

**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 Mathews III Catholicos of the East and  
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas**



**No. 212/2024**

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

Our dearly beloved in the Lord,

We are happy to know that our Theological Seminaries both in Kottayam and Nagpur are functioning well by the Grace of God. These Seminaries are centres of learning as well as sacred places for spiritual growth of our Church. Praise be to God that both the seminaries are flourishing with the immeasurable grace of God and by the heart full help of our faithful. Even today many young people are interested in priestly ministry and students with deep faith in God should be found and given good theological training.

The Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, has 88 BD students and the St. Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur, has 52 BD students for the current academic year. Apart from these, 24 students from different denominations, churches and states are partaking in Master's and Doctorate degrees under the FFRRC programme in Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam.

The construction of the staff quarters has been initiated in Old Seminary Campus. *Sruti* School of Liturgical Music with online music training and sound engineering programme, Syriac department with language training and voice control training programme, *Pratyasha* Counselling Centre with advanced counselling courses and *Divyabodhanam* - a lay theological training programme are all successfully progressing. *Satya Jyoti* - an online course for laymen and Prerana Special School for the Intellectually Disabled Children, launched by Nagpur Seminary are well received by our youth and other believers. Some of the buildings, including the library in Kottayam require repair and renovation.

This year the Seminary Day is on Sunday, 06<sup>th</sup> October 2024. On that day, everyone should pray for the seminary in the middle of the Holy Kurbana in all the churches and everyone should cooperate in the seminary day cover collection and offertory. In churches that do not have Kurbana on that particular day, prayers for the seminary should be offered and financial support collected on the next day of worship. Uninterrupted seminary education is essential to the survival of the Holy Church.. Those who sincerely love the Seminaries shall try to become "Friends of Seminary" by donating one thousand rupees (Rs. 1000) each year. In spite of all our personal as well as parish level financial challenges we have to extend a helping hand to our Seminaries for their smooth functioning.

We earnestly seek the support of the Vicars and the parish level managing committee members to ensure good participation of the parishioners in the Seminary Day Cover Collections and the offertory. The cover collections and offertory may be sent to, **The Principal, Orthodox Theological Seminary, P.B. No. 98, Kottayam, 686 001**, before 30<sup>st</sup> October 2024. The collected amount will be proportionally divided between the two 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.

Our Father who art in Heaven.....

**Baselios Marthoma Mathews III**

From Catholicate Aramana  
Devalokam, Kottayam, Kerala, India  
On August 07, 2024