

صوت من الشرق

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Clergy pictured with Patriarchal Administrator, HL Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa at the Clergy Conference held at 'His Grace' Ashram, Vadakumcherry on 17 and 18 August 2022

VOICE OF THE EAST



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch meets His Eminence Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church at Chaldean Patriarchal Center in Erbil - Ankawa.
16 August 2022



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch and His Eminence Archbishop Avak Asadourian of the Armenian Orthodox Church with Prelates and Clergy

VOICE OF THE EAST

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Voice of the East

Vol. 69

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Editorial

The Holy Synod - 2022

The Holy Synod held under the leadership of His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, was well attended by all the prelates who traveled to Iraq from their distant dioceses to discuss the major issues facing the Church today. Thanks be to God that the Synod could be conducted in September itself after the spread of COVID-19 subsided. The Holy Synod discussed several major issues facing our Holy Church presently.

Although small in number, the needs of the faithful members are many. We pray that all the prelates try to implement the major decisions of the Holy Synod in their respective dioceses. All prelates take seriously the major decisions which were meant for the progress of our Church. It is a fact that the Synod do not meet annually. Therefore, whenever a Synod meets prelates should confirm that all the decisions are implemented in their respective dioceses practically. The decrees of the Holy Synod have been published and it is the duty of our prelates that these decisions and decrees would be put into practice.

Two of our Episcopas, namely Mar Afram Athneil of Syria and Mar Awgin Kuriakose of India were elevated to the rank of Metropolitan. The consecration of His Grace Mar Afram Athneil is fixed for November 27 2022 at Mar Youkhanan Patriarchal Cathedral, Erbil and of His Lordship Mar Awgin Kuriakose for 8 January 2023 at Mart Mariam Big Church, Thrissur, India. The consecration of these prelates will be officiated by Catholicos-Patriarch Mar Awa III. May these decisions and decrees help our Church to grow in our present situation. Our Church in India has begun preparations to make the enthronement of the new Metropolitan a grand event. Bishops from many parts of the world will also participate in it. Representatives from various Churches, political leaders and the elite of the society will also participate in the public meeting to be held in the evening at our school grounds. Requesting everyone's prayers for the success of the consecration of our two Episcopas to the rank of Metropolitan.

Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

Catholicos-Patriarch Receives His Eminence Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church

On Tuesday, August 16, 2022, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received His Eminence Cardinal Louis Raphael Sako, Patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, who was accompanied by His Excellency Mar Bashir Matti Warda, Archbishop of Erbil, and Rev. Fr. Aphram Gliana, Rector of the St. Peter Chaldean Patriarchal Seminary.

The meeting was attended by His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanna, Bishop of Kirkuk, Diana and Patriarchal Auxiliary, and Rev. Fr. Martin Nabeel.

On Thursday, September 9, 2022, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, visited the Chaldean Patriarchal Center in Erbil - Ankawa, at the invitation of His Eminence Cardinal Mar Louis Raphael Sako, Chaldean Catholic Patriarch. His Holiness shared a meal with the Chaldean patriarch, bishops, priests and seminarians during their annual retreat.

His Holiness was accompanied by His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of Kirkuk and Diana, and Patriarchal Auxiliary, Rev. Fr. Eshay Dawood, and Rev. Fr. Martin Nabeel of the Patriarchal Diocese of Erbil.

Decrees of the Second Holy Synod of the Assyrian Church of the East, Convoked by His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch

By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the second Holy Synod under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East was convened for the first time in the Patriarchal cell in the city of Erbil, Iraq from the 14 - 18 of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.

The Prelates that we're present in the Synod are as follows:

1. His Beatitude Mar Aprem Mookan, Metropolitan of India and UAE.
2. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Metropolitan of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon and Patriarchal Vicar
3. His Grace Mar Aprim Khamis, Bishop of the Western USA
4. His Grace Mar Emmanuel Joseph, Bishop of Canada
5. His Grace Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Scandinavia and Germany
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 Awgin Kuriakose, Bishop of India and the UAE
9. His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of Iran

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10. His Grace Mar Paulus Benjamin, Bishop of the Eastern USA
11. His Grace Mar Abris Youkhannan, Bishop of Erbil and Patriarchal Auxiliary
12. His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand
13. His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis, Bishop of Western Europe
14. His Grace Mar Elia Isaac, Bishop of Baghdad, Ukraine and Georgia.

