

KNANAYA CATHOLIC CONGRESS OF LOS ANGELES
20633 Septo St., Chatsworth
California, 91311, USA.

August 30, 1996

His Excellency Bishop Karottembrayil
Apostolic Delegate in North America
for the Syro-Malabar Church.

Your Excellency,

We, the office bearers and members of the Knanaya Catholic Congress of Los Angeles, congratulate Your Excellency's appointment as Apostolic Delegate for us. We whole heartily welcome Your Excellency to Los Angeles.

The Knanaya Catholic Congress of Los Angeles (KCCLA) was started in 1992 with membership open to all Knanaya Catholics living in and around Los Angeles. At present the association has 120 members. It is affiliated to Knanaya Catholic Congress of North America (KCCNA). We also started a youth wing of the association with the title Knanaya Catholic Youth League (KCYL) Los Angeles. It is affiliated to Knanaya Catholic Youth League of North America.

The Knanaya Catholics, as Your Excellency and the Holy See know, are the descendants of the 72 families who migrated from Syria to Cranganore in India in 345 AD under the leadership of Thomas of Kinai and Bishop Joseph of Urah. This group who migrated as a missionary expedition remained till this day as an endogamous community fostering its traditions and cultural heritage. His Holiness Pope St. Pius X has established the Eparchy of Kottayam for this community with personal jurisdiction for its bishop in 1911. We have been members of this eparchy till we left India.

We, the Knanaya Catholics who have recently migrated from India to Los Angeles, also like to keep up our cultural and religious traditions in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. We have always been loyal to the Catholic Church and at present we are cooperating with the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

We hereby appeal to the Holy See through Your Excellency for Syro-Malabar mission or parish in Los Angeles. We need it to preserve the Syro-Malabar liturgy here. While being a part of it, we like to keep up our Knanaya Catholic Congress and Knanaya Catholic Youth League. We are planning to start Knanaya Catholic Women's Forum. These organizations help us to keep up our identity and traditions.

Just as Knanaya Catholics have separate parishes in India to keep up their unity and traditions, we also like to have our own community to take care of our pastoral needs. Priests are available in the Eparchy of Kottayam for service here. At present we shall work in cooperation with all the Syro-Malabar faithful in Los Angeles while keeping up our associations. Later we would like to have our own parish lead by our own priests.

We wish all success in Your Excellency's mission and expect a favorable consideration on our request.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

James Chettiath (President)

Annie Thekkekarote (Secretary)

Jacob Mutholath (Treasurer)