

CHURCH HISTORY

Lesson 16

Our Eparchies and the Metropolitanans

Eparchies of Syro-Malankara Catholic Church

Metropolitanans

St. Mary Queen of Peace Eparchy of USA & Canada

IN THIS CHAPTER

We learn about different eparchies of Malankara Catholic Church. Through this chapter we try:

TO UNDERSTAND

The providential formation and growth of the Malankara Catholic Church over the years across the globe:

TO APPRECIATE

The ministry of proclamation of the Gospel through our special call for Reunion and Evangelization.

LESSON 16

OUR EPARCHIES AND THE METROPOLITANS

Remember:

The Malankara Catholic Hierarchy was established on June 11, 1932 through the Apostolic Decree 'Christo Pastorum Principi'.

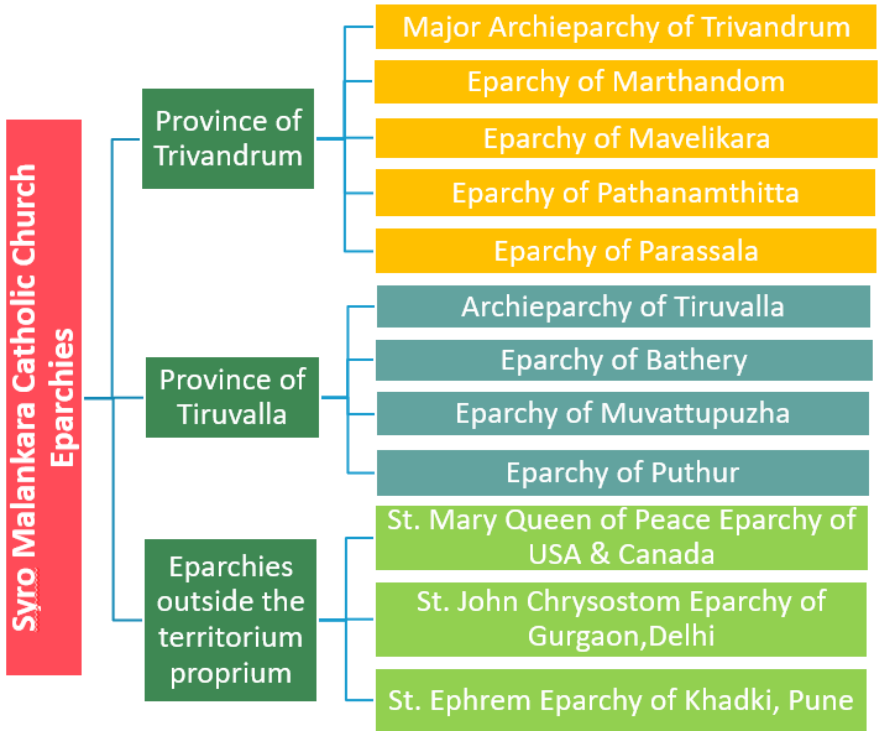
EPARCHIES OF SYRO MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

- There are Twelve Eparchies in the Syro Malankara Catholic Church today.
- 9 Eparchies are grouped into two Metropolitan Provinces.
- The rest are constituted outside the proper territory (*territorium proprium*) of the Church.

Do you know?

Malankara Catholic Church started with just five members. But God has made the Malankara Catholic Church sprout and grow with 12 eparchies, 1,100 parishes, 500,000 faithful, over 1,000 priests and about 2,500 religious. Syro Malankara Catholic Church continues its mission by establishing educational institutions, hospitals, social welfare institutions and numerous mission centers inside and outside India.

A glance at my church today



SYRO MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMUNITIES

The Holy See has appointed an **Apostolic Visitor** for the faithful of the following countries:

- **Europe**
 - United Kingdom
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Northern Ireland – Belfast
 - Germany
 - Switzerland
 - Austria
 - Italy
- **Oceania**
 - Australia
 - New Zealand

The Faithful of the **Gulf Region** are directly under the **Major Archbishop Catholicos**.