His Grace Mar Youkhannan Yousip, the Bishop of India, was unable to join the Synod due to health issues. The Holy Synod continues to pray for Mar Youkhanan that God gives him speedy recovery.

Synod 2022

Introduction

Placing its hope in the divine succor of God the Father, and the grace of the Only Begotten Son, and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who operates in all things according to His Holy will, the second Holy Synod convened under the presidency of the father of fathers, His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, who sits on the Apostolic See of Seleucia Ctesiphon, who occupies the Apostolic throne and is the heir of the Apostolic preaching of the Blessed Apostles, St. Thomas of the Twelve, and Ss. Addai and Mari from the Seventy-Two, who are known as the Disciples of the East, and are the holy founders of this Holy Church.

Sons and daughters of our Holy Church, throughout these days the Lord has blessed us with various joyful occasions that took place for the benefit of the whole Church and specifically the opening of the Patriarchal Cell and the building of the new Patriarchal Cathedral in Erbil. The Holy Synod wishes to extend its gratitude to the Kurdistan Regional Government, Erbil - Iraq, for their support to bring this project to fruition and also offers its gratitude for all of the support in the meeting of the Holy Synod. The Holy Synod also extends its gratitude to all sister Churches and members of our Holy Church who attended the opening ceremony.

All of the members of the Holy Synod, as one body, are praying for the overall condition of those living in Iraq and the Middle East. The Synod prayed for peace between the countries of Ukraine and Russia and Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Holy Synod prayed for the governments of these countries to find means to govern the people in peace and tranquility.

This second Synod discussed important matters relating to administration of the Church and its Educational Institutions. The Holy Synod also emphasized on Good Christian Works and the growth of the Gospel in the lives of the children of the Church and to hold steadily on the teachings of Christ and live according to His will. Therefore, we ask the children of the Church to continually be contemplating on these matters and to commit to the will of Jesus our Lord for the salvation of their souls and everlasting life... "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

The Decrees of the Holy Synod

Subject 1 - Synodal Decrees concerning Patriarchal Cell

A) The Synod reiterated the Patriarchal Insignia will only be used by the Patriarch as his official sign. The insignia should not be used by prelates, clergy and should not be used in Churches or any other use apart from the Church Flag.

Subject 2 - Synodal Decrees concerning Synod Offices and representatives of the Church

1. The Holy Synod decreed to establish the office of the Secretariat of the Holy Synod. His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya has been assigned as the official Secretary of the Synod. Their Graces Mar Narsai Benyamin and Mar Abris Youkhanan as the members and Reverend Archdeacon William Toma as the Scribe.

2. The Holy Synod decreed to establish a Liturgical Synodal committee. His Grace Mar Aprim Nathnial will be the chairperson of the committee and their Graces Mar Awgin Koriarkos, Mar Narsai Benyamin and Mar Elia Ishaq as members.

3. The Holy Synod decreed to establish a canonical Synodal committee. His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia will be the Chairperson and their Graces Mar Paulus Benyamin and Reverend Father Aprim Alkhouri as members.

4. The Holy Synod decreed to establish a Synodal Theological Committee. His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yousip will be the chairperson of the committee and His Graces Mar Abris Youkhanan, Archdeacon William Toma, Corbishop Gewargis Toma, Reverend Patros Patros and Sister Jincy as members.

5. The Holy Synod appointment His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis as the representative of Synodal Office for Ecumenical Relations.

6. The Holy Synod appointment His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya as the head of Synodal Office for Educational Development.

7. The Holy Synod decreed to add new members to the dialogue committee between the Assyrian Church and Catholic Church. The new members are His Grace Mar Awgin Koriarkos, Mar Paulus Benyamin and Mar Abris Youkhanan. It is worth mentioning that His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia is the chairperson of the committee and Archdeacon William Toma and Corbishop Gewargis Toma as members.

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8. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Elia Ishaq as the chairperson for the dialogue committee between the Assyrian Church and the Russian Orthodox Church. Corbishop Samano Odisho, Reverend Father Nikadimous Youkhannan have also been appointed as members. It is worthy to mention that Reverend Father Aprim Alkhas is also a member in the committee.

9. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Elia Ishaq as the representative of the Assyrian Church in leadership committee of Iraq.

10. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis as the representative of the Church in the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

11. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Elia Ishaq as the Chairperson for Synodal Commission for the Preservation of the Patrimony of the Assyrian Church of the East.

12. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya as Chairperson for Synodal Commission for Mass Media.

13. The Holy Synod decreed to appoint His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis as the representative of the Assyrian Church in Pro Oriente. It is not worthy to mention Archdeacon William Toma is also a member in the committee.

Subject 3 - Synodal Decree concerning Consecration of Metropolitans

1. The Holy Synod decreed that His Grace Mar Aprim Athneil will be elevated to the holy ranking of Metropolitan on the diocese of Syria and also as the coordinator of Patriarchal institutions. The consecration will take place on the 27th of November 2022 in Erbil.

2. The Holy Synod decreed that His Grace Mar Awgin Koriakos will be elevated to the holy ranking of Metropolitan on the archdiocese of India and Emirates. The consecration will take place on the 8th of January 2023 in St Mary's Cathedral Thrissure, India. His Beatitude Mar Aprim Mokan will be the Patriarchal Vicar in the mentioned Archdiocese.

Subject 4 - Synodal Decrees concerning Leadership in various Dioceses and Parishes

1. The Holy Synod decreed that His Grace Mar Ishaq Yousip will retire from his Episcopal duties due to his health from the 1st October 2023. His Grace Mar Abris Youkhannan has been appointed as the official Bishop of the diocese of Nohadra and Nineveh commencing 1st October 2023.

2. Synodal Decrees concerning Parishes of Russia, Armenia, Georgia and Ukraine.



HL Mar Awgin Kuriakose launches a poster on the occasion of World Food Day (16 October) to promote the project "Don't waste food, give a bag of rice to the hungry"



Vicar, Assistant Vicar and Parishioners with HL Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa during a visit to the Goa Mission Parish



Feast of the Holy Cross



Sunday school teachers training class for the year 2022-23 was organized on 14 August at Chelakottukara Mar Aprem Church. Teachers from different parishes participated in the training class. Reverend V V Joseph Shamasan presented the need to train members of the congregation through new methods in the new era as the main topic. The teachers actively participated in the discussion and took new decisions. This year teacher's training class ended with a firm decision to lead the students to Christ the Creator with new enthusiasm.



His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch, received in audience representatives of the Assyrian Parties in Iraq, who raised a number of issues concerning Assyrian politics in the Region – 4 September 2022



His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan's 54th Metropolitan consecration anniversary celebration and honoring of Sextons in the parishes of the Church is organized on 29 September 2022 under the leadership of the Men's Association Central Committee. H.G. Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenaios Metropolitan lit the wick and inaugurated the function. The programme is Named "Eekarra 2022", the Logo was release by Patriarchal Administrator H L Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa. During the launch of the logo, His Lordship explained that the Syriac word "Ikkarra" meaning respect.

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i) The Holy Synod decreed that the diocese of Russia will be under the leadership of the Catholicos Patriarch until a time a new bishop is elected to that diocese as per the decision made in the 2012 Synod.

ii) The Holy Synod decreed the parishes of Armenia and Georgia will be under the leadership of His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin the Bishop of Iran.

iii) The Holy Synod decreed that the diocese of Ukraine will be under the leadership of His Grace Mar Awraham Youkhanis the Bishop of Western Europe.

3. Synodal Decree concerning Retirement age of Prelates

i) The Holy Synod decreed the retirement age of Prelates will be 75 years of age. It is required that all Metropolitans and Bishops who reach the age of 75 submit their retirement to Catholicos Patriarch. If the Holy Synod requests from the prelate to extend his service time due to the needs of the Church, the prelate can continue his service for the period that is required of him. The Church is required to cater to the needs of the retired prelate.

ii) All prelates are free to submit their resignations from their Episcopal duties for various reasons even if they have not reached the age of 75 but permission needs to be granted by the Holy Synod.

Subject 5 – On the expansion on Church Doctrine

1. Nisibis Assyrian Theological College

i) The Holy Synod reiterated on the importance of supporting Nisibis Assyrian Theological College by all dioceses by sending their priests, deacons and teachers to the mentioned college.

ii) The Theological school in India will become a branch of the Nisibis Assyrian Theological College.

