

Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

RANNI - NILACKAL DIOCESE

RT. REV. DR. JOSEPH MAR BARNABAS
SUFFRAGAN METROPOLITAN



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സഭാഗൻ മെത്രാപ്പോലീത്താ

Ranni, April 25, 2025

His Eminence Cardinal Kurt Koch
Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity
Via Della Conciliazione- 5, 00193
Vatican City
Rome

Your Eminence,

Fraternal Greetings from the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Kerala, India

With deep sorrow, I have learned of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. We, the children of our Lord in Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Kerala, India, the Holy See of St. Thomas, express to your Eminence, and to the entire Catholic Church our condolences and the prayerful closeness of our Hierarch His Beatitude Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan, members of the Holy Synod, clergy and all lay faithful of the Church at this time of deeply-felt loss.

The whole Christian world has lost one of its outstanding spiritual leaders, courageous and wise in leading people through very difficult times. Pope Francis was a greatest leader of his age committed to the faith of the Church and also known as the guardian of poor through his writings, teachings and many of his remarkable interventions in the past to bring peace and hope to our world. The foundation of his thought and the basis of his prayer, writing, preaching and his work was Jesus Christ, the Gospel and the image of the invisible God.

Your Eminence, I have profound memories with His Holiness Pope Francis, whom I met in 2022 and 2024 in personal audiences. His Holiness with all his greatness of love for the church established the Bilateral Dialogue with the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in 2023 after my first meeting with His Holiness in 2022. Followed by the first Bilateral Meeting in 2023, His Holiness invited the Holy Synod of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church to have a formal meeting with His Holiness at Vatican in 2024. All these are remarkable milestones in the History of both our churches to remember and cherish in our ecumenical journey, together in witnessing our Lord. The leadership of Pope Francis was a blessing, not only for Catholics, but for the whole world. We thank God that he has given us a pope who fostering love and fraternity in all human beings, ministry of bringing comfort and peace to all God's people, and promote care and healing for all God's Creation.

May the memory of Pope Francis long and devoted service to the whole Christendom live on as a challenge and a stimulus to all. May His memory be eternal!

Fraternally Yours in the Lord,

+ Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas
Suffragan Metropolitan of The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church
Member, PRO ORENTE Forum Syriacum

