

Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian church of the East

Holy Synod

*The faithful of the Assyrian Church of the East, preserved by our Lord, receive prayers
and blessings*

The Holy Synod was convoked in Chicago, USA, under the presidency of His Holiness Mar Dinkha IV, Catholicos-Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. The Synod was convened from October 31, 2005 to November 7, 2005, discussing with great ardor concerning the circumstances in which our Church finds itself.

In this Synod we discussed the issue of Mar Bawai Soro, and on account of the fact that he did not acquiesce to the decisions which the Synod had decreed on his person, the Synod has unanimously decreed that Mar Bawai Soro, bishop of Western California is suspended from his episcopal authority. This decision was reached according to the synodical canons of Mar Dadisho (424 A.D.), Mar Isaac (410 A.D.) and the ecumenical ones (see Tract 9, Chapter 5 of the collection of Mar Odisho of Suwa).

As of November 11, 2005 he has no authority to serve any of the liturgical services of the Church, such as the ordination of priests and deacons, according to the synodical canons of the Assyrian Church of the East; neither may he speak on behalf of the Assyrian Church of the East at all.

We inform you that suspension has also been placed upon Rev. Samuel Dinkha and Rev. Michael Baroota, formerly parish priests of the Mar Yosip Khnanisho in San

Jose (California), on account of their not complying with the decrees of the Holy Synod concerning Mar Bawai Soro. The decree concerning these two priests has taken place in accordance with Canon 23 of the Synod of Mar Yosip (Patriarch) and Canon 6 of Mar Khazqiel (Patriarch, 576 A.D.) and Canon 18 of Mar Isho'yahb (Patriarch).

We direct all priests, deacons and all those in holy orders, that they are not permitted to participate with them at all in any ecclesiastical service and ministerial rites. Whoever transgresses this decree shall receive the same ecclesiastical censor.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all forever; Amen.

+Khnania Dinkha IV

By Grace: Catholicos-Patriarch
of the Assyrian Church of the East

+Narsai Elias Debaz
Metropolitan of Lebanon, Europe and Syria;
Patriarchal Vicar

+Gewargis Sliwa
Metropolitan of Iraq,
Russia and Jordan

+Meelis Zaia
Bishop of Australia & New Zealand;
Secretary of the Holy Synod

+Odisho Awraham
Bishop of Europe

+Afram Athniel
Bishop of Syria

December 7, 2005