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SYRIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE
OF ANTIOCH & ALL THE EAST
BAB TOUMA, P.O.BOX 22260
DAMASCUS - SYRIA



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باب توما - ص.ب. ٢٢٢٦٠
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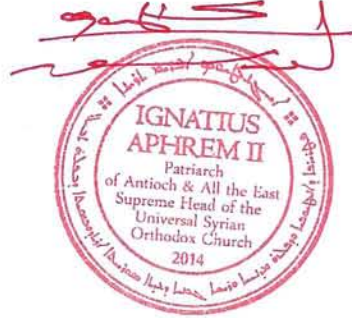
BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Ignatius Aphrem II

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



No. EI.19/24



17-April-2024

Blessings to His Eminence Mor Severios Kuriakose, Metropolitan of the Malankara Syrian Knanaya Archdiocese, Mor Ephraim Seminary, Chingavanam, Kottayam Dt., Kerala, India.

During our recent visit to our Church in Malankara, we were immensely happy to meet with our beloved spiritual children, the members of the Knanaya Community, at the St. John's Dayro Church, Chingavanam. At that occasion we expressed our love and affection towards our beloved Knanaya Community. We likewise reaffirmed our commitment to the wellbeing and progress of this community. It is in this spirit that we are writing to you regarding the many recent painful incidents that happened and are going on in the Knanaya Community.

The latest among them is conducting the passion week services in few Knanaya churches in the United States, in which the priests belonging to the Indian Orthodox Church were leading the church services. We assume that, this rebellion should be with the consent and permission given by you. We see it in connection with the reception accorded by you, few months ago, for the Indian Orthodox Catholicos to the Mor Ephraim Seminary, Chingavanam.

We, also came to know about a circular sent by the Knanaya Vicar General to the churches asking to include in the first Diptych of the Holy Qurbano, the titles which were taken away from you by our Kalpana No. EI.27/20, dated 14-May-2020. Another circular was sent asking the Knanaya priests not to allow



five priests in the United States, who stood in obedience and allegiance to the Holy Throne and to His Eminence Mor Silvanos Ayub – the Metropolitan in Charge of the Region, to offer Services in the Knanaya Churches.

The two defrocked priests from the USA – Markose and Renny, continue to offer 'priestly services' in USA. During their visit to India, they were allowed to offer 'qurbono' in many Knanaya Churches in Kerala, although they are lay people

We would like to know, whether the above defiant activities were done with your knowledge ? Is it a Vicar General or the Managing Committee that decide what changes are to be incorporated in the divine Liturgy of the church ? If they are done without your knowledge and consent, as the Knanaya Metropolitan, who is supposed to correct and lead the Knanaya Community in true faith and discipline, what actions did you take to prevent and correct those insolent activities ? If nothing is done, it has to be interpreted as done by your consent and backing. Then, that shows your rebellion against the Holy Throne, which calls for action against you as an unqualified and powerless administrator. In your letters to us, during the meetings with us and in your public speeches, you claim to have great reverence for the Holy throne. However, we do not see that in your deeds. As shared with you during the recent meeting at Thiruvananthapuram, we are pained by your dubious behaviour, which is damaging the Community and its relationship and position within the Holy Throne.

Hence, we hereby ask you to give us within two weeks, an explanation regarding the questions and the subjects raised above. May God help you. ܩܘܪܒܢܐ

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