

By the Grace of God
Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan
of the Diocese of Madras of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church



No: 121/E/2015

Blessings to the Vicars, Assistant Vicars, Managing Committee Members and all the faithful in all Our Parishes, Chapels and Congregations of Madras Diocese

Greetings to you in the precious name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Dearly Beloved,

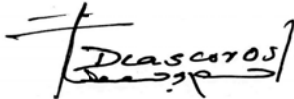
The impact of the recent rainfall and the flood caused by it in Chennai and its surrounding places was so terrible that it has left an indelible impression on the lives of the people. You would be very much aware of the aftermath of the flood which resulted in many people losing their lives and there are numerous people who suffered a lot without food, clothing and shelter. The pain, agony and the fear of the people is totally inexplicable and there are some areas which are still marooned. The sad plight of Our Vinayapuram Aramana as well as Our Parish buildings and Parsonages at Tambaram, Koyambedu, Tiruvottiyur and Neyveli and other places which were severely damaged in the floods is really disturbing Us.

The Diocese in association with Rising Ark, which is a registered NGO comprising of a few youngsters from the Parishes of Our Diocese, as well as Diocesan MGOCSM and OCYM spiritual organization, Our Parishes and several NGO's consisting of Our faithful have undertaken the relief measures which are going on in full swing. The estimated loss to Our Diocese and to Our faithful itself amounts to more than Rupees 3Crores. If this is the case with us we can imagine the value of loss met by others. As the children of the Church it is our duty to help those in need and accordingly we were able lend our helping hands to numerous people residing in different parts of Chennai and outskirts by providing them with food, clothing, provisions and other necessities on a regular basis and it is still going on. We have been receiving promises of help from various Dioceses and individuals as per the instruction in His Holiness Bava Thirumeni's Kalpana. We also remember with gratitude all the Spiritual Organizations of the Church especially the Central OCYM which helped us through their fund raising program called "Sparsham", Central MGOCSM, other Dioceses and Parishes of the Church, philanthropists as well as the NGO's from across the country who helped us in carrying out our activities in the most befitting manner. We exhort all Our Parishes to help us in the rehabilitation of our brethren by collecting funds to their maximum capacity and send it to the Diocesan Office directly or deposit it to: **DIOCESAN MISSION, A/C No: 57002031795 (S.B.T, Annanagar West Branch, Chennai) IFSC Code: SBTR 0000530; Contact Persons: Fr. GIGI MATHEW (DIOCESAN SECRETARY) Phone: + 91 9841146079, 044-25380550; Fr. Pradeep Ponnachan (ARAMANA MANAGER) Phone: +91 8122522462.**

(P.T.O)

This flood has taught us a big lesson that this world is momentary and it is only the Divine Love and Mercy which is eternal. We witnessed that all people joined together to lend their helping hands without any discrimination on wealth, caste, religion etc. We hope and pray that this Advent Season which is the biggest example of Kenosis (Self Emptying) be realized and inculcated in our lives.

May God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diascoros" with a flourish underneath.

Dr. Yuhanon Mar Diascoros Metropolitan
9th December 2015, From Madras Orthodox Bishop's House