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Vol 66

May - June

Nos 5 & 6



Picture in connection with the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East convened under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch, 13-18 May 2019 in Erbil, Iraq

VOICE OF THE EAST



Mar Aprem Metropolitan Inaugurating Environmental Day by planting a tree in the Metropolitan Palace Compound - Conducted by the Central Youths Association, Church of the East



Retiring Paurasthya Naadam committee members for the period 2016 - 19
Sitting L-R: Mr. Tomy Jose (Secretary), Mr. Babu Konikara (President), H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, Mr. M.A. Thomas and Mr. T.J. Rappai.
Standing L - R: Mr. Tony Pananchery, Mr. Byju Francis, Mr. Thomas Mambilly, Mr. Jimmy Muttichukaran, Wilson Ponnokaran, Mr. Francis O.T., Abimalek Thattil and George M.I.

VOICE OF THE EAST

(A socio-Religious bi-monthly)

(Private Circulation only)

May - June 2019

Patron : **His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem**

Metropolitan's Palace,

Trichur - 680 001, Kerala, India

Phone : 91487 - 2420978

Personal : 91487 - 2442166

Email : hgmaraprem@gmail.com

Website Links

Official: www.news.assyrianchurch.org

Archdiocese of India & UAE: www.churchoftheeastindia.org

Archdiocese of Australia & New Zealand: www.assyrianchurch.org.au

Diocese of California: www.acoecalifornia.org

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

Unofficial: www.nestorian.org

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Voice of the East

Vol. 66

May - June 2019

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Editorial

A New Bishop in England

His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis was recently consecrated as the Assyrian Church of the East's first Bishop of Western Europe. His Episcopal See will be based in London, England. This has brought great joy to the Church of the East community in England and indeed elsewhere in Western Europe.

The relationship of the Assyrian Church of the East and the Church of England is a little less than 200 years old. In the first half of the 19th century the Royal Geographical Society of England made explorations to the mountains in Mesopotamia in search of oil. While they found their desired treasure, they also came across a people called the Assyrians living in the mountains under the leadership of their hereditary Patriarchs known by the name Mar Shimun. Thus this hitherto unknown and ancient Christian community came into contact with the Church of England.

An English Anglican missionary, The Rev'd George Percy Badger visited these mountain Christians in 1842 and wrote a book in two volumes entitled 'The Nestorians and Their Rituals' in 1852. This sparked ongoing interest in the Assyrian people of the region. Edward White Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury between 1883 – 1896 sent a Mission to the region in June 1886.

A.J. Maclean and W.H. Browne were missionaries who interacted with Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Ruwel Shimun, the successor to Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Awraham Shimun who suffered much during the attack of Bedr Khan Beg in 1842. In 1903 Mar Ruwel Shimun died and Mar Benjamin Shimun (later martyred) became the Patriarch. Some of these names are forgotten by the present generation. Now these three worthy names are honoured and remembered having been taken on by three members of the present Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East; being, Mar Awa Royel (Ruwel), Bishop of California and two Assyrian-Australians consecrated in recent years: Mar Benjamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand and now Mar Awraham Youkhanis, Bishop of Western Europe.

The Assyrian Church of the East established a parish dedicated to St Mary in Hanwell (close to Ealing), London since 1987 and the Assyrian Society of the United Kingdom has a community facility in Ealing. His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis is the first Assyrian Church of the East Bishop in the United Kingdom. Until his consecration, England was under the episcopal leadership of His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, now-Bishop of Scandinavia and Germany whose Episcopal See is in Stockholm, Sweden.

In 1962 I conducted Ramsha (evening) prayers assisted by Mr Aprim Kellaita, son of The Rev'd Joseph Kellaitha. Mr Aprim's wife Hanna was the younger sister of Esther, mother of the late Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun. These are happy memories of 58 years ago.

May God bless the Diocese of Western Europe and guide the holy journey of the new and active young Bishop Mar Awraham Youkhanis.

Mar Aprem Metropolitan

International News
Holy Synod 2019

On Monday 13 May 2019 the Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East commenced its deliberations in the city of Ankawa, Erbil under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch and prelates of the Assyrian Church of the East.

The commencement of the Synod was preceded by the celebration of the Holy Qurbana by His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India and the UAE who was assisted by His Grace Mar AwginKuriakose, Bishop of India at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Ankawa.

