

DOCUMENTATION

The Appointment Order of Fr Kuriakose Elias Chavara as the Vicar General of the Syrian Catholic Church of Malabar

We, Bernardine of St Theresa, Metropolitan of Pharsalia and Vicar Apostolic of Malabar,

To our dearly beloved Fr Kuriakose Chavara, Prior of the monastery of Mannanam and of the other Monasteries,

For a long time, for reason of my ill health and bodily weakness resulting from my advanced age, I am experiencing serious difficulties in administering the churches under my labour. Moreover, we do not see the spiritual fruits of our labour, be it among the priests or among the faithful. There are also a few problems of recent origin. As the Council of Trent has already prescribed that Vicar General could be constituted where it may be found necessary, we constitute you Vicar General so that you may take care of the spiritual needs of both the priests and the faithful and govern the Syrian Churches under our jurisdiction. Now, I confer upon you all the powers and rights according to the law of the Holy Catholic Church and those which I delegate to you through my special decree, as I am convinced of your ability, virtues, knowledge and courage so necessary to fulfil the responsibility of this office. We pray that the Lord may give you His celestial blessings so that you may be able to minister to the spiritual needs of the priests and faithful of the Syrian Churches and to govern those churches under my jurisdiction.

Sd/

Mgr Bernardine of St Theresa
Vicar Apostolic

Sd/

Secretary, Fr Peter Thomas Giuanar
From Verapoly, 8 June 1861