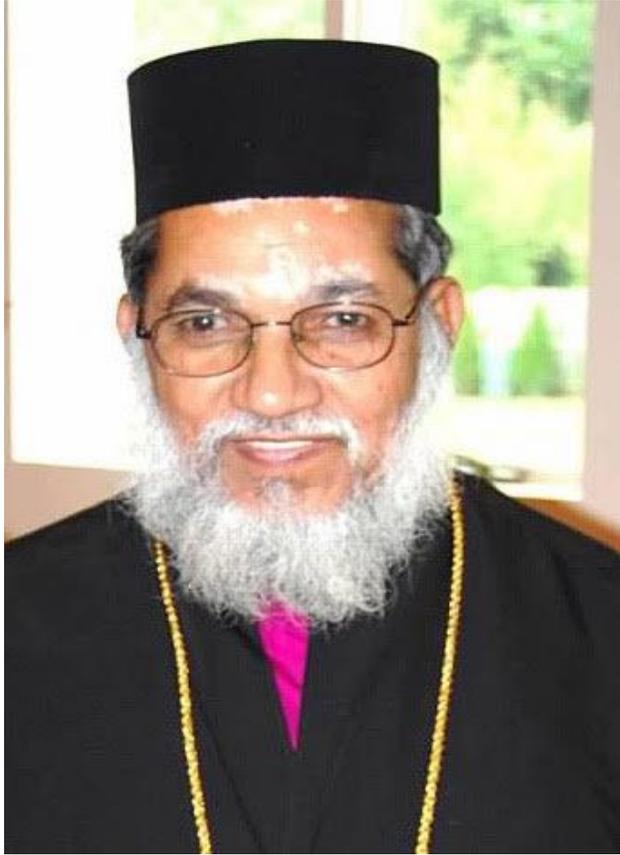


**Very Rev. Varkey I. Mundakkal Cor-Episcopos enters the heavenly abode
on September 6, 2019**

Very Rev. Mundakkal Ittiavirah Varkey was born on October 24th, 1936 to Susan and Mundakkal Ittiavirah of Pothaniced, Kerala. He graduated from Mar Athanasius College, Kothamangalam with a BSc. degree in Mathematics. He also received a B.Ed in Education from St. Thomas College, Pala, Kerala. He taught in several high schools in India, inspiring his students there for 4 years before beginning his life in servitude to God. In 1963, he was ordained to the rank of Quroyo (Deacon) by His Grace Mor Gregorious Geevarghese.



Varkey Achen moved to Ethiopia in 1966, where he worked with the Ministry of Education until 1981. He furthered his education in theology in 1978 under the tutelage of His Grace Dr. Paulose Mor Athanasius in India. On August 28, 1978, he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood by the Late Catholicose, His Beatitude Mor Baselious Paulose II. He then served as the Vicar at St. Mary's Church, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 1978 to 1981.

During his time in Ethiopia, he met and married his beloved wife Susan Kallapara in 1969. He also had his four greatest treasures while in Ethiopia: Jeya, Jerry, Joy, and Jessy. His adventures then continued when he moved to Nigeria as part of the Ministry of Education from 1981 to 1987.

In 1987, Varkey Achen and his family journeyed to the United States and settled down in New Jersey first and then moved to New York. There, he served as a priest of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church of America for over 30 years, and was elevated to Cor-Episcopos in September of 2008. He spent time as the Vicar to St. Mary's Church in Manhattan, New York. He was the founding father of St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox

Church West Nyack, New York and assisted with the expansion of the church and various other churches throughout the United States over the years. He retired in 2014 after 27 years and continued his services as a senior Priest in the Archdiocese under the leadership of His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho. He leaves behind a congregation and a host of clergy who loved him dearly.

Varkey Achen found ways to educate and mentor both inside and outside the classroom. On top of consistently checking everyone on their math, he spiritually fostered many Clergy on their road to Priesthood. Achen will be remembered as an extremely humble man, who always extended his hospitality to all—no matter the day or time. Always practicing what he preached with clarity and steadfastness, Achen was a pillar and rock in his beliefs in the Church.

Varkey Achen has bestowed a legacy of faith, prayer, and love to all he has encountered. He is survived by his wife Susan Varkey, and his children Jeya and Shibu Mathews, Jerry and Lisa Varkey, Joy and Biji Varkey, and Jessy and Mikey Thomas. He is also survived by his siblings Iype, Sarah, Leela, Rev. Fr. Cherian, and Soman. Varkey Achen has always been surrounded by the love of, and will never be forgotten by, his grandchildren Aaron, Rachel, Leah, Samuel, Ava, Micah, Sarah, Andrew, Olivia, and Daniel.

The Varkey family members are forever indebted for all the prayers, love and care provided to Varkey Achen by Clergy, family, friends, care givers and physicians throughout his life and especially in the last few months.

Please take the time to reflect on Varkey Achen's favorite verse, Psalms 116 v. 12, "*What shall I render unto the Lord for all His bounties towards me?*"