Ordained Priest: 14 November 1969 (Baghdad, Iraq)

Ordained Cor-bishop: 1978 (Baghdad, Iraq)

Ordained Archdeacon: 22 February 2009 (Damascus, Syria)

Repose: October 2016 (Canada)

May Almighty God rest his soul and may his memory be eternal.

His Grace Dr. Mar Emmanuel Joseph, Bishop of Canada sends this note:

*"Your Holiness Mar Gewargis III and the honourable Prelates, with deep sorrow I announce the departure of the blessed soul of the Very Reverend Toma Rev. Abraham, this Sunday-morning around 5:30 am. May God bless his soul and reward him for his love and service of His church for many years.*

*Emmanuel"*

The funeral service was conducted by Bishop Mar Emmanuel in our Cathedral in Toronto assisted by our Archdeacon, priests and deacons.

## **A New Church in Gilbert, Arizona – Message from H.G. Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Western USA**

Beloved brother in Christ,

H.B. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Greetings in Christ our Lord and Savior: Amen.

I acknowledged with heartfelt thanks YB email regarding breaking ground for Mar Yousip's Church. Am pleased to report to Your Beatitude that last Sunday 16 October, 2016 I celebrated the Holy Mass in Chandler (60 miles) away from Phoenix, AZ. Followed by breaking

ground for building a new Church and Hall for our faithful living in Gilbert, Arizona (Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa) are in one area. A large number of faithful attended this Church historic event. Recently we got official permission to build Mar Yousip Church from the city council of Gilbert. We are working on drawings, and hopefully within a couple of weeks they will be ready to be presented to City Council. Hence; we hope shortly (a couple of months) we will start building both the Church and the hall in Gilbert.

Saturday, 16 October, 2016 the Parish committee held a banquet for raising funds, and the faithful from both parishes, namely Phoenix and Gilbert attended and we raised about \$40,000.00 for the above purpose. Our Goal is that within 6 months the buildings will be completed should there be no problems occurred.

Praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His Heavenly gift to our faithful. Each and our entire congregation are happily supporting this precious Mar Yousip Church. Please YB pray for us as we always are praying for you all.

Heartfelt greeting to YB, Prelates, Clergy, Nuns, Central Committee, and all the faithful of your blessed Archdiocese of India.

Your Fraternal brother

+ Aprim Khamis  
Bishop of western USA

## **H. H. Mar Gewargis III Inaugurates Cultural Centre, Baghdad**

On 7 October 2016 the Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Gewargis III inaugurated a new Cultural Centre in Baghdad, Iraq.

Bishop Emanuel Dabaghian, bishop of Armenian Catholic Church, was present along with other dignitaries. Mr. Yonadam Kanna M. P. spoke on the occasion.

The Vicar of the parish Rev'd Fr. Dr. Aprim Alkhori welcomed the Patriarch and the guests from different churches.

## **Ordination in Iran**

Bishop Mar Narsai Benjamin of Iran has conducted an ordination. 3 Sub-Deacons were ordained as Deacons in Saint Mary's Church in Urmia on September 30, 2016. They are:

1. Deacon Nahira Mirzayi son of Hormoz.
2. Deacon Ogen Azizian son of Rev Fr. Daryavosh (Eilosh).
3. Deacon Denis Easavi son of Shemshon.

## **Shrine of His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch**

A shrine was built in the Montrose Cemetery of Chicago where the late Catholicos-Patriarch was buried in April 2015. The Shrine is a nice canopy over the tomb of the Patriarch. On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the prelates Mar Meelis Zaia (Metropolitan of Australia), Mar Aprim Khamis (Bishop of Western USA), Mar Emmanuel Joseph (Bishop of Canada), Mar Paulus Benjamin (Bishop of Eastern USA) and Mar Awa Royel (Bishop of California) were gathered to bless the Shrine. A dinner reception was arranged in honour of the prelates on this occasion.

## **Religious Articles of the late Catholicos-Patriarch**

A collection of religious clothes and articles of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Dinkha IV was exhibited in Chicago. It is to be a small museum of history of the Assyrian Church of the East worldwide. As we were running away from persecutors in the Middle East we could not build a permanent headquarters, museum, archives etc. for our Church. Vestements (*maapra*) used by the late Catholicos-Patriarch were given to various diocese of the church following his repose. One is now preserved in India also.