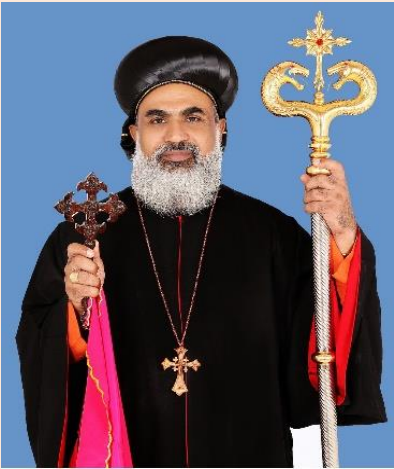


METROPOLITANS OF SYRO MALANKARA CATHOLIC CHURCH

The following are the Bishops of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church today:



*His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal
Cleemis Catholicos*



*His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar
Koorilos*

**Title: Cardinal, Major
Archbishop-Catholicos**

Head & Father of the Church

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Major Archbishop of the
Major Archieparchy of
Trivandrum**

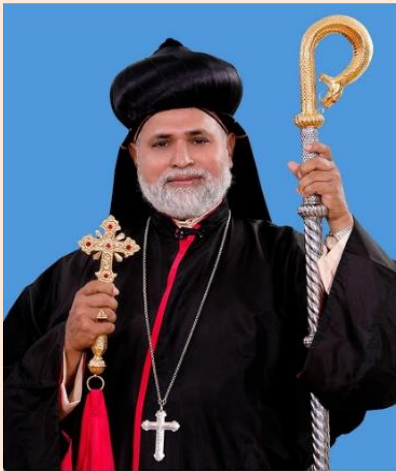
**Title: Metropolitan
Archbishop**

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Archbishop of the
Archieparchy of Tiruvalla**



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar
Igantios*



*His Excellency Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar
Chrysostom*

Title: Bishop
Eparchy (Diocese):
Bishop of the Eparchy of
Mavelikkara

Title: Bishop
Eparchy (Diocese):
Bishop Emeritus of the
Eparchy of Pathanamthitta



His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thomas



His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Julios

Title: Bishop

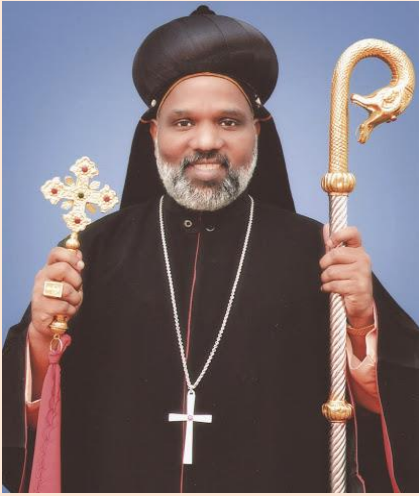
Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Bathery**

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop Emeritus of the
Eparchy of Muvattupuzha**



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Vincent
Mar Paulos*



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas
Mar Eusebius*

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Marthandom**

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Parassala**



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos
Mar Stephanos*



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas
Mar Anthonios*

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of USA
& Canada**

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Gurgaon, Delhi**



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas
Mar Anthonios*



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Samuel
Mar Irenios*

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Khadki, Pune**

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Eparchy of
Pathanamthitta**



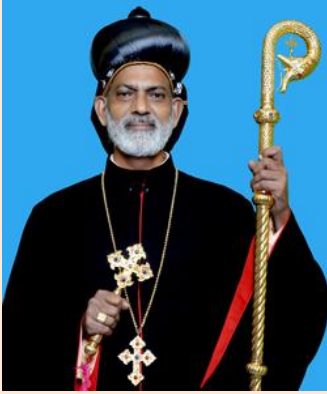
*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr.
Yoohanon Mar Theodosius*

Title: Bishop
Eparchy (Diocese):
Bishop of the Eparchy of
Muvattupuzha



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr.
Geevarghese Mar Makarios*

Title: Bishop
Eparchy (Diocese):
Bishop of the Eparchy of
Puthur



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr.
Mathews Mar Polycarpus*



*His Excellency Most Rev. Dr.
Antony Mar Silvanos*

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Auxiliary Bishop of the Major
Archieparchy of Trivandrum**

Title: Bishop

Eparchy (Diocese):

**Bishop of the Major
Archiepiscopal Curia**

MAJOR ARCHIEPARCHY OF TRIVANDRUM



Patron Saint: St. Peter

The Major Archieparchy has been established as Metropolitan Eparchy on March 12, 1933.