This Synod convened for five days. On Wednesday 15 May the altar of the newly built St George Church in Diana was also be consecrated.

This Synod is the second to be convened under the leadership of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa following his election as Catholicos-Patriarch on 18 September 2015, after the passing into eternal sleep of His Holiness the late Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of blessed memory.

**Episcopal Consecration of Mar Awraham
Youkhanis for Western Europe**

The Assyrian Church of the East's St Hurmizd's Cathedral in Greenfield Park was the site of a major milestone for the Assyrian community and the Archdiocese on Sunday 26 May 2019.

Prelates of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East gathered to consecrate Reverend Archdeacon Narsai Youkhanis, the bishop-elect for the Church's diocese of Western Europe to be based in London.

The Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East in Iraq, His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa was joined by eight other prelates from across the world for the consecration.

Thousands of parishioners and members of local council and parliament attended the official service in the morning.

The church held a celebratory dinner at Edessa Reception in the evening for the newly consecrated bishop, who will be known as His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis.

The new bishop, who has been a priest for nine years doing youth work in the local community, will make his way to London in late June to start his work in the church for the Western Europe diocese.

The prelates present for the consecration were:

- His Eminence Mar MeelisZaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon.
- His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California.
- His Grace Mar Youkhanan Yousip, Bishop of India.
- His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop of India.
- His Grace Mar Narsai Benjamin, Bishop of Iran.
- His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA.
- His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Erbil and Patriarchal Vicar.
- His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand.

المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس
كنيسة المشرق الآشورية



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

The Third Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East Convened under His Holiness Mar Gewargis III, Catholicos- Patriarch

By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East convened under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the East, from 13-18 May, 2019, in the Church of Saint John the Baptist in the city of Ankawa, the Province of Erbil, (Kurdistan Regional Government), Iraq. Prelates present in the Holy Synod are as follows:

1. His Beatitude Mar Aprem, Metropolitan of India and United Arab of Emirates
2. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon
3. His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of Western USA
4. His Grace Mar Emmanuel Joseph, Bishop of Canada
5. His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Europe
6. His Grace Mar Afram Athneil, Bishop of Syria
7. His Grace Mar Isaac Yousif, Bishop of Nohadra and the Russian Federation
8. His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of California and Secretary of the Holy Synod
9. His Grace Mar Yohannan Yoseph, Bishop of India
10. His Grace Mar Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop of India
11. His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran
12. His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of Eastern USA
13. His Grace Mar Abris Youkhannan, Bishop of Erbil and Patriarchal Auxiliary
14. His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria & New Zealand

Introduction

Placing its hope in the divine succor of God the Father, and by the grace of the Only-Begotten Son, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit who operates in all things according to His good will: the third Holy Synod was convened under the presidency of the father of fathers, His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, who sits on the see of Seleucia-Ctesiphon and who occupies the apostolic throne and is the heir of the apostolic preaching of the blessed apostles Mar Thomas from the Twelve, and Mar Addai & Mar Mari from the Seventy-Two—who are known as the ‘Disciplers of the East’ and the holy founders of this holy Church of the East and her tradition.

The Holy Synod considered a number of important matters related to the daily spiritual life of the faithful, particularly those of our contemporary context, in which are found persistent challenges against the true Christian faith and morality. Therefore, the Holy Synod stressed the fact that bishops as shepherds and in their apostolic capacity as the governor of the diocese, as well as the priests as spiritual fathers to the faithful, have the sublime obligation to preserve intact this holy flock—purchased by the precious blood of Christ—from every spirit of error which arises contrary to the divine teaching of the Holy Gospel.

Therefore, the perpetual mission of the Church is to help perfect the faithful in holiness, as they continue to grow and to live in Christ. Already in the Old Testament, the Lord God commanded: *“Be holy, for I am holy”* (Leviticus 11:44, 45). Further, in the divine dispensation of the New Covenant, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—the Only-Begotten Son of God who became Man—bestows the perfect and true way of becoming a child of God, by grace, in his commandment: *“Be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). To this end, the holy Church of God continually places the saints (that is, those Christian faithful who have been perfected) before the faithful as a living and exalted example of spiritual virtue to be followed. In this Synod, the Church once again recalls these holy examples—that is, the believers in Christ who have been perfected in faith while in the course of this present life—by canonizing two beloved bishops of the Church who have not only labored as shepherds of Christ’s flock, but whose exalted virtues and holy way of life encourages the faithful of the Church to strive for this spiritual perfection of faith in our world even today.

