

**METROPOLITANS ORDAINED FOR THE MALABAR DIOCESE
& THE MYLAPORE DIOCESE (CHENNAI) IN INDIA**



Mor Philoxinos (Malabar diocese) and Mor Osthathios (Mylapore diocese)

PUTHENCURIZ, January 4th, 2009: The Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church consecrated two new bishops at a pious but auspicious ceremony held at the St. Athanasius Cathedral in the Malankara Syrian Church headquarters, Puthencuriz.

Rev. Fr. Zacharia T. Therambil of Mor Gregorian Centre, Thoothooty, Kottayam was ordained as Raban Sabor and Rev. Fr. Saji Thomas Pachilikkattu who was serving the Syrian Orthodox Archdiocese in United States was ordained as Raban Afroth by H.B. Mor Baselios Thomas 1st at the Kyomtha Seminary, Thirumvankulam on Saturday January 2, 2010.

On January 4th, 2009 these Rabans were consecrated as Bishops. The newly ordained Metropolitans are Mor PHILOXINOS Zacharias Therampil, for the Malabar diocese and Mor OSTHATHIOS Issac Pachilakattu, for the Mylapore diocese in Tamil Nadu. More than five thousand faithful from the respective archdioceses had thronged the church premises to witness the auspicious ceremonies.

The day started at the St. Athanasius Cathedral with the morning worship commencing at 7.30 am. The Catholicos of the India and Metropolitan Trustee, Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas-I, was the chief celebrant at the consecration ceremony which began with holy Qurbano at 8.30 a.m. Twenty One metropolitans were present on the occasion assisting His Beatitude the Catholicos during the consecration ceremony.

Earlier the four-hour-long ordination process got under way with the ceremonial procession carrying the bishops designates to the Madbho. This was followed by the reading of the Patriarchal Bull, declaring the elevation of two bishop-designates, for the Malabar diocese and the Mylapore (Chennai) diocese.



The two ‘Rambans’, Rev. Sabor and Aphroth, passed through the consecration process which came to a formal conclusion with the priests chanting ‘oxios,’ holding the bishops high in their chairs by around 12 pm. Following the age-old traditions of the Syrian Church, the new metropolitans were named Mor Philoxenos Zachariah (Fr. Zachariah Therambil/Sabor Raban) and Mor Osthathios Issac (Fr. Saji Thomas Pachilakattu/Afroth Raban) by the chief celebrant Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas-I.

With this, the total number of bishops of Indian origin in the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church has increased to 30.

The religious ceremonies were followed by a public reception for the new bishops. Leading personalities from all walks of life including the Union Minister Mr. K V Thomas, Minister of State Mr. S Sharma, Leader of the Opposition Mr. Oommen Chandy, honorable members of State legislative Assembly, Mr. T U Kurivilla, Mr. A L Jacob (PIravom), Mr. Babu Paul (Muvattupuzha), Mr. M M Monayi (Ayyampilly), Mr. Saju Paul (Perumbavur), KPCC spokesman Mr. P P Thankachen and others were present on the occasion.



The consecration of the two bishops marks the culmination of a long process which holds the mark of both episcopacy and regional democracy in the Church. The process commenced with the election of two priests as bishop-designates by the respective diocesan assemblies, then approved by the Managing Committee, the Working Committee and finally the Malankara Episcopal Synod followed by the endorsement of the supreme

head of the Church, the Patriarch of Antioch & All the East. Thus, on 2nd January 2009, the two bishop designates were ordained Ramban at the same venue by names Sabor and Aphroth.

Of the two newly ordained bishops, Mor Osthathios Issac is the grandson of the brother of late lamented Metropolitan of Kochi diocese Mor Osthathios Thomas. Mor Osthathios is a known Syriac scholar. Mor Philoxions Zacharias Therambil is the chief co-ordinator of various spiritual organizations in the Church under the banner '[Mor Gregorian Centre](#)', which is primarily based at Kottayam.