Metropolitan Archbishops Mar Ivanios (1930-1953) and Mar Gregorios (1953 – 1994) have led the Metropolitan Eparchy through the path of its growth.

During the period of the third Metropolitan Archbishop Cyril Mar Baselios (1994-2007), Syro Malankara Catholic Church was raised to the status of Major Archiepiscopal Church. Archbishop Cyril Mar Baselios was appointed as the first Major Archbishop-Catholicos.

His Beatitude Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, Major Archbishop-Catholicos of the Malankara Catholic Church and the Major Archbishop of Trivandrum is the present head and father of the Malankara Catholic Church.

MAJOR ARCHBISHOP-CATHOLICOS OF TRIVANDRUM



The Major Archbishop and Catholicos, Cardinal Moran Mar Baselios Cleemis, was born on 15 June 1959 at Mukkoor, Mallappally in the district of Pathanamthitta, Kerala, India.

He was ordained bishop on 15th August 2001 and served as the Apostolic Visitor of Europe and North America.

On 11 September 2003 His Excellency Isaac Mar Cleemis was appointed Bishop of the Eparchy of Tiruvalla.

When the Eparchy of Tiruvalla was raised to the status of Archieparchy. His Excellency Isaac Mar Cleemis was appointed the Metropolitan Archbishop.

On 10 February 2007 His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI confirmed the election of Mar Cleemis as the Father and Head of the Malankara Catholic Church upon the demise of Major Archbishop-Catholicos Cyril Baselios.

He was appointed Cardinal on the 24 October 2012, at the age of fifty-three having the honor of being the youngest among the Cardinals. His appointment as a Cardinal is the crowning point of Syro-Malankara Catholic Major Archiepiscopal Church.

EPARCHY OF MARTHANDOM



***Patron Saints: St. Paul
and St. Therese of Lisieux***

The Metropolitan Eparchy of Trivandrum was bifurcated and the Eparchy of Marthandom came into existence on December 16, 1996.

Lawrence Mar Ephraem, who was the Auxiliary of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Trivandrum, was appointed as the first Bishop of Marthandom. The installation services were held on January 23, 1997 and he passed away on 8th April 1997.

Yoochanon Mar Chrysostom was appointed as the second Bishop of the Eparchy of Marthandom in 1998. He served the Eparchy until he was appointed as the Bishop of Eparchy of Pathanamthitta in 2010.

The present bishop of the Eparchy is Vincent Mar Paulos who was appointed in January 2010. He was born at Anakkarai on 22nd January, 1964 and became a priest on 2nd January 1991. He was ordained bishop on 13th March, 2010 and enthroned as the bishop of the Eparchy of Marthandom on 14th March, 2010.

EPARCHY OF MAVELIKARA



Patron Saint:
Blessed Virgin Mary

The Eparchy of Mavelikara was established on 1 January 2007.

His Excellency Joshua Mar Ignathios, the then Auxiliary of the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum, was appointed as its first Bishop.

Joshua Mar Ignathios was born at Kizhakketheruvu on 24th May 1950.

He received the priesthood in April, 1978 and was anointed Bishop Auxiliary of Trivandrum on 29th June 1998.

He was enthroned as Bishop of Mavelikara on 16 February 2007.

EPARCHY OF PATHANAMTHITTA



Patron Saint:

St. Thomas the Apostle

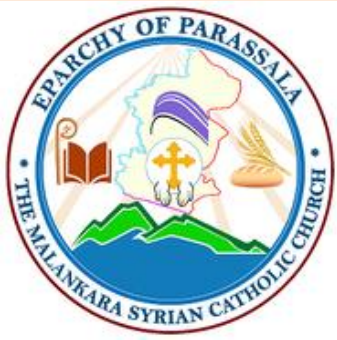
The Eparchy of Pathanamthitta was established on 25 January 2010 and His Excellency Yoochanon Mar Chrysostom was appointed the first Bishop of this Eparchy.

Yoochanon Mar Chrysostom was born at Kadammanitta on 19th May 1944. He became priest on 5th May 1973. He served in the missions of America and became Bishop of the Eparchy of Marthadom before appointed as the first Bishop of the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta. His Excellency Yoochanon Mar Chrysostom retired on 7 June 2019. He is currently Bishop Emeritus.