The Holy Synod also saw the importance of evangelization—the spreading of the Holy Gospel of our Lord—even as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his disciples: *“Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”* (Matthew 28:19). The Holy Gospel, which is the joyful proclamation that gives a real and lasting joy to the whole world, is the dominical and spiritual law capable of bringing men of all generations to the Kingdom of God. With regard to those within the Faith, the Church must from early childhood promote spiritual programs for the young in every parish. In this way, we will be able to sow the Good Seed of the Word of God in those hearts which are pure and ready to receive it. Along with them, the youth of our Church have an important and active role not only to hear the Word of God, but also to live it daily. Therefore, the Synod stressed the importance of national youth conferences in the various dioceses of the Church. We are happy to announce the convocation of a worldwide youth conference, which will bring together representatives of all of the youth of our Church, and which will take place in the land and upon the soil of the birth of our apostolic Church—Mesopotamia.

In conclusion, the Holy Synod emphasized the importance of the Christian virtues and way of life, and the nourishment of the Good Seed of the teaching of Our Lord (i.e. The Gospel) in the daily life of the children of the Church. When we fulfill the commandments of Our Lord and live according to His will, it is only then that we shall attain true joy, which is spiritual in nature. Only then will we be fulfilled and will our true human nature be manifested—as beings created in the image and likeness of God. The faithful have ongoing questions today concerning matters of Christian morality. Equally pertinent in this

discussion is the obligation of preserving intact the definition and meaning of the family, that is, a man and a woman united in holy matrimony, who become father and mother, having children as the blessed fruit of this sacred union, which is blessed by the Lord God in His holy Church. This is the design and order which has been once and for all established and sanctified in an unalterable fashion by the Creator of all creation, the Lord and God of all—even as we read in the Book of Genesis. Therefore, it is the obligation of each and every faithful to observe this divine order established by God Himself, preserved by the law of the Gospel and the constant and unequivocal teaching of the holy Church of Christ.

The following are the decrees of the Holy Synod:

A. General Decrees

Concerning Dioceses and the Election of Bishops:-

1. The Holy Synod decided concerning the fulfillment of Decree 5, No. 1 of the Holy Synod of 2016 concerning the bifurcation of the Diocese of Europe into two dioceses. Therefore, it is decreed that the western part of Europe shall henceforth be an independent diocese, titled 'Diocese of Western Europe', and which shall be comprised of the faithful in England, France, Belgium, Austria, Holland and Greece. The episcopal see shall be in the city of London (Great Britain). In addition, the Holy Synod defines the other diocese as 'The Diocese of Scandinavia and Germany,' governed by His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, and comprised of the faithful found in Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark and Germany. The episcopal see shall remain in Stockholm.
2. The Holy Synod assigned bishop-elect, the Very Rev. Narsai Youkhanis, to the newly created Diocese of Western Europe. The episcopal consecration shall take place on the Sixth Sunday of the Resurrection, i.e. May 26, 2019.
3. The Holy Synod elected the Rev. Fr. Isaac Tamrs as bishop for the Diocese of Baghdad, having also jurisdiction over the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East in the Ukraine and in Georgia. The episcopal see shall be the capital city of Baghdad. The consecration shall take place on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Concerning Saints and the Procedure of Canonization

The Holy Synod established a formal process for the canonization of saints in the Church of the East. Therefore, when the holy Church wants to formally canonize one of the faithful, the process established by the Synod must be followed. Therefore, in accord with the process established by the Synod, the following were officially included in the catalogue of saints of the Church of the East: the late Mar Abimalek Timotheus (1878-1945) of blessed memory, the metropolitan of Malabar and All India. His commemoration shall be observed on May 1st of every year. Also, the blessed Mar Yosip Khnanisho (1893-1977), of hallowed memory, is officially canonized as a saint of the Church of the East. His commemoration is the second Sunday of July of every year.

