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LIGHT FROM THE EAST

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 1951

Vol. 4

Published Bi-monthly by The Patriarchal Council, Inc.  
6346 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago 20

No. 5

### NEW LIFE FOR CHURCH OF IRAN

#### Three Priests, Three Deacons Ordained

New life and hope dawned for the Church of the East in Iran when three priests and three deacons were admitted to holy orders by Mar Yokhanan, an Assyrian bishop consecrated in the Roumanian Greek Orthodox Church.

Consent and approval of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII, Patriarch of the East, was given in advance to these ordinations.

Mar Yokhanan is bishop in Baghdad. In view of the fact that there is at present no bishop of the Church of the East in Iran, and that there are great difficulties in the way of one of the bishops of Iraq in visiting Iran or of the candidates visiting Iraq, the offer of Mar Yokhanan to ordain these men was accepted by the Patriarch with appreciation and deep gratitude.

This act on the part of a bishop of the Greek Orthodox Church will always be remembered as a token of the true Christian spirit of fellowship.

All these men who had previous knowledge of the Aramaic language, received a short course of training from The Rev. Ruwil Arsanis in the theological school in Tehran.



He was assisted in their training by Samuel Kelaita, Visitor General of the Church in Iran. Mr. Kelaita and all the members of the Committee of the Church in Iran are to be congratulated for their splendid work in this matter.

The ordination took place on the feast of the Transfiguration, August 6 (Eastern style) in Tehran.

Prior to ordination all the ordinees signed a statement pledging their loyalty to the faith, dogmas and canonical law of the Church of the East, and to the Patriarchal See.

Those ordained, and the places where they will serve, are as follows:

Kashisha Pera bar Yonan Karam, of the village of Chamakiye of the district of Rezaieh, priest for the church of Mart Maryam, in the city of Rezaieh (Urumia).

Kashisha Shmuel bar Yosip beth Kulaya, of Gugtapa, of the district of Rezaieh, priest for Mar Zaya church of Gugtapa, also in the district of Rezaieh.

Kashisha Gewargia bar Mikhaïl of the village of Chira Charai, of Diz, in Kurdistan, priest for the city of Abadan.

Haidou Bawad of Chira Charai, Diz, Shamasha for the city of Tehran.

Simon bar Yosip of the village of Khajig, of Barwar, (Qudchanis) Shamasha for the city of Tehran.

Eshai bar Yonan Rando, of the village of Alsan Jilu, Shamasha for the city of Tehran.

Following the ordinations, Mar Yokhanan, and Father Arsanis, along with members of the committee, Shimun Benyamin, Mushey Barku, and a number of other deacons, were all invited to the home of Visitor General Kelaita for lunch.

The Visitor General spoke words of advice and encouragement to the newly ordained, as did other speakers, including Rev. Ruwil Arsanis and others.

Prayers were offered for long life and happiness for His Holiness the Patriarch, praying for God's blessing on his work for the prosperity of the church all over the world.

Official letters have been addressed by His Holiness to the parishes of the newly ordained priests, formally announcing their ordination and appointment.

These ordinations are the first great fruit of the Patriarchal Pence which supports the general educational fund of the Patriarchal See.

With this example of what can be accomplished, members of the church throughout the world are confidently expected to increase their support of the Patriarchal Pence.



THE CHALDEAN CHURCH CHOIR ASSOCIATION,  
East Fort, Trichur.

## **CARDINAL TISSERANT'S NAME LINKED TO BRAZILIAN HOAX**

In the last issue of the Light From The East was published an extract from Joseph Mar Joseph, containing a statement made by Mar Yosip Ghanima, Uniate Patriarch of the Chaldeans, denying that the Vatican had anything to do with Yusuf Malik, a Chaldean living in Beirut, Lebanon, Loko Shliman Badawi and their associates in the Brazil fraud. These are the actual words of Mar Ghanima as reported:

"All that story, (meaning immigration of Assyrians to Brazil,) is false, and is only intended for deceiving of men. Our lord the Pope also was very much annoyed by propagation of such rumors about the Assyrians, stating that they were about to become Catholics (Romans) and that our lord the Pope, was helping them to immigrate to Brazil. All that affair is a lie. Do not believe it."

