



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

Office of the Metropolitan, Synod Secretariat, St. Thomas Community, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

May/June 2023

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

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We are now in the Season of Pentecost. This is the time of year when the church remembers the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in the upper room and ask for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our lives as well. In Acts 1:8, it says that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to be witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ. I'd like to use this time to remind you how each of us can be an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ in our own lives.

Daily Prayer at Home: It's a part of our church's culture and tradition that our family prays together every day. In fact, you will soon get a booklet that tells you how to do it. During our prayer time, one of the things we do is light the candle on our altar tables. We do this to remind ourselves that Jesus is the Light of the World (St. John 8:12), but also that we are the Light of the World (St. Matt 5: 14-16). When people in our neighbourhood find out that your family prays, they will surely come to you when they have a need, like a sick child, a child with an exam, or some other problem. You become a witness for Jesus in this way.

We are called to be witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ by telling people about His love through words and actions. One way to do this is to send young men and women to serve the church and the community. Our Sisters of Compassion do this by helping the poor, widows, children living on the streets, the forgotten, people with leprosy, and many others. Why don't you pray that one of your daughters will be chosen by God to be a Sister of Compassion in the holy church? Pray that at least one young sister in your church will decide to serve God. Our young men can serve the community by meeting their spiritual needs by becoming priests, evangelists, and missionaries for the holy church. Pray that God will call one of your sons to serve the holy church. Pray for the young men in your family and parish, that God will call them to serve Him through the holy church. Let's commit to sending our young men and women to church and community service.

My dear children in Christ, please remember that if we live for the Lord and are His witnesses, we will have to go through suffering, whether it's persecution, misunderstandings, or other problems. "For Christ's sake, it has been given to you not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake" (Phil. 1:29). Please think of problems and suffering as a gift from Christ, a way to fulfil His will in our lives and share in His grace.

Let's keep praying for our leaders and for peace and prosperity in our countries, states, and neighbourhoods, just like we've always done.

May we do well in everything and be healthy, just as our souls do (3 John 1:2), and may the Holy Spirit give us the strength to live each day for Him.

In service of the Holy Church,

Your Father in Christ,



Athanasius Yohan I Metropolitan

Date : 12 May 2023

Place : Holy Synod

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