



MALANKARA ARCHDIOCESE

of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America

(Under the Holy Apostolic Throne of Antioch and All the East)

Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho
Patriarchal Vicar

March 30, 2012

Blessings in our Lord Jesus Christ to all the readers of the Malankara Syriac Voice:

Dearly beloved,

“Happy Easter” This is the greetings that we use to greet when we meet our families and friends these days. It sums up all our feelings and expresses our joy. The celebration of Easter makes us conscious of the truth and our personal conviction of a life hereafter.

The sufferings of Good Friday are over. The confusion and doubts of the Apostles soon after the death of Christ are answered. The resurrection of Christ is the assurance and guarantee that His mission of grace, mercy and love did not end in the grave provided by Joseph of Arimathea. Christ is alive! The resurrection of Christ is the cause of our gladness.

St. Athanasius states: “The whole of creation keeps feast and every thing that has breath praises the Lord on account of the destruction of the enemies (sin and death) of our salvation. For if there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents, why should there not be over the abolition of sin, and the resurrection of the dead?”

Our Christian faith is based on the very reality of Christ’s resurrection from among the dead. For we know that, “...Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the first fruit of all who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20). “In Christ’s holy resurrection, all who are in Him arose, and life, resurrection and the dawn of a new day were granted to those sitting in the shadow of death,” states Saint Gregory of Nazianzus. We are in Christ through holy baptism and thus, in a special way we were buried with Him, arose with Him and now live our lives in the knowledge of this new dawn and new era bestowed upon the universe.

Thus beloved, while looking hopefully for change upon this earth, and awaiting the resurrection of man and nature, let us reflect these things in our own lives. Let us rekindle in our hearts the ‘joyous light’, the “Light which illumines all mankind”, Christ himself. Let us celebrate the day with proper hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and partaking of the Paschal Lamb who was sacrificed for us.

For Christ is risen and we arose with Him! Christ has burst from the tomb and our own graves stand emptied! Christ is risen and life is renewed, and we are all made alive in him to whom be all honor and glory, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Christ is risen! Truly, He is risen!

Bishop’s house, New York


+ **Theethose Yeldho, Archbishop**