Light From The East has now received a photostat copy of a letter dated October 14, 1950 written by Daniel Malik Ismail, Shamasha Ishai Beth Malik Warda, Leon Shimunaya and Yusuf Malik, the Syriac original of which is produced in the Aramaic section of this issue. Here is a literal translation of the letter:

"The Honored Malik Loko Peace. We believe you are well and in good health, just as we are even here through God's mercy. We learned from the Hon. Yusuf Malik that you have left Brazil against his will. We had written to you not to leave Brazil until the agreement was completed. But you left it, that is to say you did the same thing as did Daniel and Yusuf - and now you don't want to stay any longer even in Paris, so that you may correspond with Rome and other places so that this question may be expedited. Do not come back from there with empty hands. It will be bad, and will break our party for good. We, along with all the members of the Committee consider it necessary that you must not come back but stay there until Cardinal Tisserant has completed the question. According to your correspondence with Yusuf Malik, Cardinal Tisserant has written to Rio Janeiro for expediting of the question. Therefore, do not come back until you have received his answer."

In view of the statement made by Mar Ghanima on his return from a visit to the Pope, this letter is of utmost importance. For it is a well known fact that these men have published widely that the Pope himself was interested in the question of immigration of Assyrians from Syria to Brazil, and that the Vatican would provide the funds for the immigration and settlement in Brazil. It is through these assurances that these men were able to rob these unfortunate Assyrians of thousands of dollars.

The same fraud is being perpetrated again by these same men. This time they are telling the Assyrians they will immigrate them to Madagascar. In view of these facts, a statement by the Vatican clarifying its position in the matter would be most welcome. It would put a final end to the fraud which Light From The East feels confident the Vatican will deplore no less.

### **Who is Cardinal Tisserant?**

Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, prefect of the Roman Curia for Oriental churches, secretary of the congregation for Eastern Churches, is a native of France. During World War I he rose to be a French general staff officer,

and did brilliant service for his country. He rose quickly in the hierarchy of the Roman Church, and in 1936 was created a cardinal. It is said that if he had been an Italian he might have been elected Pope.

He is a brilliant diplomat and statesman. He has knowledge of many languages, both ancient and modern. He spent many years travelling in the Middle East, mostly on horseback.

### **Patriarch Receives Golden Miter from Faithful Church of India**

On the thirtieth anniversary of the consecration of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII to the apostolic patriarchal see of the East, a tide of rejoicing and celebration swept throughout the Church of the East all over the world.

On that occasion the Church in India was second to none in its expressions of loyalty and devotion to the Patriarch. As a tangible form of this devotion, a beautiful pastoral staff was at the time sent as a gift by the Church to His Holiness.

With it came a Cross of Blessing, which was a gift of Mr. M.C. Thomas Raphael.

These were not considered enough by the members of this ancient church. They wanted to present the Patriarch also with a miter.

Mr. O.D. Ousep, a faithful son of the church, donated the money for the miter, which he has presented to His Holiness in the name of his own family and that of the church as a whole.

Mr. Ousep's father, Mr. Ovunghal A. Dedassykutty, who is now of the age of 80, and served for many years as a trustee of the church, along with several other persons including the Rev. P.T. John, a faithful priest, also share in the sending of the miter.

The miter has now reached the Patriarch, as will be seen from the picture. It is truly a work of art such as can only be wrought by the masterful hands of Indian craftsmen, who in this case are also members of the apostolic church.

The design was drawn by the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker, president of the Patriarchal Council, with the approval of the Patriarch.

The miter, of pure gold studded with many jewels, is of ancient Assyrian design. On its front is a cross of Christ, as it appears on the monument in China, encircled by the rivers Tigris and Euphrates symbolizing the cradle of the Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East, and the expansion to both East and West from Beth Nahreen.

There are nine jewels on the edges of the four arms of the cross, betokening the nine angelic ranks and the nine orders in the hierarchy of the church.

Around the upper rim are seven jewels, betokening the seven sacraments of the church. Around the base of the miter are twelve small crosses, each with a jewel at its center. These are symbolic of the twelve apostles.

Beneath the Cross is the winged sun, with the words "Mshikha Zkha"--Christ has conquered--which is symbolic of the rapid spread of the Gospel. Beneath this is an open Bible, with the words "Qamleh Maran" "Our Lord has Come",--The message of the Resurrection, and foundation of the Christian faith.

