



CONGREGATIO  
PRO ECCLESIIS ORIENTALIBUS

00193 Roma December 18, 2017  
Via della Conciliazione, 34  
Indirizzo postale: 00120 Città del Vaticano

Prot. N. 76/2011

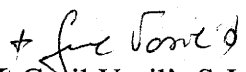
Dear Mr. Ritty,

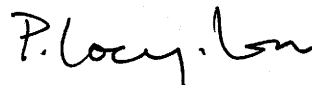
I am pleased to acknowledge your Letter of 1 November 2017 (Prot. No. 76/2011), by which you requested an update on the situation of the Knanaya in the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago in light of the Apostolic Visitation of H.E. Msgr. Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke (Canada).

I trust that the Letter addressed to H.E. Msgr. Jacob Angadiath, here enclosed in copy, will serve this purpose.

With cordial best regards and prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
✠ Cyril Vasil', S.J.  
Archbishop Secretary

  
Fr. Lorenzo Lorusso, O.P.  
Undersecretary

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Mr. J. Michael RITTY, J.C.L., Ph.D.  
Canonical Counsel  
29 Lower Copeland Hill Road  
FEURA BUSH, NEW YORK  
U.S.A.

Encl.: 1



CONGREGATIO  
PRO ECCLESIIS ORIENTALIBUS

Prot. N. 76/2011

Congr. Chiese Orientali  
Allegato N° 1  
al Foglio Prot. N° 76/2011

December 18, 2017  
00193 Roma  
Via della Conciliazione, 34  
Indirizzo postale: 00120 Città del Vaticano

Your Excellency,

On 3 November 2015, this Congregation appointed an Apostolic Visitor *ad referendum*, in the person of H.E. Msgr. Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke (Canada), to study the situation of the Knanaya community throughout the world. Bishop Mulhall submitted his report on 15 March 2017, and it was subsequently presented to the Members of this Dicastery, meeting in Plenary Session from 9-12 October 2017.

In a Letter of 15 November 2017, addressed to the Archbishop of Kottayam, H.E. Msgr. Mathew Moolakkatt, I observed: "While the study of Bishop Mulhall offered hopeful avenues to explore in the years ahead, the basic position of this Congregation remains unchanged. Specifically, while the link, which has developed between the practice of endogamy and ecclesial life, has been tolerated *de facto* in the *territorium proprium*, it is not to be permitted elsewhere."

This position is consistent with that found in the *Instructions* given by this Congregation to Your Excellency at the outset of your episcopal ministry in the United States: "pastoral care [should not] make any allowance for endogamy to play a role in defining the membership of faithful in any mission or parish established by the Eparchy" (*Instructions* of 21 November 2001).

While this Congregation appreciates the motives with which Your Excellency adopted a policy, by Letter of 19 September 2014, regarding certain parishes in your circumscription, it is clear that this policy conflicts with the position reaffirmed above. The intent of allowing so-called Knanaya parishes in the diaspora is to have a place where the social and cultural bonds of this community can be specially fostered without, however, limiting either membership or participation in the parish only to persons of Knanayan lineage. You are, therefore, kindly requested to remind your people that no parish or mission is to be considered endogamous in any sense (please note that the adverb "strictly" used in your Letter of 20 December 2012 should be avoided in the interests of clarity).

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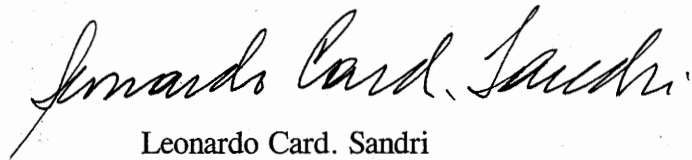
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His Excellency the Most Reverend  
Mar Jacob ANGADIATH  
Bishop of St. Thomas the Apostle of Chicago  
of Syro-Malabars  
372 S. Prairie Avenue  
ELMHURST, IL 60126-4020  
U.S.A.

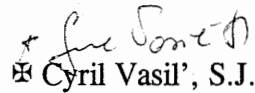
As Your Excellency knows, a group of the faithful belonging to Saint Mary's Knanaya Catholic Parish and Sacred Heart Knanaya Catholic Parish has complained about the directive of 19 September 2014. A copy of the present Letter has been sent to their canonical counsel, Mr. J. Michael Ritty, as well as to the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church and the Archbishop of Kottayam.

Thanking Your Excellency for your understanding, I wish you every grace and blessing.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Leonardo Card. Sandri  
Prefect



✠ Cyril Vasil', S.J.  
Archbishop Secretary

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