His Excellency Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios was appointed the second Eparchial Bishop of the Eparchy and the present bishop of the eparchy. Most Rev. Samuel Mar Irenios was born on 13 May 1952 hails from Kadammanitta in Pathanamthitta District. He was appointed the Auxillary Bishop of the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum on 25 January 2010.

He took charge of the office as the Co-adjutor Bishop of the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta on 29 April 2018. On 8 June 2019 he was appointed the second Eparchial Bishop of the Eparchy of Pathanamthitta.

EPARCHY OF PARASSALA



Patron Saint:

***St. Teresa of Kolkata
(Mother Teresa)***

The Eparchy of Parassala was established on 5 August 2017 bifurcating the Major Archieparchy of Trivandrum.

The inauguration of the newly erected Eparchy and the enthronement of its first Bishop Thomas Mar Eusebius was on 23 September 2017.

He was the first Bishop of the Eparchy of USA and Canada.

Most Rev. Dr. Thomas was Eusebius, was born on 6 June 1961 at Mylapra in Pathanamthitta District.

ARCHIEPARCHY OF TIRUVALLA



Patron Saint:

***St. John, the Evangelist
and***

St. Theresa of Child Jesus

The Eparchy of Tiruvalla was established on 6th November 1933 and raised to the status of Archieparchy in 2006.

Mar Theophilos (1933-1950), Mar Severios (1950-1955), Mar Athanasios (1955-1977), Mar Yoohanon (1978-1987) and Mar Timotheos (1988-2003) gave leadership to this Eparchy.

Isaac Mar Cleemis led the Eparchy of Tiruvalla until he was appointed as the Major Archbishop from 2003-2007.

Archbishop Thomas Mar Koorilos leads the Archieparchy since 2007.

ARCHBISHOP THOMAS MAR KOORILOS



Thomas Mar Koorilos was born at Niranam on 19th October 1958.

He was ordained priest on 30th December 1985.

He was appointed as Auxiliary bishop of Tiruvalla and Titular bishop of Tigisi in Mauretania on July 17, 1997.

In January 2003, he was appointed as the first bishop of Muvattupuzha.

He was appointed as the Archbishop of Tiruvalla in 2007.

EPARCHY OF BATHERY



Patron Saint:
St. Thomas the Apostle

The Eparchy of Tiruvalla was bifurcated on 28th October 1978 and the Eparchy of Bathery was established as the third Eparchy of the Malankara Church.

Cyril Mar Baselios was the first Bishop of Bathery.

After his appointment as Metropolitan Archbishop of Trivandrum, Geevarghese Mar Divannasios undertook the rule of the Eparchy of Bathery from 1996 to 2010.

On 2010, Joseph Mar Thomas took charge as the bishop of the Eparchy of Bathery. He was born at Vadasserikkara on 13 May, 1952. He was ordained as priest on 22nd December 1978.

He was appointed as the Auxiliary Bishop of Trivandrum, Apostolic Visitor of Europe and North America and Titular Bishop of Sicilibba in January 2005. In 2010 he was ordained as the bishop of the Eparchy of Bathery.

EPARCHY OF MUVATTUPUZHA



Patron Saint:
Mary, Mother of God

The Eparchy of Muvattupuzha established on 6th February 2003 is a perfect example of the growth of the Malankara Catholic Church by dividing the Eparchy of Tiruvalla.

Thomas Mar Koorilos was the first bishop of the Eparchy of Muvattupuzha.

Bishop Abraham Mar Julios was appointed as the bishop in 2008. He is currently Bishop Emeritus.

Bishop Yoohanon Mar Theodosius was appointed the Coadjutor Bishop of Muvattupuzha on 10th April 2018. He also serves as the Apostolic Visitor to Europe and Oceania.

On 12 June 2019 he was appointed the Eparchial Bishop of the Eparchy of Muvattupuzha.

EPARCHY OF PUTHUR



Patron Saint: St. Joseph

The Eparchy of Puthur was established on 25 January 2010.

This is the first Malankara Syrian Catholic Eparchy in the State of Karnataka.

His Excellency Geevarghese Mar Divannasios, who was then the Bishop of Bathery, was transferred to the new See of Puthur. He was enthroned as the Bishop of Puthur on 15 April 2010.

