

**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. 30/2020

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,

The Holy Scripture teaches us that after accomplishing the creation of the universe in six days ‘God saw that it was good’. Unfortunately, the innate rhythm of Nature is disturbed consequential to the senseless and selfish intervention of human beings. The world suffers unspeakable miseries due to climate change and global warming. The extent of catastrophic natural calamities and extinction of various species literally frighten us. Nations reel under extreme economic recession. Unbridled exploitation of Nature and the craze for luxury have brought the earth to the verge of a calamity. Only if we give up the present consumerist culture, we can hope to hand over a robust and healthy nature to posterity.

This year, our Church under the leadership of the Ministry of Human Empowerment launches a project titled ‘**Simple and Beautiful**’ to promote a culture of **minimalism** upholding the conservation of Nature, strict economic discipline and a return to simplicity as its aims. Each parish in our Church shall implement the programmes envisaged in the action plan of the project. On the parish level, extravaganza is to be completely avoided in respect of perunnal observance and various constructions. The use of plastic and plastic flex materials is to be a reduced to the minimum and if possible completely avoided. Society has started realizing the dire need of a coming back from the ‘throw away culture’. All families shall take utmost care in conducting wedding celebrations and functions related to baptism, engagement and funerals in the most simple and unassuming manner strictly adhering to the conservation of Nature. We remind you that the virtues of simplicity and minimalism are the core principles of Christianity and Orthodoxy.

The project shall be implemented on the Parish / Diocesan levels in accordance with the instructions given from the Central Office. All our spiritual organizations shall give leadership to implement the project in letter and spirit. Let us all try to maintain the atmosphere of peace, tranquility and contentment through an eco-friendly, simple and peaceful life style.

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 February 10, 2020.