

# The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

## CATHOLICATE OF THE EAST

BASELIOS MARTHOMA MATHEWS II  
CATHOLICOSE OF  
THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF ST. THOMAS  
AND MALANKARA METROPOLITAN

CATHOLICATE PALACE  
KOTTAYAM 686 038  
KERALA  
INDIA

(SEAL)

No.52/97

21.04.1997

H.G. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Gregorios  
Metropolitan  
Mar Julios Seminary  
Mulanthuruthy 682 314

Your Grace,

This is the reply to your communication dated 8.4.1997. At the outset, it is pointed out that you have addressed me only as Catholicos of the East. As you are aware I am the lawful Malankara Metropolitan also.

There is only one Malankara Church, and Managing Committee and Episcopal Synod. I am the President of the Managing Committee and the Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Church. Your reference to the "Universal Syrian Orthodox Church" and its "Supreme head" as H.H. The Patriarch of Antioch are not true or correct.

I am the present Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan. Your claims as the president of the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church cannot be accepted or recognised. Similarly, there are no two factions and a factional managing committee as you seems to suggest.

In the wake of the Hon'ble Supreme Court decision and in accordance with the resolution of the Managing Committee and the Holy Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Church, I have openly proclaimed that all Bishops of erstwhile patriarch group who in writing swear allegiance to the constitution of the Malankara Church and submit to the authority of the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan will be accommodated in their present places till regularisation in an appropriate manner. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its decree when referring to the continuance of the Status quo on the date of the judgement has clearly stated that "The above direction is subject to the condition that any and every person claiming to hold any office or post in the church shall be bound by and shall swear allegiance to the 1934 constitution.

We hope that all steps necessary to bring about peace and unity in the Malankara Church have already been taken.

We are sorry to remind you that no Metropolitan of the erstwhile patriarch group has chosen to swear allegiance to the constitution as above stated.

Your actions suggest that you defy the said Constitution and the lawful ecclesiastical authorities as under it. If it is otherwise, you are requested to immediately inform me in writing your submission to me as the Catholicos of the East and Malankara Metropolitan.

In view of all what is stated above negotiation as proposed in your communication may not serve any useful purpose. We cannot also recognise the negotiating committee mentioned by you.

Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ.

sd/-  
BASELIOS MARTHOMA MATHEWS II