

**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 Didymus I Catholicos of the East and
Malankara Metropolitan enthroned on the apostolic throne of St. Thomas**



Apostolic Blessings to the Vicars of all our parishes, clergy of the region, trustees of the churches and all others together!

Beloved in the Lord,

We write this letter with great sorrow and heart-ache. We need not tell you that the demise of His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, Metropolitan of the Canada-U.K.-Europe Diocese and one of the senior bishops of our Church is painful for all of us. The commendable pastoral ministry which Fr. K. C. Thomas, who was sent to the capital city of India with the bountiful blessings of the late lamented Catholicos, His Holiness Baselios Geevarghese II, rendered outside Kerala is truly unforgettable. The leadership he provided resulting in the unprecedented development that we see in the Dioceses of Delhi and Bombay today is worthy of attention. After his tenure as the first Metropolitan of the Bombay Diocese, he assumed the role of our first prelate in charge of the American Diocese and strove hard for the harmony and spiritual sustenance of the children of our Church there. For some time, Mar Makarios also served commendably as the Assistant to the Malankara Metropolitan. It was while rendering praiseworthy leadership and in the course of his service as the first Metropolitan of the Canada-U.K.-Europe Diocese that this tragedy.

His ability to face problems with equanimity and creativity was astounding. Mar Makarios had an extraordinary capacity to act befittingly in tense and uncertain situations and influence people with his glib tongue and rare sense of humour. He took special care to maintain his personal contacts and relationships. He was also a noted scholar in church history. Let us praise our Almighty Father for gifting us with this revered father who was a multifaceted genius. The Holy Church shall always cherish his memory. May this departed father be able to offer mediation for us all before our Almighty Father from his new heavenly abode along with the holy angels and our blessed forefathers.

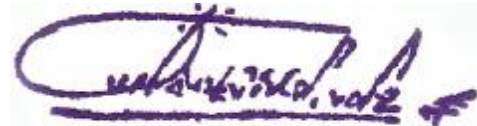
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Beloved children, you know that His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios was looking after the administration of the Canada-U.K.-Europe Diocese as its Metropolitan. With his demise, that post has fallen vacant. Therefore, in accordance with the provision in clause No. 95 of the Constitution of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, you are all hereby informed that we have taken over the administration of the Diocese of Canada-UK-Europe in our capacity as Malankara Metropolitan.

Also we hereby instruct that prayers with incense be offered in honour of the departed Metropolitan in all our churches this the coming Sunday (2nd March 2008) during the course of the Holy Qurbana. You must all pray for his continued stay in the heavenly Jerusalem and eternal bliss in the company of the Saints and Angels.

May the Grace and Blessing of the Almighty God abide in you forever. And may the prayers of the Mother of our God, the Holy Virgin Mary, St. Thomas, Apostle of India, our Holy Fathers Mar Gregorios and Mar Dionysius, and all our Holy Fathers and Mothers be a stronghold for us. Amen.

Our Father who is in Heaven.....

A handwritten signature in purple ink, enclosed in a purple oval. The signature is in Malayalam script and reads 'Baselios Marthoma Didymus I.'.

Catholicate Aramana
Devalokam, Kottayam-38
24th February 2008.

Baselios Marthoma Didymus I.