



# Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

**Apostolic See of St. Thomas**

**DR. THEODOSIUS MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN**

**Apostolic greetings to His Holiness Pope Francis Our brother in Christ,**

In the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, I greet you with heartfelt warmth and profound gratitude on behalf of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church and its episcopate, clergy, and faithful. I write this letter with contentment, thanking Your Holiness for the gracious invitation extended to me and the Holy Episcopal Synod of our Church to a private audience as the head of the Holy See of St. Peter in Vatican. I have deputed His Grace Dr. Joseph Mar Barnabas, the Suffragan Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church to lead the delegation of Eight members of the Holy Episcopal Synod to meet His Holiness at Vatican, in honour of the blessed invitation.

We consider it as a remarkable day in the history of both our churches to remember and cherish our ecumenical journey, together in witnessing our Lord. The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian church has shared her path with Catholic church in the past as well. It began with the presence of the Mar Thoma XX, His Beatitude Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan of Blessed memory in the second Vatican council as an observer. Further on, a few of our bishops and Metropolitans have met the head of the Holy see of St. Peter in Vatican on different occasions, including myself who met Your Holiness a few years back. Our church cherishes all these significant historical occasions we have celebrated together in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are happy to see the development of our ecumenical relationship in the recent past. On December 14, 2023 we presided the first bilateral dialogue meeting between the Mar Thoma and the Catholic churches at Shanthi Giri Ashram, Aluva. It was an efficacious beginning and we look forward for the next meeting in December, 2024. May this meeting of the members of the Holy Synod of the Mar Thoma Church with Your Holiness open new perspectives and possibilities to share our paths for the mission and ministry to our Churches, our people of faith, the future of Christianity and the future of human life. I am unable to attend this historic meeting in person due to health constrains and travel restrictions. My thoughts and prayers will be with the blessed gathering. May this event be for the glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and for the wellness and upliftment of the faithful people of God's Kingdom.

**His Beatitude Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma XXII**

**Metropolitan and Supreme Head of The Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church**

**Of the Holy See of St. Thomas**

November 4, 2024