## **St. Thomas Church in New Britain, Connecticut**

Some Indians going to Connecticut have asked Mar Aprem Metropolitan whether we have an Assyrian church in Connecticut. They are advised that St. Thomas Church in New Britain is one of the earliest Assyrian parishes in the United States:

Church details are as follows:

**Phone:** 860-505-8819

**Email:** stthomasassyrianchurch@gmail.com

**Address:** 120 Cabot Street, New Britain, CT 06053, USA

We usually have two services every Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The first service is celebrated in English by Rev'd Fr Jim Crowley, an American priest of the Assyrian Church of the East. The second service is celebrated in Assyrian by Rev'd Fr. Paulus Namrood.

This church and the church in Yonkers, New York are under the administration of His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA.

## **New Journal: *Simkhe d' Siprayouta*, Vol 5 & 6 (2016)**

Paperback - 202 Pages - \$13.00

This is the hard copy of the Online Assyrian Journal *Simkhe d' Siprayouta*, issues 5 and 6, which appeared in 2016. The journal is devoted to the publication of the literary works of modern Assyrian writers and poets and presents some of the best literary works of this century in terms of the use of correct grammar and pure Assyrian vocabulary as well as the observance of proper spelling rules. Many of the articles in these two issues may be used as reference by those who seek perfection. There are also a number of articles of ordinary and simple level for the enjoyment of the less educated readers.

**Indian Archdiocese News**

## **Deacon with 5 Degrees**

Deacon Praveen Jos Parpukara, 34 year old deacon, earned five university degrees within a period of ten years. He is going to register for his sixth academic degree. He is a lecturer in Vocational Higher Secondary School near Thrissur. After earning a B.A. degree he earned four post graduate degrees. For most high school teachers, the B.Ed. (Bachelor of Education) is the end of their academic career.

Deacon Praveen went for three Master degrees. M.Ed. (Master of Education), M.A. in English, and an M.B.A. (Master of Business administration). He obtained first class in all three Master degrees with Distinction in M.Ed. This is not the end of it. He is going to register for M.Sc.(Master of Science) in Psychology.

I suggested that he should attempt a Ph.D. He replied, "After I get married I will get the support of my children to do that Ph.D."

I have only 5 academic degrees, B.D., M.Th., S.T.M.(New York), D.Th., Ph.D.(Syriac) and now one of my deacons is going to break my record by taking a sixth degree. I congratulate him in advance and tell him to do more and more. "Expect great things from God and attempt great things for God." was the motto of William Carey, father of modern missions in India and founder of Serampore College from where I took three degrees, B. D., M.Th., D.Th.

May God bless all those who attempt to study more.

## **New General Secretary for MACE**

Mr. Joy Simon Mannuthi, staff at the Chaldean Syrian College was elected as the new General Secretary of the Men's Association which is a fellowship of men above 45 years of age. Its general body meeting elected Mr. Joy Simon as the secretary for a period of three years. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan presided over the meeting where new office bearers were elected. The Founder-President Fr. Sunny S. Koola, who is a nominee of the patron Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, agreed to continue in his post until the general transfer of clergy next April.

## **Souvenirs Published in 2016**

Very excellent souvenirs were published in recent months in the Indian Archdiocese. The articles are written in English and some in Malayalam. The colour photographs are of superior quality. They will be very useful to be kept in the shelves in the homes of our church members. It is a reference work. If other church members do not know enough about our church, we the church members should buy these publications and show them, to the neighbours and friends. There are people willing to read. But we should show these publications to them.

A lot of work has been done in preparing such historical publications in our Church. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all who worked hard in bringing out such superior quality literary and historical documents. I hope in future years more people should come forward to chronicle the history of our parishes for the benefit of posterity.

1. **Diamond Jubilee Souvenir 1953 – 2013**, published by Mar Qardagh Sahda Church, Chennai in 2016
2. **Platinum Jubilee Souvenir** of the Mar Aprem Church, Nellikunnu, Thrissur
3. **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir** of Marth Mariam Parish, Sharjah, UAE
4. **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir** of Seminary, Thirur, Thrissur District
5. **The 200<sup>th</sup> Bicentenary Souvenir** of Marth Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur (to be published in December 2016)

Those who want to purchase these books please send an e-mail to us and give your correct address.

