



St. Mary, Queen of Peace Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy in the USA and Canada

Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos Thottathil
Bishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Eparchy of the USA and Canada

Circular 4/2020

Dear Rt. Rev. Coepiscopoi, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Cordial greetings to you all!

I hope and pray that you all keep good health and happy during this unprecedented period of crisis emerging from the COVID 19 pandemic. I express my profound gratitude to God for His marvelous Providence and to all you for your unique solidarity with the suffering humanity by your prayerful support and charity. It is most sublime to experience that our Sunday School children and MCCL, young people and MCYM, adults and prayer groups, family groups, families and singles, religious sisters and priests, are all engaged in continuous prayers and in accompaniment with the suffering and the caretakers. Please keep up the same spirit of prayer, mutual care and support in our personal, family and parish community lives.

I am pleased to inform you that one of the items of the deliberations during the last Eparchial Pastoral Council was on how we should respond in this coronavirus crisis period. There emerged several inclusive suggestions to reach out in spiritual, pastoral, moral, social modalities. The Commission for Social Activities and Charities of the Pastoral Council was authorized to prepare a guideline for action. Please find attached their proposals which are indeed excellent. I request you all to consider these suggestions seriously and try to respond to this challenging situation in whatever way possible.

During this period of total shutdown, as Sunday Schools are suspended, the faith formation apostolate of our Eparchy under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Liju Thomas Thundiyl, is engaged in preparing a format for online Sunday school classes. You are welcome to submit your suggestions in this regard and I solicit your kind co-operation to keep alive the faith formation program in our Eparchy.

Please note that the Sunday Holy Qurbano and Holy Week services will be live streamed from the Cathedral. Please follow our Eparchial website for details (<http://malankaracatholicna.church>).

The Head and Father of our Church, Bava Thirumeni sends his greetings and blessings. May the Grace of God strengthen us to overcome this period of crisis and trials and as we recite daily Psalms 91, let us place our total trust in the Lord who is our refuge and fortress, who will deliver us from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

In Jesus Christ, the Master Healer and Xavier,

Bishop Philipos Mar Stephanos

Please forward this circular to all our parishioners and all concerned.

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