Subject 6 - Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization (ACERO)

1. The Holy Synod emphasized on the importance of supporting ACERO as the official humanitarian organization of the Assyrian Church providing humanitarian aid worldwide.

2. ACERO to be registered in the dioceses of Canada and Scandinavia and Germany.

Monthly Thoughts

H.G. Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

(Translated from Malayalam Magazine - September 2022)

Madras Cemetery

Our Church did not have its own cemetery in Madras. To solve the problem, someone gave a plot of land for a cemetery and the sacrament was done by Mar Awgin Kuriakose Episcopa. This will be very beneficial for that parish. Let us pray that our parishes which does not have cemeteries will be solved one by one. We must understand that it is not easy to give six feet of land to everyone born in this world. As in Kerala, it is not easy to find a suitable place for a Cemetery in Bombay and Delhi.

Synod

The Global Synod of our Church will be held from September 14th to 19th in the city of Erbil, Kurdistan, where the Church is headquartered. It is hoped that all the prelates of our Church will participate in it. Though my health condition is not very good, I plan to participate in the Synod. All the bishops have the facilities of accommodation in our new Patriarchal headquarters itself. Therefore, I thought that everyone will stay together in the headquarters instead of staying in hotels. This is the first time we are able to prepare like this. I hope it will be useful in many ways.

Seminary

I wish to start the study of new batch in our Seminary at Thirur, Thrissur before we go to Iraq for the Synod. If anyone wants to join the seminary, make a decision immediately. It is better to start classes as one batch for the easiness of arranging more classes. So inform the decision immediately. Many congregations reject applications as more applications come in. There is never an excess of students here. The reason may be that they are not interested in becoming clergy. This situation should change and there should be more applications. There should be a situation where those who are not interested in becoming a priest are rejected and only those who have the right interest are selected. It is the same in other Churches. I want it to be like that here too. Only those who are interested should be found from the applications.

It can be here as it is in all Churches. We must all create situations for children to come to seminary. I believe that it can be done.

Congregation Star (സഭാ താരകം)

I am happy that our Gulf parishioners have decided to give me an award of fifty thousand rupees. Once when I was coming home from the Holy Qurbana in England, I had an idea. The idea was to stop in the Gulf for two days on the way home and organize the members of our congregation there to start a Gulf parish. I decided to bring a deacon with me from England to celebrate Holy Mass in the Gulf as a precursor to making a parish in the Gulf. But unfortunately all the Deacons in England left citing various inconveniences.

Then arrangements were made to send a priest from India to the Gulf. Then I started trying to find a place to conduct the Holy Qurbana. I did believe that Mar Thoma Church will give me a place for the Holy Qurbana in Dubai. I brought my priest Fr. Lazar Madathumpadi from India and gathered all the family members and conducted the Holy Qurbana in Dubai for the first time. Mar Thoma Church prepared the necessary facilities for this first Holy Mass in the Gulf. They sent their Sunday School children on a picnic to prepare for our first Holy Qurbana on that day. That's how the space was available to hold the Qurbana. Then I planned to organise a parish there. Today we have a very active parish in the Gulf. Although it does not have its own church, it has grown into a parish where we have Holy Qurbana every week.

I was surprised when the Gulf parishioners decided to give me the award. I felt that this award is a reward for what I have done for them. I did not start the parish in Gulf for the reward, but when they decided to give me the award, I am writing to thank them here. We pray that the Gulf Parish, even if it is small, will be the pride of our church. I did not expect the Gulf Parish to give such an award, which is why I happened to write so much about this little parish in this monthly reflection. I am preparing to go to our Synod in Erbil. I am not forgetting that I am 82 years old. I am going because I have vowed to work for the church as long as I am healthy. I know that traveling may be difficult. But it goes because there is faith that God will give health. You should pray for the trip. Please pray for the Synod, which will be held at our Church headquarters in Erbil from September 14th to 19th. May this Synod make necessary decisions for the prosperity of our ancient church. Apart from me, our other 2 bishops are also intending to in this Synod. It is known that Mar Yohannan Episcopa has a physical problem. You should especially pray for the health of the three prelates who are going to Synod.

World food safety day Press Release

Don't waste food - By Bishop Mar Awgin.

The United Nations World food programme data says 957 million people across 93 countries who do not have enough to eat. Every day many people die who don't get enough food to survive. Let's be a part of this noble campaign by helping the hunger providing one time food on October 16. Kindly join the activity world food day on October 16.