## **Heaven for Animals**

A full page article has appeared in the Mathruboomi newspaper today (25<sup>th</sup> October) stating that the farm of Mr. Timothy George in Puthur near Thrissur is a heaven for animals. He has 100 cows, 100 sheep, pigs, birds, cats etc. He was given an award for the best farmer by the government. Mr. Timothy is the nephew of late Mar Timotheus Metropolitan II who died in August 2001. We congratulate Mr. Timothy George in his achievement as the best farmer and as well as a lover of animals. He is a supporter of the farm in our Seminary.

## **Festival in Mar Sliwa Church, Cochin**

On October 16, 2016 Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa celebrated Holy Qurbana in Mar Sliwa Church Cochin. Vicar Fr. A.C. Antony and Assistant Vicar Fr. Anto Thomas and Deacon Abi from Thrissur assisted. A Syric choir team came from Trichur. Some members of the Board of Central Trustees came and spoke in the public meeting after Holy Qurbana. The Youth Association branch in this parish donated Rs.3900/- to purchase medicine for the dialysis patients in Mar Timotheus Charitable Hospital. They donated a wheelchair costing about Rs. 4000/- to the same Hospital.

## **WARNING: Email Hacked, Don't be Cheated**

Mar Aprem Metropolitan's email account was recently hacked. It appears that the hackers read through some of his emails and created a message based on an earlier email Mar Aprem wrote to someone in Australia.

Note they are using Chicku and not Chacko, which is my email (chacko@gmail.com). And they are also referencing the Board of Central Trustees.

When they referred to the name of Board of Central Trustees, I thought they are familiar with our church and its financial operations which is why I was alarmed and called Thirumeni. But Thirumeni mentioned he had sent an email a few months ago to someone and they might have seen it.

This is a reply from the hackers:

*Thank you so much for your reply, the amount is 3,450 USD and the account details is below:*

*Account Name: Darlene Richardson*

*Account Number:003001857*

*Bank Name: Security State Bank*

*Bank Address:220 Main Street Ore City, TX 75683*

*Routine Number:111905609*

*Swift Code: Frstus44*

*So once you do the transfer please send me the payment receipt so that I can forward it to the Church Account for record and reimbursement to you. Also send your account details together with it.*

*Warm Regards*

“Security state bank” looks like a real dump on Google maps. I wonder how these people can be so dumb. This thief is still active. Be alert.

## **Holy Synod in Erbil**

His Holiness Catholicos Patriarch Mar Gewargis III Sliwa has summoned the Holy Synod to be met in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan on 5<sup>th</sup> to 13 May, 2016. After the brief Synod in September 2015 following the enthronement of the Patriarch, this is the first time H.H. Mar Gewargis III is holding this Holy Synod. All prelates are expected to be present except His Grace Mar Isaac, who is hospitalised in Moscow, Russia. Please pray for his quick recovery.

## **Holy Qurbana in Doha, Qatar**

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan and His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose will celebrate Holy Qurbana in the Anglican Church in Doha. It is after eleven years a Holy Qurbana is being arranged in Qatar on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November at 9 a.m. There are less than 20 members in Qatar. We have not got any address of Assyrians from Iraq or Iran or Syria or Lebanon living or visiting Qatar on 18<sup>th</sup> November. Please send e-mail to **hgmaraprem@gmail.com**. Qatar was a centre of our Assyrian Church in old days.

## **Holy Qurbana in UAE**

H.G. Mar Yohannan Yoseph is planning to celebrate Holy Qurbana in Sharjah on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November where the Indian Church has a regular parish.

## **Holy Qurbana in Muscat, Oman**

H.G.Mar Yohannan Yoseph has scheduled a Holy Qurbana in the Mar Thoma Church, Ruwi, Muscat on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November.



**H. G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan hosting the flag of *Qudash Edtha* Festival in Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur on 23 October 2016 after the Holy Qurbana**



**H. G. Mar Aprim Khamis is leading the Ground Breaking ceremony of Mar Yousip's Church in Gilbert, Arizona on 16 October, 2016**



**Shrine of His Holiness  
Late Mar Dinkha IV**