

**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. 244/2019

Blessings to our beloved Vicars of the churches, Priests of the locality, *Kaisthanees* and faithful of all the Parishes!

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

By the incalculable mercy and grace of God, the two Seminaries of the Church are on the path of steady growth. Kottayam Old Seminary and Nagpur St. Thomas Seminary have 141 and 75 students respectively undergoing priestly training and BD Degree Course. Apart from this, the Kottayam Seminary has 50 students belonging to various Christian denominations pursuing Master's Degree and Doctorate. Courses of high standards recognized by the Serampore University are conducted for diploma in Liturgical Music at Sruthi School of Liturgical Music and Counseling Course at Prathyasa Counseling Centre attached to Kottayam Seminary. 'Sathyajyothi', the online theological course initiated by St. Thomas Seminary, Nagpur for the laity also functions well. The modernization of the library is completed; construction of Staff Quarters is yet to be finished. Our Nagpur Seminary has completed 25 years. The inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Programmes was conducted at Kottayam Old Seminary on 20th June. A year long celebrations are envisaged for the Jubilee. Last year's flood adversely affected Kottayam Old Seminary and the Seminary slowly overcomes the damages occurred. The prayerful concern for these two Seminaries is the duty of all our faithful. It is really heartening to note that many youngsters in our Church are willing to come forward for the priestly service in a situation when the availability of youngsters for such service is sharply declining elsewhere. It is the need of the hour to find out model students with spiritual strength and conviction who do not yield to the temptations of the modern world and impart them priestly training.

This year the Seminary Day falls on 6th October. Special prayers for the two Seminaries shall be offered during Holy Qurbana on the day and the Seminary Day cover collection and offertory shall be given for the Seminaries. Those parishes which have no Holy Qurbana on the day, the prayers shall be offered on the succeeding day when they have Holy Qurbana. It has come to our notice that some parishes do not send the entire amount collected on Seminary Day. It is a sin against the justice of God. The collected amount along with the offertory on the day and special contributions shall be sent to the Principal, Orthodox Theological Seminary, P. B. No. 98, Kottayam, Kerala 686001, before 31st October 2019. The amount so collected shall be shared proportionately between the two Seminaries.

May the Grace and blessings of 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.

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II

From Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India
On July 24, 2018.