

**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. 67/2020

Blessings to our beloved Vicars of the churches, Priests of the locality, *Kaisthanees* and faithful of all our Parishes and congregations in the regions of America, Europe and the Middle East!

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

These days where we look forward to the Glorious Light of the Resurrection, have been overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this virus is spreading throughout the entire world, we are concerned how it is affecting our faithful especially in North America, Europe and the Middle East.

Our brother Metropolitans provide us updates from America, Europe and the Middle East. We are grieved that our parish communities are either forced to close, or have less than 10 people for prayer and the celebration of Holy Qurbana. We also share the pain of our beloved people in our heart. The unexpected turn in your lives does agonize us a lot. The spread of the virus in America, Europe, Middle East Countries and India is indeed alarming. The Scripture, Traditions and the Holy Fathers of the Church have taught us to stand bold and keep our hope unextinguished in the midst of the growing challenges and crisis. The miseries our faithful both in India and the overseas go through really grieve us. We submit all our priests at the feet of God and pray for complete deliverance as soon as possible. As you know, at Parumala, we spend most of our time at the place where the tomb of St. Gregorios is situated. May the intercession of this holy Father and all the saints help us to overcome this stalemate in a short while and witness a joyful dawn after this night of trouble. Once again we assure our humble prayers for all our beloved.

Beloved children in our Lord, this is a time where we all must not abandon our faith but on the contrary, embrace it even more. We are reminded by the words of the saints who share repeatedly "our home is a little church." Let us use this opportunity to courageously pray together as families that this pandemic will come to an end. It is our prayer that we all will rejoice in the words of the Psalmist "The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation" (Psalm 117:14). Again we assure you of our concern, prayers, and love for each of you. You all remain close to our heart, and we lift you all up in prayer and during the celebration of Holy Qurbana.

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.....

From Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India
On March 24, 2020

Baselios Marthoma Paulose II