



**HOMILY OF CARDINAL LEONARDO SANDRI, PREFECT OF  
THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES  
AT VESPERS ON THE EVE OF THE CANONIZATIONS OF  
BL. CHAVARA AND EUPHRASIA, BASILICA OF MARIA MAGGIORE, ROME**

*22 November 2014*



*Your Beatitude, dear brother bishops, Reverend Father Paul Achandy and Sister Sancta, all you men and women religious, dear brothers and sisters in Christ:*

*The entire Church celebrates the canonizations of saints. Tomorrow, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, will confirm that there are six more saints in heaven, including a son and a daughter of the Syro-Malabar Church: Blessed Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Blessed Euphrasia of the Sacred Heart. These luminous figures indicate to us the way to heaven by their lives so full of charity, the sign of the Kingdom of which we are all citizens (Phil. 3:20).*

*These two saints have much in common. They are in the first place exemplary members of the ancient Syrian tradition preserved in the Syro-Malabar Church. They prove that diversity of expression of the Christian tradition takes nothing from its authentic nature. Only the true faith and the fountains of grace, entrusted to us by the Apostles, are capable of making ordinary mortals into glorious saints. To all the faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church, I say: you have reason to rejoice at the imminent canonization of these two representatives of your spiritual tradition, for they are proof of the efficacy and power of the way that you, too, are walking.*

*Additionally, Blessed Kuriakose and Blessed Euphrasia both arrived at sanctity following the path marked out by the Carmelite tradition. This is, firstly, a path of prayer: a persevering and determined search to see God. As the Prophet Elias encountered the living God, so also Carmelites seek His face, most especially by contemplating the Incarnate Word. Both saints were frequently immersed in loving converse with God, especially before the Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Kuriakose stood out for his*

