



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1579

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

EXHIBIT #

of the Chancellor

312) 751-5220

June 7, 1986

Dear Members of the Knanaya Community,

As you may know, matters relating to the various Oriental rites of the Church are governed by the Congregation for Oriental Churches in Rome, which is headed by Cardinal Lourdasamy. In light of the differences of opinion in the community over the norms to be followed for membership in the Ministry to Knanaya Catholics, Cardinal Bernardin presented the issue to Rome. Recently he received word from the oriental Congregation stating that "the special ministry for the Knanaya community can be faithfully conducted, only on the basis that those Knanaya Catholics who married non-Knanaya spouses enjoy equal status in the ministry. This Congregation does not accept that the customary practice followed in Kerala, of excluding from the community those who marry non-Knanaya spouses, is extensible to the United States of America."

The Congregation also went on to point out that the Bishop of Kottayam has no authority over the faithful outside of his territory and that the community here in Chicago is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Chicago.

We realize that soem will be pleased with this decision and some will not, however everyone should receive this decision in a spirit of humility and charity. Everyone must do his or her part to build bridges of understanding and to move on from here in a spirit of brotherhood and cooperation.

We will be writing to the Bishop of Kottayam again, now that these norms have been decided, and we will ask him to send a priest to serve the community. We hope that it will not be too long before a priest arrives to minister to the Knanaya Catholics. In the meantime we ask you to support the leadership of the Interim Committee which is authorized to plan and organize the spiritual services to the community.

With cordial good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert L. Kealy
Chancellor