

## **The blood of the New Covenant**

**(Mathews Barnabas Metropolitan)**

The reception of the blood of our Lord in the Holy Qurbana is the renewal of our covenant with our Lord. The blood of the old covenant was sprinkled on the Israelites (Ex. 24:6-8). The blood of Christ is drunk by the Christians as a renewal of their covenant with Christ.

In Exodus chapter 24, we find how Moses prepared the Israelites for the covenant. They were told how the law of God will be read and how the people were to respond saying that they will obey the law of God. Then the blood of the sacrifice will be sprinkled on the people. The symbolic meaning was that they would not break the law of God even at the shedding of their own blood. But unfortunately they broke the law of God by worshipping a calf of gold.

Coming to the book of Jeremiah we find God telling about the new covenant. See Jeremiah 31:31-34. This new covenant was fulfilled through the blood of Christ. See St. Matthew 26:28. When we realize that our Lord's blood was shed for our salvation, we make a resolution that we will never sin again. There we keep the covenant even to the point of shedding our own blood.

Do we make a whole hearted endeavor to lead a Christ-like life in the Holy Qurbana?