Bishop Divannasios submitted his resignation due to ill health and was called to eternal rest on 16 January 2018.

Most Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Makarios, was born on 16 July 1958. He was appointed the second Bishop of the Eparchy of Puthur on 21 September 2017.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM EPARCHY OF GURGAON, DELHI



Patron Saint:
St. John Chrysostom

In February 2007, Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas was appointed Apostolic Visitor of the Extraterritorial Regions in India (MCCETRI) by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

On 26 March 2015, His Holiness Pope Francis erected the St. John Chrysostom Eparchy of Gurgaon and Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas OIC, was appointed as its first Bishop.

The Eparchy of Gurgaon is established under the name of St. John Chrysostom (the Greek name for Mar Ivanios). The inauguration of the St. John Chrysostom Eparchy of Gurgaon and the installation of Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas took place on 1 May 2015.

After the unexpected demise of Most Rev. Dr. Jacob Mar Barnabas on August 26, 2021, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Antonios was appointed as the second bishop of the Eparchy.

ST. EPHREM EPARCHY OF KHADKI, PUNE



The establishment of Bethany Ashram Pune on 24 October 1955 can be considered as the beginning of the mission of the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church in Pune.

From Pune the Bethany Fathers extended pastoral care of the Malankara Syrian Catholic faithful in Mumbai-Pune regions.

In 1997, Rev. Fr. John Berchmans OIC, a veteran missionary & scholar, was appointed as the Coordinator of the Malankara Syrian Catholics outside its proper territory.

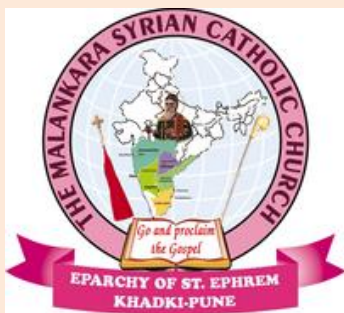
During his leadership, the communities were organized under the banner of 'The Malankara Catholic Church Extra Territorial Regions in India (MCCETRI)' and achieved tremendous growth in various cities in central and northern India.

Later in February 2007 Bishop Jacob Mar Barnabas was appointed Apostolic Visitor by Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

Subsequently, by the providence of God, on 26 March 2015 the new Exarchate of Khadki in Pune was erected.



ST. EPHREM EPARCHY OF KHADKI, PUNE



Patron Saint:
St. Ephrem

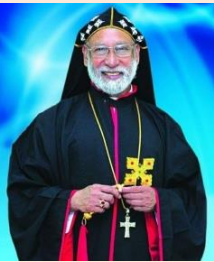
The Exarchate of Khadki in Pune is named after St. Ephrem.

His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Bishop Thomas Mar Anthonios Valiyavilayil OIC as its first Apostolic Exarch and was installed on 30 May 2015.

The Exarchate extends over the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, together with parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, in India.

On 23 November 2019 it was elevated to an Eparchy.

ST. MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE EPARCHY OF USA & CANADA



The official inauguration of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission of North America was on August 15, 1984 in a meeting held at Fordham University, New York.

The meeting was led by His Grace the Most Rev. Benedict Mar Gregorios, the Metropolitan Archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church.

From 1984 to 2001, the missions in North America were guided by Rev. Melamparambil John Ramban Rev. Kalloor John Corepiscopo who became Most Rev. Yoohanon Mar Chrysostom, Rev. Mannikarott Geevarghese Corepiscopo and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Dr. Peter Kochery Corepiscopo as the Priests-in-charge and Coordinators.

ST. MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE EPARCHY OF USA & CANADA

On June 18, 2001, the Holy Father Pope John Paul II appointed Rev. Msgr. Dr. Isaac Thottunkal (now Moran Mor Baselios Cardinal Cleemis Catholicos) as the Apostolic Visitor for the Syro-Malankara Catholic Faithful in North America and Europe.

On October 2, 2003 Most Rev. Isaac Mar Cleemis was appointed as the Bishop of the Eparchy of Tiruvalla.

After an extended period on January 5, 2005, Rev. Dr. Joseph Konnathu was appointed as Apostolic Visitor for the Syro Malankara Catholic Faithful in North America and Europe.

