

ܣܘܪܝܝܐ ܘܟܠܗ ܘܡܪܩܘܨܝܐ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܐ ܕܫܘܪܝܝܐ

SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST
BAB TOUMA, P.O.BOX 22260
DAMASCUS - SYRIA



باب توما - ص.ب ٢٢٢٦٠
دمشق - سورية

BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Ignatius Zakka I Iwas
Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church

No.E157/11

16-June-2011

Apostolic benediction to our beloved Archbishop His Eminence Mor Theethose Yeldho, the Patriarchal Vicar, Venerable Corepiscopos, Reverend Clergy and Faithful members of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America.

After enquiring your wellbeing we inform you the following. We have received the report of the Metropolitan Committee which we had appointed to look into the situation in our Archdiocese there in North America. We appreciate the efforts of their Eminences Mor Clemis Eugene Kaplan, Mor Cyril Aprem Karim, Mor Gregorios Joseph and Mor Athanasius Geevarghese for submitting their findings and recommendations.

We appreciate the sincere efforts of our beloved Patriarchal Vicar, the Archdiocesan Council, the Clergy and Faithful who contributed to the growth and prosperity of our Archdiocese there. However, we are concerned about the recent developments of disunity and disharmony there. Our Lord taught us that, "Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand" (Matt. 12:25). In order to face the challenges we have in the Western world and especially among the multi-religious and multi-denominational society, unity and harmony among you is very essential. Our parishes need to be places that offer peace and solace to the faithful in their highly tensed day-to-day life. The reverend clergy have the responsibility to be role models to the faithful in obeying the hierarchy and in leading the flock in their spiritual life.

Based on the report of the Metropolitan Committee, we would like to issue the following directions.

1. It is reported to us that some priests are celebrating Holy Qurbano without the permission of the Archbishop and against our Apostolic direction



given in December 2010. This is a serious violation from the part of the clergy and we hereby order such priests like Very Rev. Bobby Joseph Corepiscopos and Rev. Fr. Varghese P. Manikat, to stop such acts immediately and settle the issues, if any, with the Archbishop. We remind all our reverend clergy to respect and honour the high sanctity of the Holy Priesthood, and to get permission from the Archbishop before administering any Sacraments in a place other than their assigned parish. We authorize our beloved Archbishop to take any necessary actions, after consulting with us, in order to maintain the discipline within the Archdiocese.

2. To bring peace and harmony in the Archdiocese, we admonish the clergy and all those who have any grievance, to meet with the Archbishop Mor Theethose Yeldho and reconcile with His Eminence. We authorize their Eminences Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim and Mor Gregorios Joseph to sit with the Archbishop to help the reconciliation of the clergy having any issue on a one by one basis. They should report to us on this matter by August 31, 2011.

Again Dearly Beloved,

We are closely monitoring the activities and progress of our Malankara Archdiocese in North America, which is directly under our jurisdiction. In order to provide an adequate spiritual care for our Malankara people in North America, we have asked their Eminences Mor Clemis Eugene Kaplan, Mor Cyril Aphrem Karim, Mor Gregorios Joseph and Mor Philoxenus Matias Nayis along with Mor Theethose Yeldho, to identify three members of the clergy and three lay members of the Archdiocesan Council who will be instituted by us as a committee to carry out the initial preparations for the restructuring of the Archdiocese. The committee will commence working after making sure that all issues have been resolved. The committee will report to us within one year about the geographical boundary, financial aspects and other related matters. After reviewing the report and upon our satisfaction we will look into the possibility of establishing another Diocese and consecrating a new Metropolitan in addition to the present Archbishop Mor Theethose Yeldho.

We extend our Apostolic blessings to you. May the grace of God be with you and with the whole diocese. *ܐܘܨܝܢ ܕܡܫܩܘܨܝܢ ܕܩܝܫܘܬܝܢ ܕܫܘܪܝܝܢ*

Forwarded by Archbishop Theethose Yeldho.