



Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius

## St. MARY, QUEEN of PEACE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC EPARCHY IN USA & CANADA

Eparchial Chancery · 1500 DePaul Street · Elmont, NY 11003 · USA

**Dear Reverend Fathers, Sisters and Lay faithful,**

The most predominant aspect of our experience as a Church all these years has been the amazing providence of God that so miraculously sustains us and guides us. In our day to day life, in all the small and big events and activities of our Church, this providence has been powerfully at work. Continuing with this experience of constantly being wrapped in God's loving providence, the Malankara Catholic Church is blessed with a handful of new and significant canonical provisions.

The Holy Episcopal Synod of the Church decided to bifurcate the Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum and form a new diocese, with Parassala as its headquarters. The new diocese has been formed by separating the three ecclesiastical districts of the Major Archdiocese, namely, Neyyattinkara, Kattakada and Parassala. The Synod also decided to appoint me, unworthy as I am, as the first bishop of the diocese of Parassala. Both these Synodal decisions were given approval by the Holy Father Pope Francis on August 5, 2017.

The Holy Father further appointed His Excellency the Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos as the second bishop of the St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada.

The Holy Father also gave his approval to the following decisions of the Synod:

Rev. Fr. George Kalayil of the diocese of Puttoor is appointed the second bishop of the diocese.

Rev. Msgr. John Kochuthundil, the Vicar General of the Major Archdiocese of Trivandrum is appointed the Curia Bishop of the Church and Apostolic Visitor to the Syro-Malankara Catholic faithful in Europe and Oceania.

The consecration of the two new bishops-elect will be held at Adoor on September 21, 2017 on the occasion of the 87<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reunion Movement.

The new diocese of Parassala will be inaugurated and the new bishop will be installed on September 23 at Parassala.

The new bishop of Puthur will be installed on September 30 at Puttoor.

The Most Rev. Philipose Mar Stephanos will be installed as the bishop of our Eparchy in the USA and Canada on October 28, 2017 at our Cathedral in New York.

Let us raise our hearts in profound thanksgiving to God for His love and providence that has been so glaringly reflected in and through these provisions. We are deeply indebted to the Holy See, the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and the Holy Episcopal Synod of our Church which have functioned as the channels of these divine blessings.

We, as an Eparchy in the USA and Canada are specially delighted and thankful to God that we are blessed with a new Shepherd in the person of His Excellency Philipose Mar Stephanos, who will bring to us his wealth of experience, personal holiness, erudition, pastoral efficiency and administrative talents. He has a very impressive pastoral and administrative background. Besides his committed pastoral involvements in the various regions of the Archdiocese of Tiruvalla, he also served as the Rector of the St. Mary's Malankara Seminary, Vicar General of the Diocese of Tiruvalla, Director of Pushpagiri hospital, etc.. Since 2010, he has been serving as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Tiruvalla. With great enthusiasm and love, let us prepare ourselves to receive him as our Shepherd.

Thanking you sincerely for your unfailing love and support and wishing God's continued blessings on all of you,

Yours lovingly in our Lord,

*+ Eusebius*

+ Thomas Mar Eusebius  
Apostolic Administrator

August 6, 2017  
Eparchial Chancery, 1500 De Paul Street, Elmont, NY 11003

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*This circular is to be read in all our churches on Sunday, August 13, 2017*