

A Biographical Note On The Author

His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas was born as the son of Mr. K. P. Korulla and Mrs. Mariamma Korulla Katharackparambil on August 9th, 1924 in Thuruthuply Vengola, Perumbavoor, the native place of H. H. Augen Baselios, Catholicos of the East. His family name is Thombra. After his studies in the Punoor Girls' School and Valayan chirungara Boys' School, he was a student of the M. G. M. High School Kuruppampady, run by the illustrious headmaster Rev. Fr. P. A. Paulose Cheerathottam (later Corepiscopa). He was ordained a deacon by H. H. Geevarghese II Baselios Catholicos of the East in 1943 at his church, St. Thomas cheriapally, Thuruthuply. He passed the Intermediate from the C. M. S. College Kottayam and B.Sc. from the Madras Christian College Tambaram. He worked in the M. G. M. High School Kuruppampady for two years. He underwent a special course in Syriac along with three other deacons under Augen Mar Themothios. In the meanwhile he was on the staff of the M. D. High School Kottayam. He was ordained a priest by H. G. Augen Mar Themothios, in 1951.

He served the Secunderabad Orthodox Church as its first Vicar for four years. During this period, he passed M. Sc. from the Osmania University. Then he served the St. Peter and St. Paul's Orthodox Church Valayanchirangara as the successor of his uncle Rev. Fr. K. P. Paulose B.D. at the Theological Seminary, Kottayam, for two years. Then he was appointed as the Vicar of the Calcutta parish. He organized eight parishes in the suburbs of Calcutta conducting services once in two months. During this time he passed B. D. from the Serampore College as an external candidate. Then he was transferred to Jabalapur where he served for two years. At Jabalapur he had his higher studies in Greek. He was then appointed on the staff of the Theological Seminary, Kottayam. He worked there as full time warden for five years. He then chose the work as chaplain in the Medical Mission Hospital Kolencherry where he worked for six years. It was during this period that he had to undergo a very serious surgical operation at the Vellore Medical Mission Hospital.

He was consecrated bishop in 1978. He served the Angamali and Kottayam Dioceses as assistant bishop. He became the first Metropolitan of the newly formed Idukki Diocese in 1982. He served there for ten years. The Idukki Medical Center was started by him. He was the president of the Corporate Colleges, the president of the Marth Mariam Samajam, the president of the Balika Samajam and the president of the Temperance movement of the Church.

He came to America in 1992 as the assistant to the Catholicos for the American Diocese. He was enthroned as the Metropolitan of the American Diocese in 1993.

Recently the American Diocese is divided into two dioceses: 1) The North East American Diocese 2) South West American Diocese.

Mathews Mar Barnabas continues as the Metropolitan of the North East American Diocese. He is the author of some very valuable books in Malayalam and English. He continually writes articles in Malankara Sabha Magazine.

Zachariah Mar Nicholovos

Assitant Metropolitan