He served the Syro-Malankara Catholic church in North America and Europe until he was appointed as the Bishop of the Eparchy of Bathery.

ST. MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE EPARCHY OF USA & CANADA



Patron Saint:

St. Mary, Queen of Peace

On 14 July 2010, the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI established an Apostolic Exarchate for the Malankara Syrian Catholic Church in the United States of America.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Naickamparambil of the Major Archeparchy of Trivandrum was appointed the first Bishop of the new Exarchate and Apostolic Visitor to Canada and Europe.

On 18 December 2015 His Holiness Pope Francis elevated the Exarchate to the status of an Eparchy and extended its territory to include the region of Canada also.

His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius was appointed the first bishop of the Eparchy. On 27 July 2017 His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius was transferred to the new Diocese of Parassala.

ST. MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE EPARCHY OF USA & CANADA



His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Philipos Mar Stephanos was appointed the second bishop of the Eparchy and was installed on 28th October 2017 at the St. Vincent de Paul in Elmont, New York.

At present there are sixteen parishes and a few mission stations in the Eparchy.

Around 11,500 members are there in the Eparchy. There are 18 Malankara Catholic priests working in the Eparchy and sixteen other Malankara Catholic priests working in different Latin Catholic Dioceses in the USA.

34 Religious Sisters are rendering their ministry in this region.

Three Bethany convents and seven Daughters of Mary convents are situated in the new Eparchy.

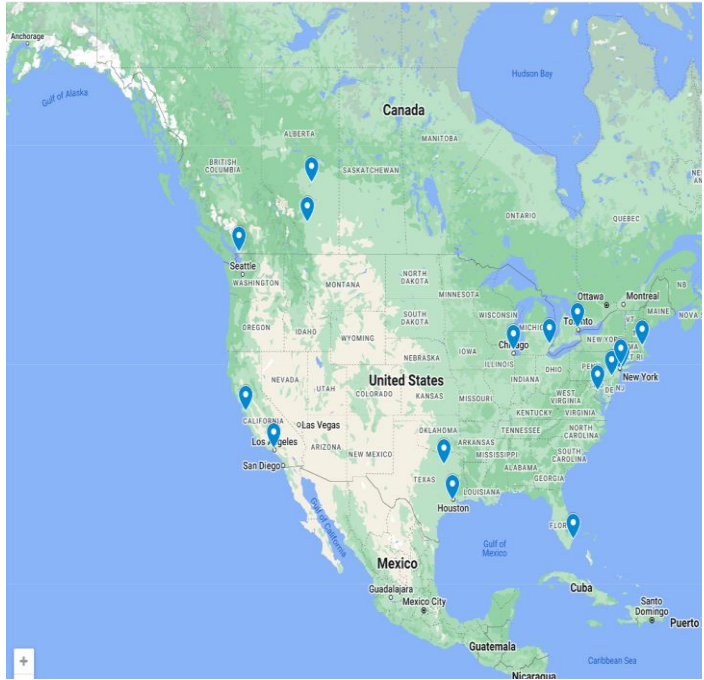
The Apostolates of MCA, MCYM, Fathers' Forum, Mothers' Forum, Department of Faith Formation, MCCL etc. greatly help in the growth of this Church in this continent.



My Diocese

Parishes/Missions

- St. Vincent De Paul Syro-Malankara Cathedr...
- Boston Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission
- Calgary Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Joseph's Syro-Malankara Catholic Churc...
- Edmonton Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Mission, ...
- St. Peter's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- Los Angeles Syro-Malankara Catholic Missio...
- St. Thomas Syro-Malankara Catholic Church...
- St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, P...
- St. Peter's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Jude Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, Sa...
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Mary's Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, ...
- St. Joseph's Syro-Malankara Catholic Missio...



Lesson Assessment

1. How many eparchies (dioceses) are there in Malankara Catholic Church today?
2. Malankara Catholic Church Hierarchy was established on _____.
3. The hierarchy of the Malankara Catholic Church Hierarchy was established through the Apostolic Decree _____.
4. _____ is the current head and Catholicos of the Malankara Catholic Church.
5. What is the name of the Eparchy that you belong to and who is the present head of your Eparchy?
6. Who is the patron saint of your eparchy?
7. When was your eparchy elevated to the status of eparchy?
8. Who was the first bishop of your eparchy?