Concerning the Promotion of Theological Learning

The Synod confirmed the founding of the 'Nisibis Theological College' based in Sydney, Australia. The Synod asks desires that it be supported by the bishops by sending clerical students to this



His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon raising the Rev'd Cor-episcopa Narsai Youkhanis to the clerical rank of Archdeacon on Sunday 5 May 2019



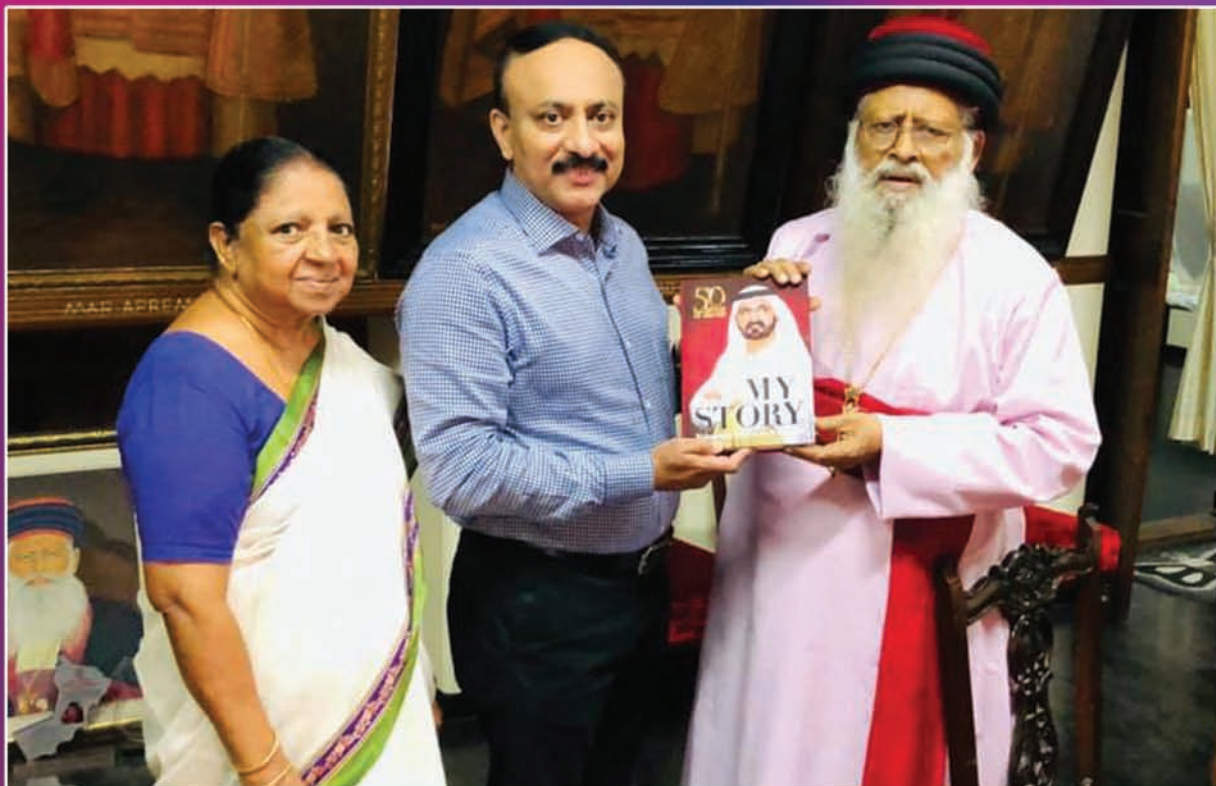
His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch leading the prayer before the commencement of Holy Synod



Newly consecrated bishop
His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis meets the public



Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan with
His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Sliwa, Catholicos-Patriarch



Mar Aprem with Beauty Prasad of UAE and his mother-in-law Shantha



Samuel Kalhot family which was the house where Mar Aprem stayed during a visit to Doha, Qatar in May 2019



**Newly elected Board of Central Trustees of the
Assyrian Church of the East, India (2019 - 22)**

Sitting L - R: Mr. James Ukkar, Mr. A.M. Antony, Dr. H.G. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H.L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa, Mr. Sajan Mampilly.
Standing L - R: Mrs. Binu Joshy, Mr. Tenny C.L. (Chairman), Dr. Rishy Immatty (Vice Chairman), Mr. Joshy Antony, Mr. Paul Parapukara, and Mr. Mereej Timothy



**The Board of Central Trustees of the Assyrian Church of the East in India
for the period of 2016 - 19**

Sitting L - R: Mr. T.J. Rappai, Mr. M.A. Thomas (Chairman), H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, H.L. Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph Episcopa, Mr. C.P. Jose (Vice Chairman), Mr. M.L. George. **Standing L - R: Mr. P.V. Job, Mr. Tomy Jose, Dr. Rishy Immatty, Mr. Tenny C.L., Mr. T.T. Joby**

institution, particularly those found in the West. This theological institution is also open to all of the lay faithful and all those interested to further their learning.

