



Christian Conference of Asia

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

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To
The Holy Episcopal Synod of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Eminences,

It is with profound grief that we received the news of the sad demise of the Supreme Head of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, His Holiness Catholicos Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II. On behalf of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), I convey our heartfelt condolences to all the faithful of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in India and across the world.

His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Paulose II was an unassuming ecclesiastical leader and he had always been concerned about the poor and the needy in society. The philanthropic services His Holiness had initiated and the special interest he showed in motivating the congregations and the faithful of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church provided new dimensions to the diaconal ministry of the church.

I have had several opportunities to meet with His Holiness Catholicos Paulose II in India as well as overseas during the past decade. I was always impressed with the simplicity, sincerity, and the warm-heartedness of such a high-profile ecclesiastical leader, and I will ever cherish the love and affection I received from the Bava Thirumeni.

With the passing away of His Holiness, the Church in India has lost one more of its senior ecclesiastical leaders who has been a distinguished representative of Indian Christians, and who was a voice on their behalf in the wider social milieu, especially at a time as crucial as that of today.

In the last phase of his earthly life, this faithful servant of our Lord was greatly tried by suffering which he accepted with peace of mind. Even at the time of the trial His Holiness had to undergo during the past days, he remained a faithful witness who trusted in the goodness and the mercy of God. He will remain in the memory and prayers of many faithful across the world; let us console all those who are bereaved now and believe that the Lord will welcome him into His glory!

On behalf of the churches in Asia and the Asian ecumenical movement, I again offer our deep sympathy and prayers.

May his memory be eternal.

Yours along the journey,

Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary, Christian Conference of Asia