
SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis
Major Archbishop-Catholicos



Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum - 695 004

No. CCL 1/2009

CIRCULAR

SECOND COMMEMORATION FEAST OF MORAN MOR CYRIL BASELIOS, THE FIRST CATHOLICOS OF THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Most Rev. Bishops, Reverend Fathers, Deacons, respected Religious and beloved Faithful in Christ,

On 18 January 2009 it is two years since, Moran Mor Cyril Baselios, the third Metropolitan Archbishop and the first Major Archbishop-Catholicos of happy memory, entered into the heavenly abode. As successor of the Servant of God Archbishop Mar Ivanios, who brought back the Malankara Church into the communion of the Universal Church and Metropolitan-Archbishop Benedict Mar Gregorios of happy memory, he assumed the responsibility of the Archieparchy of Trivandrum in 1995. He who took up the responsibility as the first Metropolitan of the Eparchy of Bathery, developed it spiritually and materially contributing selflessly all traits of his personality and made it grow up into a self-reliant community.

The life of Moran Mor Cyril Baselios who reached Trivandrum as the head of the Church in 1995 was so vast that all in all fields of life could fathom its depth. As a sage, his thoughts have influenced the contemporary society in a large measure. We have seen several folk in the various strata of life lending their ears to his words. Depth,

insight and conviction on matters perfected his visions. He kept close to his bosom the Indian culture, traditions and symbols. In his pilgrimage seeking the depths of *sanyâsa* we can see in him the confluence of Indian, Eastern and Western *sanyâsa*. To the age old concept of *sanyâsa* he synchronised the theology of development, self-reliance and hard work. He was known as a social reformer. He believed that social development is achieved only when all people could live realizing the dignity of the divine life that dwells in them. He gave a new life to the department of social and apostolic activities of the Eparchy of Bathery and the Archieparchy of Trivandrum giving a new *mantra* of development and new visions.

The view of His Beatitude Cyril Beselios on the traditions, ecclesial life and the Liturgy of the Malankara Church is an inspiration to our generation. While giving special care and attention to the fast growth and stability of the Church, he had kept open all doors for dialogue with other Church communities and religions. His contributions as the spokesperson of the Indian Christian communities were praiseworthy. He used to remind us continuously of the importance of the apostolate of education and emphasized our role in the field of education. He took pride of the services of the minorities in this realm. He was not ready to surrender to anybody our constitutional rights in this field. He used to address the authorities on this aspect.

His Beatitude Cyril Baselios's twelve years as the Metropolitan of the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum was an epoch-making period in the history of the Archieparchy. Our generation bears ample testimony to the gains the Archieparchy has made in different fields. We experience the good results of the endeavors made by His Beatitude to make available the leadership of the Church in the different fields today.

What makes the memory of His Beatitude the Catholicos perpetual in our ecclesial life is the creative and powerful leadership he gave to our Church for its evolution to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church. He considered the titles and authority he

was invested with through this, as an acceptance for his Church. I insist on all the Faithful of the Church to partake in the ecclesial and social life imbibing His vision and lofty thoughts.

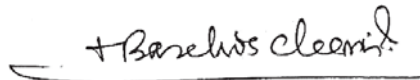
I urge everyone to celebrate befittingly the second commemoration feast of Moran Mor Cyril Baselios Catholicos on 18 January 2009. On that day in the Holy Qurbano celebrated in all our churches, mission centres and institutions commemorate His Beatitude the Catholicos and prayers with incensing should be offered.

Since 18 January 2009 is a Sunday, the programmed common service of commemoration will be held on 17 January 2009 at St. Mary's Cathedral at Pattom, Trivandrum, where the mortal remains of His Beatitude repose. Evening prayers and prayers with incensing will be offered at the tomb at 6.30 in the evening of 16 January 2009. The next day on 17 January 2009 prayers and Holy Qurbano will be offered in St. Mary's Cathedral at 8 o'clock in the morning. This will be followed by a commemoration speech. Thereafter incense-prayers will be offered at the tomb. I invite all of you to these services and to get the blessings.

May all these be united with the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, and all the Apostles, especially St. Thomas, and all the saints! Amen.

Your humble servant in Our Lord

Pattom, Trivandrum
05.01.2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis", written over a horizontal line.

Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos
Major Archbishop
of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church. Catholicate Centre

N.B. On the coming Sunday, this Circular shall be read in all our churches, mission centres and centres of worship.
