



Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church

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Dukrana-2015

Dear Rev. Fathers, Sisters, Coordinators, brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The Syro-Malabar Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants wishes you festal greetings of Dukrana – 2015!

Dukrana is a great feast of St. Thomas Christians. We set apart this day not only for commemorating St. Thomas, the Apostle of our Faith, but also for deepening and proclaiming our Christian Faith after the example of St. Thomas, the Apostle.

St. Thomas was an ardent disciple of Jesus who loved Jesus with “all the heart, mind and strength”. He wanted to have personal experience of what he came to know from others about Jesus. He declared that he would believe in Jesus only if he could see and experience Jesus personally, and Jesus did approve Thomas’ demand. A true knowledge of Jesus supported by personal experience was the kernel of St. Thomas’ profession of faith in Jesus, “My Lord and My God” (Jn. 20.28).

Imbibing from this true and authentic love of St. Thomas for Jesus, let us make use of all the opportunities available to us to know Jesus and to experience him personally. We have to personalize what we hear and know about Jesus from various sources. A personal experience of Jesus is a must to bear witness to Jesus effectively in the modern world.

At the same time, let us remember the many zealous missionaries of our Church - priests, sisters and laity - who dedicate their whole lives to spread their faith in Jesus. They not only live their faith in Jesus in various circumstances, but also hand over to the younger generation what they believe. The Church is supported and flourished by her many such Children. We remember them with gratitude and pray for them on this great feast of our Church.

Please be reminded also that *Dukarana*, the St. Thomas Day, is *Sabhadinam* for us, the Syro-Malabar Christians. We pray for our Church in a special way and join in her missionary endeavors through our financial contributions. The Sabhadniam collection in the Church is meant for the expenses of the Curia and Central office at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkannad.

I wish you once again a Happy Feast of Dukrana!

Yours in our Lord,

Bp. Sebastian Vadakel

Chairman, Syro-Malabar Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of the Migrants



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