

**In the blessed name of the Tri-une God, Self-existent,
Beginningless and Endless, Perfect in Being, (Glory be to Him)**

**Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas**



No. 199/2017

Blessings to our beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Trustees of the Church, and all the members of all the Parishes!

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

We praise God Almighty for the integral growth of both of our Seminaries. We certainly achieve this with the utmost grace of our Lord and with all the good support that has been offered by our faithful. For the BD Degree we have 145 students in the Old Seminary and 73 students in Nagpur Seminary. Further to this, in Old Seminary we have about 50 students from both of our tradition and from other denominations, who are doing their Masters and Doctorate. We have celebrated the bicentenary of the Old Seminary and the 200th memorial of the founder of the Old Seminary. The works of the Principal Quarters has completed and Jubilee Souvenir got published. The re-publication of the *Sabha Vinjanakosham* and construction of the Staff Quarters are to be completed. The Certificates of the first batch of the Online Theological Course 'Satya Jyothi' for the laity from Nagpur Seminary is given. This course is continuing well. Library of the Seminary is modernized and digitalized.

We know that in the western countries the vocation to priesthood is becoming less and less. We could only thank God that we are not falling in short of vocations. It is true that we cannot admit all those who are coming with good interests in ministry. All the same, we need to find reasonable spaces of alternative ministry for those who are not getting admissions in the Seminaries. At the same time, we need to find out more dedicated students with good skills in studies.

This year, Seminary Day falls on Sunday, 1st of October. Please do pray for both the Seminaries in the Holy Qurbana. Please ensure good participation in the cover collections and the offertory of the day. For the parishes which do not have a Qurbana on 1st October, please do the prayers and collections on the following Sunday. The cover collections and offertory may please be sent to, **The Principal, Orthodox Theological Seminary, P.B. No. 98, Kottayam, 686 001**, before 31st October 2017. Please ensure that collected full amount is sent to the Seminary. The collected amount will be proportionally divided between the Seminaries.

May the Grace and Blessings of the God Almighty abide with you forever. And may the prayers of the Mother of our God, the Holy Virgin Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle of India, our Holy Fathers Yeldo Mar Baselios, Mar Gregorios, Mar Dionysius and all the Holy Saints be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

From Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India
On July 26, 2017.