

# FROM THE APOSTOLIC SEE OF MALANKARA METROPOLITAN DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA

**Circular No.200**

**Blessings to you all the Vicars, Resident Clergy, Trustees  
and Members of all the Parishes under our authority.**

Dearly beloved in the Lord,

We are duty-bound to help our clergy and family in their illness. The cost of medicine and treatment keep escalating day by day. Expenses for treatment have become prohibitively high. Clergy Medical fund is being collected to provide financial help to the clergy for medical treatment. This year the collection was made on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

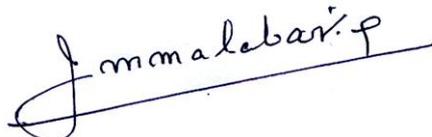
The amount collected through offertory from the respective parishes should be remitted fully in the Sabha Office if not already done.

A special scheme was introduced from October 1, 2005 for the medical aid of clergy. This scheme having no link with Insurance Companies and on completion of 9 years has incurred excess expenditure of over Rs.50 lakhs. It is to be specially noted that this excess expenditure has occurred even after Rs.3,000/- each for clergy in active service and Rs.6,000/- each for retired clergy is being provided by the church annually to those who take membership in this scheme. Though I know that it is very difficult to continue this scheme with this huge liability the Sabha Council has decided to continue this scheme without increasing the membership fees. Accordingly, clergy in active service should remit Rs.5,000/- in the Sabha Office every year which includes the individual contribution of Rs.2,500/- and the equal share of Rs.2,500/- from the parishes or institutions they serve before September 30, 2014. If an achen is unable to renew his membership before the 30<sup>th</sup> September, the trustees of concerned parish/institution should deduct the share of contribution from the salary of vicar and remit the same along with the share of the Parish in the Sabha Office. If the clergy is serving more than one parish, remittance should be made by each parish in proportion to the salary paid. Retired and incapacitated clergy should remit Rs.2,000/- as their share. The clergies serving in India and are members of the scheme are eligible to get Rs.25,000/- toward O.P. and Rs.75,000/- towards I.P. totaling Rs.1 lakh. It is obligatory on the part of all the clergies to become the members of this scheme by remitting the amount before **September 30<sup>th</sup> 2014**, without which no amount will be considered towards medical bill. Therefore, it is mandatory that all the clergies should take membership in order that this scheme should be continued. Clergies and parish members are requested to send donations also for this cause.

Dearly beloved, let us pray that our clergy be sufficiently blessed and empowered in body, mind and spirit to serve in the Church and the world for the glory of God.

Grace be with you all.

Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 from Poolatheen, Tiruvalla



**Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan**