Chaldean Syrian Church of the East using this day a platform to minimise hunger by feeding poor and hungry. Venues are Govt hospitals, Cancer hospitals, Mental hospitals, old age home, orphanages and people in the nearby areas of our churches. Bishop appeal to members donates cook food packets.

World food day we are highlighting the hunger crises and to create awareness and educate people about don't waste food. There might be someone even not able to get as per need. So don't waste food. Reduce wasted food by feeding poor hungry people in your city.

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Wasted food is your hard earned money. It's also a missed opportunity to feed hungry people who are in need. When we reduce cooked food waste we respect the food. It's up to us change our habits to make not wasting food a way of life. Restaurants and supermarkets face the fine for food waste in Spain.

Don't waste birthday cake. Applying cake on the face during birthday celebration. Cake is meant to be eaten not wasted like this. Over-serving large portion of food is a way of showing love and affection for friends and families. This also leading source of food waste. Parents should teach kids about not waste food. Invite kids in lunch – packing to school. This will avoid lunch box food waste. The most common reasons for food being wasted were the taste or bad combination.

Ending Hunger

If more people and charitable organizations should come forward only we can achieve zero hunger. Commitment and support from all sectors always should be there. We are focusing now on reaching people in need. Poor people always short of food and medicines. Giving them immediate support we come up with an idea of food parcel distribution on world food day.

Due to Covid and hike in fuel prices led to an increase in the prices of essential food items, impacting a large number of poor people. This day this type of assistance will be a small relief for the hungry person. Meeting the needs of the poor government and Churches should bring long term solutions. Jesus clearly emphasises all Christians to care for the poor and hunger.

Remember Matthew 25:35,36 “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me” God bless you.

54th Consecration Anniversary of His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan

‘Khaldaya Media’ wishes the Patriarchal Delegate of the Chaldean Syrian Church of the East, India, His Grace Dr. Mar Aprem Metropolitan, auspicious health blessings on his 54th consecration Anniversary celebration held at Metropolitan Palace 29 September 2022.

Mar Aprem was born in the name of George as the fourth of ten children of Devassy Kochu Mariam couple in Thrissur Mookan family. He completed his high school studies at the Chaldean Syrian School, passed his inter-mediate from St. Thomas College and completed his higher education in Leonard Theological College Jabalpur, St. Boni Fide College London, UT College Bangalore, Princeton Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary New York. He holds 2 doctorates in Theology and Syriac.

Having reached the rank of Deacon in 1961, His Grace was elevated to the position of priest in 1965 and Episcopa in 1968, followed by Metropolitan. His Holiness used to release one book on almost each birthday. “Laugh with the Bishop” is the book with the most copies in circulation. He composed many hymns and his hymn in Malayalam

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“കാൽവരി ക്രൂശം നോക്കി ഞാൻ” (I looked at the cross of Calvary) has been translated into 101 languages. Aprem has translated the *Daiva Dasakam*, a hymn composed by Sree Narayanaguru 100 years ago, into the Aramaic language spoken by Jesus. Being a good music lover, Thirumeni tried to learn sitar and keyboard despite his busy schedule due to his interest in music. Unity among the Churches was always the interest of His Grace. His Grace has taken the lead in alcohol abstinence activities. Mar Aprem is the only Metropolitan of Thrissur who knows the Aramaic language that Jesus Christ spoke about.

His Grace celebrated his 54th year as Metropolitan in October 2022. There is no other Bishop in India who has led the Church in the metropolitan rank for 54 years. Many people approach Thirumeni as a solution to many problems in the religious, social and cultural fields of Thrissur.

Following the death of Patriarch Maran Mar Dinha IV in 2015, His Grace has been blessed to lead the Global Church for 6 months as Locum Tenens to elect the next Patriarch. He had the opportunity to speak with the Pope at the Vatican as a representative of the Patriarch of the Global Church. Mar Aprem was leading the consecration ceremony of Patriarch Mar Gevarghese III Sliwa, who was the Supreme President of the Church. As a historical researcher, he has personally met many prominent people. Billy Graham, Bill Gates, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King Jr. are some of them. The writings of church history written by world historians seeking information before the modern age of fingerprints are still a bit of a surprise to many today.

