



BY THE GRACE OF GOD

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Patriarch of Antioch and All the East
Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church



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Apostolic Benediction to our beloved Brother-In-Christ, His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, Their Graces all our other Metropolitans, and our beloved Spiritual children: the Venerable Corepiscopos, the Dedicated Dayroye, the Esteemed Priests, the Rev. Deacons, the Devoted Nuns and all the faithful of our Jacobite Syrian Christian Church in India.

It is with great delight that we are sending you this Apostolic Bull. In his Epistle to the Hebrews the Apostle St. Paul says: *“Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God, consider the outcome of their life, and imitate their faith”*. (Hebrew 13:7). Our Holy Apostolic church has always received and remembered the true messengers of Christ. All Saints were first recognized and accepted in the localities where they lived, worked and died. Later on, as the fame of their saintly lives spread out and as more and more people began to seek their intercession before God, their names were included in the prayers and Holy Services of our Church. We recall our Apostolic Bull No.E265/87 dated October 20, 1987 whereby we permitted you to include the name of St. Thomas the Apostle in the fourth diptych (Thubden) and the names of Patriarch St. Elias III, Maphriyono Saint Baselios Yeldo and Metropolitan St. Gregorios of Parumala in the fifth Thubden of the Holy Eucharist Service. Further by our Apostolic bull No.E71/00, dated April 4, 2000, we had declared the former delegates of the Holy Apostolic See of Antioch and All the East, Mor Gregorios Abdul Jaleel of Parur, and the Late Mor Osthathos Sleebea as Saints. Later we had allowed all the churches in India to remember their names also in the fifth Thubden. We glorify God for having given us the grace to do so.

Now, our Holy Regional Episcopal Synod in India, through our beloved Brother-in-Christ, His Beatitude Catholicos Mor Baselios Thomas I, has besought our attention to the lives and works of the late Maphriyono: Mor Baselios Shakralla of Kandanad, Mor Coorilos Yuyakkim of Mulanthuruthy - the Apostolic delegates to India, and Mor Coorilos Paulose of Panampady, Kerala.

Mor Baselios Shakralla was born in Aleppo, Syria. He was ordained as Maphriyono, in AD 1748, by the then Patriarch of Antioch Moran Mor Ignatius Geevarghese the third, and was later sent to India in response to the request of the Church of Malankara. By suffering many hardships, the blessed Maphriyono and the associates reached Malankara in 1751. He was invited by the then chief of the Malankara Church; Marthoma-V, to protect the true apostolic succession of the church and to safeguard the church from the vexations and disorientation that the other invading forces of the time were trying to induce in the holy church. Though that humble hearted Maphriyono had to face much unpleasant situations, and suffer various agonies, he worked hard to reaffirm and protect the true Antiochian faith of the Malankara Syrian Church. He ordained many priests and deacons. He travelled far and wide through-out Travancore and reclaimed the true erstwhile practices and traditions of the church, which were forcibly perverted by the Portuguese missionaries, and also purged the other rituals and orders alien to the Syrian Orthodox church that had crept-in through the influence of the Nestorian church. His last days were spent at Mattanchery in the church that was built exclusively with his own wealth brought with him. The illustrious Maphriyono Mor Baselios Shakralla was called to eternal rest on 20th October 1764 and was laid to rest at the St. Mary's Church Kandanad. He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

Going through the life and works of Mor Baselios Shakralla, and considering the fact that throughout the year, hundreds of believers are visiting his tomb beseeching intercession, we are convinced of his saintliness. We, therefore, in accordance with the Apostolic authority vested in us, hereby declare Maphriyono Mor Baselios Shakralla as SAINT, and permit you to recite the Kuklyon for the Saints (Zadeeko) at his tomb and whenever he is remembered and his intercession beseeched. Also, we are now pleased to permit you to include the name of Mor Baselios Shakralla in the 'Fifth Thubden', after the name of Saint Baselios Yeldo, in all the Holy Eucharist offered at the St. Mary's Jacobite Syrian Church, Kandanad. On this solemn occasion, we exhort you to imitate his faith and rededicate yourselves to God. May his intercession be a blessing to all.

We extend our Apostolic Blessings to you. May the grace of God be with you through the intercession of St. Virgin Mary - the Mother of God, St. Peter - the Chief of the Apostles, St. Thomas - the Apostle of India, St. Baselios Shakralla, and all other Saints. Amen.