IV. Concerning Clergy

The Holy Synod reviewed the matter of those priests who were suspended by the Holy Synod of 2015 (Decree 10). Therefore, as a sign of charity and spiritual fatherhood, the Holy Synod absolves these priests and lifts from them their suspension as of the date of this decree. However, the practice of their priestly ministry rests with the local bishop of the diocese in which they are found. Nevertheless, this Holy Synod desires to reiterate the importance of the fact that priests must not abandon their parishes, especially in the Middle East. The faithful in the parishes must not remain without the services of the Church administered by the priests. This is in accord with the canons of the Church.

V. Concerning the Youth of the Church

The Holy Synod decreed the convocation of an international youth conference for 2020, to be comprised of representations from the youth of the Church worldwide. His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan will organize this conference (in Erbil).

VI. Concerning the Canonical Collections of the Church

1. The Holy Synod decreed that His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin shall form a committee to formulate a modern compendium, or canonical collection, of the synodical canons of the Church. This work shall be completed within five years, and a report shall be given to the Holy Synod.
2. The Holy Synod decreed that His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia shall be responsible for revising the 1986 Diocesan Constitution, which concerns the dioceses in the western hemisphere. This revision shall be forwarded to the Holy Synod for confirmation within one year's time.

VII. Concerning the Liturgy

1. The Holy Synod gave permission for the translation of the Holy Qurbana into modern Assyrian, prepared by His Grace Mar Awa Royel. This translation shall be reviewed by the committee headed by His Grace Mar Isaac Yousif, which shall then be put forth for ecclesiastical approbation within three months. Then, the text shall be put forth for approval by the upcoming Holy Synod.
2. The Holy Synod confirmed that the liturgical committee, under the presidency of His Grace Mar Awa Royel, is to prepare the rubrics of the celebration of the Holy Qurbana of the sacred Mysteries, with accompanying commentaries. The aim is to prepare all of the clergy of the Church worldwide to celebrate the rite in one uniform fashion. This text shall then be forwarded to the review committee, headed by His Grace Mar Isaac Yousif, and put forth for ecclesiastical approbation at the upcoming Holy Synod.
3. The Holy Synod gave its approval for the official translation of the Gospel Lectionary into modern Assyrian by His Grace Mar Isaac Yousif, to be approved by the Holy Synod.

VIII. Concerning Christian Morality

The Holy Synod discussed at length various matters concerning Christian morality, and the moral challenges which the faithful of the Church encounter on a daily basis. Particularly discussed was the matter of marriage after the ordinance of God, being one of the foundations of the Christian life and family—in accord with the Sacred Scriptures and the teaching of the Assyrian Church of the

East. In order to confirm to the faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East the teaching concerning of our holy Church, the Holy Synod commissioned His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan to prepare a formal Synodal statement demonstrating the Church's teaching and official position on matters of Christian morality.

Here end the general decrees of the 3rd Holy Synod of Mar Gewargis III.

