



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Metropolitan, St. Thomas Community, Kuttapuzha P. O., Thiruvalla - 689103 Kerala, India.

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

August/September 2024

Blessings and greetings to all the Archbishops and Bishops, Priests and Deacon Fathers, Evangelists and Order of Sisters, and all the Faithful of the Believers Eastern Church worldwide, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen! ✠

My beloved in Christ,

This is my first shepherd's letter to you after having been enthroned to be the Metropolitan Father of Believers Eastern Church. Let me begin by saying how grateful I am for your love and prayers for me. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father, because He has been so faithful to us, and His love has guided us, especially in the recent past.

In this letter, I wish to draw your attention to a few important matters.

Firstly: The **Youth Assembly** in October 2024.

Youth are the future of our church. If they are spiritually strong, vibrant, and active in their local parishes and communities, then our church's future is in safe hands. With that very purpose in mind, we have been praying, preparing, and planning for the Youth Assembly in October 2024, where a selected group of young people representing various dioceses will be coming together. Please do fervent prayers for the Youth Assembly.

Pray for this event in your family prayers; plan prayer meetings in your parish till the Youth Conference ends. Pray for the participants' safe trip and all the preparations in progress and that our young people may be awakened to a holy life in this meeting.

Secondly: There is a huge need for committed young brothers and sisters from our parishes to dedicate their lives to being trained to serve the holy Church. Like Jesus said, the spiritual needs of people are significant, but only a few are there to fulfil those needs. So, what can we do? Pray to the Lord that He will send out many who can fulfill that role. (St. Matthew 9:36–38) Let this be a prayer request which we pray consistently throughout the year in all our prayer meetings – both in the church, and in our families. If you are a parent, pray for your children to dedicate their lives to serving God. Let us first be examples, and others will follow.

Thirdly: The new academic sessions for our Major Seminary, Diocesan Seminaries, and Sisters of the Cross training centres have begun. Pray for dear brothers and sisters undergoing training, that they may dedicate themselves to studying, training, and equipping themselves for God's work.

Fourthly: Let us continue to be faithful in giving to the financial needs of the holy church. St. Paul reminds us of the church in Macedonia, which, even amid deep poverty, gave beyond their ability (2 Cor 8:1–5). Let our holy church also be one such—known for her giving—giving generously, willingly, and faithfully, just like the poor widow who “gave everything she had” (St. Mark 12:41–44). Remember, God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:6, 7), and He promises that when we give to the Lord, He will throw open the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings upon us (Malachi 3:10, 11).

Dear children, before I end, may I remind you that it is our responsibility as a church to pray for the leaders of our country, state, and area (I Tim 2:1–4). Let us do that faithfully. Let us also pray for the country of Bangladesh, which has been hit by violence and instability - that peace and stability will return to the country quickly. Please also pray for those regions affected by natural calamities, that God the creator will have mercy and compassion on His people

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, as our reposed Metropolitan, Athanasius Yohan I of blessed memory, used to say, the **Book of Acts of the Apostles is our blueprint**; it is the compass, the fundamental guide to our Orthodox faith. Read this book frequently; let us apply those principles individually, collectively, as a parish, and thus grow together as a church.

As we journey ahead, let us keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus, the Lord of the Holy Church, daily drawing strength and inspiration to live a life pleasing to Him. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in our mission to love and serve, and may all our efforts bear fruit, lasting fruit, bringing glory, honour, worship, reverence, and awe to the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and always ✠.

In Christ, your Father,



Moran Mor Samuel Theophilus
Metropolitan

Date : 12 August 2024

Place : World Church Headquarters

P.S: Please make sure this is translated into all regional languages and read in all parishes for the encouragement of the faithful.