Who is “Surraai”?

Rev.Fr. Justin Neelankavil MA, MTh.

Translated from Malayalam Magazine

The declaration of faith in the Council of Nicea in AD 325 was enthusiastically received by the global Church. It was in 410 AD that our Church officially accepted the Creed. Those who were responsible for explaining the creed, began to study and teach each verse of the creed in detail. Then there was a confusion in the matter of the personality of Jesus Christ. Are there two persons in Jesus Christ viz divine and human? So how can unity be possible? If Jesus is one complete person, how can he contain two complete personalities? Alexandria and Antioch, two dominant schools of thought of the era, came up with explanations for these questions. Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria (295-373), described the Alexandrian school of thought. He was followed by Cyril who was the Patriarch of Alexandria from 412-422. He emphasized the unity of the person of the Messiah. From the Alexandrian school of thought came the idea of a personality that was a mixture of divinity and humanity. Based on this union, they called Mary, the mother of Jesus, as the mother of God. This branch of study emphasized the divinity and miracles of Jesus. They used allegory for Bible exegesis. That is, the method of using another story to understand a story on an event told in the scriptures.

Diodor (died 390), bishop of Tarsus, was an eminent and noble teacher of Antioch. Diodorus found that when a story or an event was described by another story, it deviated from the meaning intended by the author of the Bible, and the listener unnecessarily pursued meanings that the author did not wish to be persuaded in the story or event that he explicated. Therefore, he did not adopt the style of the Alexandrian school of thought.

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When Diodor wrote the Bible exegesis, he used the equivalent Old Testament stories to understand the New Testament facts known as typological interpretation. Theodore (392-428), Diodor's disciple, born in Antioch itself, extended his master's field of study. The Antiochian branch emphasized Jesus as a historical figure.

There were many reasons for that. The Antiochian branch taught that only a perfect man can be a moral and a model person for believers, not a person who is a mixture of God's nature and human nature. But They did not deviate in the least from the Nicene Creed adopted in 410. They taught that the world should know Christ not by miracles alone, but by caring for the needy. This is the basic ideology of our Church. This teaching was actually the beginning of Christian Ethics in the Church. The cornerstone of this Christology is that divinity and humanity are united in Jesus Christ without mixing. They taught that it was inappropriate to publicly call Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Mother of God. But this concept was certainly used in the ecclesiastical teachings of our forefathers. Common Christological declaration sheds light on it.

Common Christological declaration of POPE JOHN PAUL II and HIS HOLINESS MAR DINKHA IV, CATHOLICOS-PATRIARCH OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH OF THE EAST well expressed our Christology as follows :

Therefore our Lord Jesus Christ is true God and true man, perfect in his divinity and perfect in his humanity, consubstantial with the Father and consubstantial with us in all things but sin. His divinity and his humanity are united in one person, without confusion or change, without division or separation. In him has been preserved the difference of the natures of divinity and humanity, with all their properties, faculties and operations. It is specifically said that the official Church is to understand that apart from the official Church, there is also a local Church among us. Those who belong to the local church are more likely to be influenced by the faith of those around them. Those who come among us through marriage from other Churches may also cause confusion in beliefs. The closer the local Church and the official Church are, the stronger the Church will be. Another important factor in the cohesion of the Church is the number of its members. The half-truths and lies of the majority voice carry more speed and force than the truth spoken by a minority voice. The psalmist has taught us what we must do to avoid these situations.

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.

Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate” .(Psalm 127:3-5).

To be frank with you, by being stingy about having children, we are helping fundamentalists and fanatics in order to buy swords to kill us or future generations. Preserving the unity of various Christian Churches is as important as preserving the identity of our Church. Both should be possible based on the principle of “unity in diversity”, especially in these times when fundamentalism is about to engulf Christians. As we understand the identity of our Church, today everyone can proudly say “ I am Surai”. Now if we want to say this to our children and children's children with pride, do not forget the words of the psalmist.



**His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Meets
Dr. Marlin Awisha of the Iraqi Media Network.
19 August 2022**



**His Holiness Mar Awa III, Catholicos-Patriarch Meets
His Eminence Archbishop Avak Asadourian of the
Armenian Orthodox Church**



New Patriarchal Headquarters of the Assyrian Church of the East in Erbil, Iraq



The Holy Synod – September 2022