For the affirmation of the above, we hereon affix our signatures:-

†Gewargis III Sliwa

By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch

+Aprem

Metropolitan of India

+Joseph Meelis Zaia

*Metropolitan of Australia &
New Zealand, and Lebanon*

+Aprim Khamis

Bishop of Western USA

+ Emmanuel Joseph

Bishop of Canada

+Odisho Oraham

Bishop of Europe

+ Aprim Athneil

Bishop of Syria

+Iskhaq Yosip

Bishop of Dohuk & Russia

+Awa Royel

*Bishop of California;
Secretary of the Holy Synod*

+Yohannan Yosep

Bishop of India

+Awgin Kuriakose

Bishop of India

+Narsai Benyamin

Bishop of Iran

+Paulus Benjamir

Bishop of Eastern US

+Abris Youkhanan

Bishop of Erbil; Patriarchal Auxiliary

+Benyamin Elya

Bishop of Victoria & New Zealand

Indian Archdiocese News

Holy Qurbana in Vellore

Fr. Denny Thalokaraen and Deacon Timothy from Chennai and Mar Aprem Metropolitan celebrated the Holy Qurbana at the College Chapel of the Christian Medical College on Sunday June 30, 2019. The Metropolitan had come from Thrissur to attend the CMC Council Meeting along with Bishop Dr. Mar Yohannan Yoseph on 28 and 29 June. Dr. John Jose MBBS, MD, DM of the Cardiology Department lead the organisation of sponsored students meeting on 29 June along with the two prelates of our Church. This is the first time separate group for sponsored students. Up to now we were sitting along with the Orthodox Church group.

Ordination of Deacon Sinto Jose Poonjokaran

The ordination of Deacon Sinto to the rank of Qashisha (Priest) has been fixed for Saturday 3 August 2019 at Mar Timotheus Church, Nellikunnu, Thrissur. He had completed B.D. course in Faridabad Seminary near New Delhi of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. During the last four years Deacon Sinto has been serving St. Stephen's Church in New Delhi assisting Fr. K.A. Mohan.

Proclamation in India

The announcement of the news of the canonization of Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan as a saint of the Assyrian Church of the East is planned in a grand manner in India.

Prelates Back to India

All three Indian prelates who attended the Holy Synod in Erbil on May 12-19 have returned to Trichur. The two Episcopas (Mar Yohannan and Mar Awgin) went to attend the consecration of the Bishop of Western Europe Mar Awraham Yohannis on 26 May in Sydney, Australia. Mar Awgin also visited Melbourne, Victoria and New Zealand while returning from Australia. In both Melbourne and New Zealand he celebrated the Holy Qurbana.

Holy Qurbana in Qatar

Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa conducted Holy Qurbana on May 10 at the Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Doha, Qatar.

Women Youth's Association - India

The Women Youth's Association Central committee started their long cherished project- "Students Education Helping Project"- in 2009. Every year we used to admit around 25 students in this project for their 5 years study programme from 8th to 12th standard from poor families of various parishes of our Indian archdiocese. Now 6 batches of students (160 students) has already completed their studies (from 8th to +2 courses) under this project and some of them from our first batch have completed their post graduations and some of them are married and some of them are working. We are very happy to see such developments in their lives all through these years. And we should praise our Lord Almighty for giving us such an opportunity to help them in one way or another for the last eleven years. May the Lord help us to render this service without any interruption and hope that with the help of our Church people we can continue it.

This year we have 138 students studying in different grades. We are supporting Differently-abled students without considering their age. We also like to help some students who are studying for professional course from very low economic back ground.

We have appointed 30 caretakers (ladies from our various parishes) to support this educational project. We are giving them 4 or 5 students each and they will contact these students and support them physically and mentally. They are doing a great work always motivating our students. They devote time, money for them and have a lot of concerns for these kids. We are giving some orientation classes, personality development and carrier guidance to these kids.

The main Gen. Convener of this project is Mrs. Liji Thomas (Former Gen Secretary) and the joint-Conveners are VishyTharyan, Geemol Joseph, Gigi Chacko, Limsy Johnson and BinuJoshy. They are rendering their service to this project abundantly. Our present Central Executive committee (Mrs Shinu Powel- Gen. Secretary) members are supporting them to render this service. We are spending approximately 5000 rupees for each student in a year, for the purpose we started one specific account at **South Indian Bank, High Road Branch**, under the Name of “**Students Education Fund**” and its A/c No is **0860 05300001071**.

On 26th May, 2019 we distributed the school kits and fees to those who are enlisted in this project. And our Patron H.B. Dr Mar ApremThirumeni presided over this function and Chairman Mr. Tenny C.L and Vice Chairman Dr. RishyEmmatty felicitated the same. Dn. V V Joseph, Director ALDI gave a lecture to promote the kids and their parents to improve their level in academic and social status. We congratulated our ex-coordinator and former Gen Secretary Mrs BinuJoshy on the same occasion of being elected as a member of the Board of Central Trustees of our archdiocese.

