



Christian Conference of Asia

• Payap University, Muang, Chiang Mai 50000 Thailand
Tel: +66-(0)53-243906, 243907 Fax: +66-(0)53-247303

5 May 2021

His Beatitude Dr Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan
Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church

Your Beatitude,

It is with profound grief that the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) received the news about the sad demise of the Emeritus Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, who had been the 20th Malankara Metropolitan.

The CCA joins with the members of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in India as well as the Diaspora Marthomites across the world to thank God for the life and ministry of Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan. He was a unique gift of God and his contributions to the church and to society were unparalleled in ecclesiastical and ecumenical history. As a person who has been working with the Asian and global ecumenical movement during the past several years, I have had innumerable opportunities to learn about the contributions of Mar Chrysostom Valiya Metropolitan to the Asian and the global ecumenical movement in manifold ways; those occasions were proud moments for me as a member of the Mar Thoma Church to witness the respect and recognition extended to my own Metropolitan by international ecumenical family members across the world.

Mar Chrysostom Metropolitan's ecumenical leadership was evinced over the decades through various national and international ecumenical fellowships and organisations. He had represented the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church at the CCA General Assemblies held in Bangkok, Thailand (1967), Singapore (1973), and Penang, Malaysia (1977). His leadership in the Church and Society division of the CCA in the 1960s and 1970s was greatly appreciated and acknowledged. Chrysostom Thirumeni was an official delegate to the World Council of Churches (WCC) Assemblies held in Evanston, USA (1954), New Delhi, India (1961) and Uppsala, Sweden (1968). His leadership as the President of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) and various other Indian ecumenical organizations over the decades were greatly acknowledged. His participation in various national, Asian and global ecumenical events have always stimulated the discussions and set new directions.

Mar Chrysostom's passion for building bridges between churches and different faith communities and his keen interest in nurturing relations with the leaders of other faiths have influenced many. A large number of people and communities beyond ecclesial boundaries cherish the love and affection rendered to many as well as the significant leadership this great humanist has offered over the years. The CCA thanks God for the life and witness of Dr Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan, and we offer our sympathy to all members of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church.

With prayers,

Yours along the journey,

Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, CCA