
THE SYRO-MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

MORAN MOR BASELIOS CARDINAL CLEEMIS
Major Archbishop-Catholicos



Major Archiepiscopal Curia
Catholicate Centre
Pattom, Trivandrum-695004

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Circular

Catholicos Day – 2014

Your Grace, Your Excellencies, Rt. Rev. Corepiscopoi and Rembans,
Reverend Fathers, Deacons, Religious and dear Faithful in the Lord,

We are celebrating the Catholicos Day this year on 2 February 2014. It is an occasion to thank the Lord for leading our Church through her leaders, especially through the Hierarchy. This is the ninth Catholicos Day we celebrate, after our Church was elevated to the status of a Major Archiepiscopal Church on 10 February 2005.

Let us read the signs of the times and heed the special call and invitation this epoch gives us. Pope Benedict XVI with the Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei*, 'the Door of Faith', inaugurated the Year of Faith in the Church. As the year progressed, the Church received a new Vicar of Christ, the present Pope Francis, who sharing the thoughts of his predecessor, gave us the Encyclical Letter *Lumen Fidei*, 'the Light of Faith'. The year of faith concluded with the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, the 'Joy of the Gospel', inviting us to live the Gospel values and to proclaim it to the world in this era of New Evangelisation.

As we celebrate the Catholicos Day, I am reminded of the Pope's words in his Exhortation, the Joy of the Gospel: "I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security" (n 49). The Pope asks us to be lively witnesses to the Gospel values, responding to the reality of life outside the Church.

As we celebrate the Catholicos Day, we renew our commitment to the Gospel values, our commitment to preach it and above all to set examples through our life. In this context, I invite all of you to strengthen the *Suvisesha Sangham* that is getting rooted in our Church as a means to live our

commitment to the Gospel values based on a radical living of the Word of God and the spirituality of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church founded on her liturgy.

The Catholicos Day is celebrated in our Church also as a day to give our generous offerings to support her administrative and apostolic activities coordinated by the Major Archiepiscopal Curia. The practice of giving an offering with this intention is recent and hence, its spirit has to be imbibed in our ecclesial consciousness. This year, all our parishes through their Sunday offerings during the Holy Qurbano on that day and all our institutions and religious congregations and their provinces are expected to participate in this offerings. Letters are sent to them for this. Last Year a cover was given to all our families to give their offerings on the Catholicos Day. The effort didn't bear much fruit. It shows that we need a deeper commitment towards the common needs of our Church. As per the norms of our Particular Law, the offerings from each parish on the Catholicos Day shall be sent to the respective Eparchial/Exarchial/ETRI centres. The Bishops shall submit it to me at the Holy Episcopal Synod convoked from 10 to 14 March 2014.

I remind all our Rev. Fathers, religious and the faithful that on the Catholicos Day, the Catholicate flag should be hoisted and Catholicos Day pledge made in all our churches and institutions

On this day, I remember with gratitude all our bishops, priests, religious and lay faithful who are engaged in the apostolic mission of our Church all throughout the world. I invoke God's mercy and blessings on each one of you.

Your humble servant in the Lord

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✠ **Baselios Cardinal Cleemis**
Major Archbishop-Catholicos
of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

N.B. :This circular should be read in all our churches, mission centres and centres of worship during the Holy Qurbano on Sunday, 2 February 2014.