We take this opportunity to request your help and support for this educational project. We would like to thank all parishes who are supporting us and especially Marth Mariam parish UAE, our main supporters of education project in last many years. We are also getting support from our church members who are living here and there. Our Assyrian people from abroad especially the Australians are supporting a lot to this project. Thank you very much for your financial support for our Students Education Programme.

Sr JincyOthottil (President W.Y.A.)

Shekeinah

A new news channel for the propagation of news concerning the activities of Christian communities has started near Thrissur.

Second Auditorium

The second fully air-conditioned auditorium of our Church in India has been constructed in the compound of the Mar Yonan Church about ten miles north of Thrissur. Engineer Paul Jacob Vengassery, who is the parish representative from that parish as well as the Vicar Fr. Sunny S.Koola of that parish ought to be congratulated for constructing such a beautiful auditorium at a cost of about 15 Million Rupees (i.e., one and half Crore Rupees). It is believed that the loans taken from the banks will be paid back within the coming 5 years. After 5 years, this small parish will be self sufficient financially.

MACE

The Men’s Association of the Church of the East has started its activities in various branches. They have planted trees in all our church compounds. Mr. Anto D. Ollullaran, the new general secretary of MACE has explained the vision 2050. The purpose of this plan is to help train our young people to get employed in the key posts of the government. At present

we do not have our church people in the key posts of the government. Our Vision 2050 gives a new initiative to strengthen our church's presence in Kerala. We request our people who retired from service (aged 60), to give their spare time for the benefit of our younger generation.

V.B.S.

The Vacation Bible School has been conducted in an organised manner under the leadership of Fr. Vinod Thimothy, the general secretary of our Sunday School. He is also the Vicar of the Mar Yohannan Mamdhana parish.

Terrorist attack in Sri Lanka

The Chaldean Syrian Church members honoured and prayed for the victim of the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka, the neighbouring country of India at the Easter Sunday. There was also a special prayer for the wounded persons. The commemoration held near the Corporation office of Trichur by the Men's Association of Chaldean Syrian Church of the East. H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose lighted the candle and showered the flowers after the prayer and speech. The President of Men's Association Rev. Fr. Jose Jacob Vengassery, Youth Association President Rev. Fr. Michael Valluvantra, Vicar General Rev. Fr. K R Inasu, Rev. Fr. Binu Ponokaran, Women's Association General Secretary Shinu Powel, General Secretaries Sojan P John and Anto D Ollukaran spoke at the function.

New Office Bearers of Youth's Association

1. President - Fr. Michael Valluvantra
2. Vice President - Mr. MereejThimothy
3. General Secretary - Mr. Sojan P. John
4. Joint Secretary - Mr. Jimreeves Solomon
5. Treasurer - Roy John (Nellikunnu)

New Central Trustees

The elected trustees for the year 2019-22 are the following:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Tenny C. L. (Chairman) | 2. Dr. Rishy Immatty (Vice Chairman) |
| 3. A. M. Antony | 4. James Ukken |
| 5. Sajan Mambilly | 6. Paul Parppukara |
| 7. Mrs. Binu Joshy | 8. MereejThimothy |
| 9. Joshy Antony | |

The newly elected Central Trustees took charge of the office at the front of the altar of the Marth Mariam Cathedral, Thrissur on 6 May 2019.

The Biography of Saint Mar Abimalek Timotheus Metropolitan

Translated from English to Syriac

[illegible]

(1945- 1878)

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]



The students in the "Students Education Programme" conducted by Central Women's Youth Association with Mar Aprem Metropolitan and teachers. Sister Jincy Othottil and Fr. Vinod Timothy are sitting left and right of Mar Aprem Metropolitan respectively



Mar Aprem Metropolitan and Fr. Vinod Timothy with the members of Vacation Bible School 2018 - 2019



H. L. Mar Awgin Kuriakose leading the Procession of Protest in Thrissur against the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka



Mar Aprem Metropolitan with CMC sponsored students and doctors after the Holy Qurbana assisted by Fr. Denny Thalokaran and Deacon Timothy from Chennai in the College Chapel of Christian Medical College on Sunday June 30, 2019



Newly elected members of the Central Men's Association for the period of 2019 - 2022 with Mar Aprem Metropolitan