His Holiness received this gift with the deepest gratitude as a symbol of the love of the faithful of the Church of India, who through so many centuries of adversity have held high the banner of the faith of Christ.

He sends his apostolic patriarchal blessing to all members of the Church of India, especially to O.D. Ousep and his family.



His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII  
Catholicos Patriarch of the East, with Miter, Pastoral Staff and Cross of  
Blessing all of gold, sent from India.

**LIGHT FROM THE EAST**  
Published Bi-monthly by  
**THE PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL,**  
**INC.**

6345 N. Sheridan Road,  
Chicago

Phone, HOLlycourt 5-2037

Subscription rates.....\$3 per year  
Single copies, 50 cents

The Patriarchal Council, Inc.  
Rev. Isaac Rehana, President  
Narsay Serges, secretary-treasurer

**NEW PRESIDENT OF  
PATRIARCHAL COUNCIL NAMED**

Because of the pressure of parish duties the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker has been compelled to resign his post of president of the Patriarchal Council, Inc. He is priest-in-charge of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Chicago, and also formerly religion editor of the Chicago Herald-American. He took the presidency of the Council at the request of His Holiness Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII more than three years ago. The Rev. Isaac Rehana has been named president of the council in his stead.

On Sept. 15 a dinner was given at the Patriarchal by His Holiness in recognition of the Rev. Irwin St. John Tucker's faithful service as president of the Patriarchal Council. The dinner was attended by all the members of the Council from Chicago and Gary. The secretary, Narsey Serges, presented Father Tucker with a beautiful pen and pencil set, engraved with his name.

The Patriarch spoke, expressing his gratitude and appreciation of the services rendered by Father Tucker, who made an appropriate response.

**GABRIEL SARGIS HEADS  
ASSYRIAN Nat'l. Association**

Gabriel Sargis, a member of the Patriarchal Council, Inc., and former president of the Church Committee of the church of Mar Sargis, Chicago, has been elected president of the Assyrian National Association of Chicago.

Mr. Sargis also is chairman of the committee of arrangements in charge of the National Convention of the Church of the East, which is to convene in Chicago in November. His address will be found in his advertisement printed in this issue of LIGHT FROM THE EAST.

**100 SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED  
AT ONCE FROM HABBANIYAH**

Joseph Jitto, representative in Habbaniyah of LIGHT FROM THE EAST, has forwarded to this paper a list of 100 subscribers, both renewals and new readers. Mr. Jitto is to be thanked and congratulated for his splendid efforts. LIGHT FROM THE EAST hopes others, both in the United States and elsewhere, will follow his example.

**PICNICS**

During the summer picnics were given by the various parishes in the United States. Substantial sums were realized for support of local parishes, and also in aid of the publication fund of this paper. From this picnic income, the Chicago parish of Mar Sargis is paying for this splendid issue of our paper, which we trust will be a matter of pride to every member of that congregation, and of gratitude to all other churches and communities everywhere.

## **VISIT OF MAR ESHOO SARGIS TO HABBANIYAH**

### **New Bishop greeted in old Home**

Bishop Mar Sargis visited the camp of Habbaniyah, Iraq, at 5:30 p.m., on Saturday, June 16, 1951, being the eve of the feast of Pentecost. This was his first visit as bishop to the camp.

His Lordship was received by a number of Assyrian Scouts, Girl Guides, and a large number of deacons. He was taken in procession, singing appropriate church hymns, to the Church of Mar Gewargis. There the bishop said Evening Prayer at the head of a large congregation and addressed them. After the service, he was escorted to the Employes Assyrian Club where he was tendered a reception. Among those present were the station commander R.K. Zaya, and Squadron Leader Harris, commanding the Civil Cantonment, along with parish priests.

The bishop was accompanied by archdeacon Yosip of Jilu and archdeacon Ahikar, priest in charge of the church in Habbaniyah.

Special credit should be given church committee members, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, who entertained the audience with tea and cakes.

Prior to his consecration as bishop, Mar Eshoo served as priest at Habbaniyah. Photo on Page 9

Reported by J. Wallace.

## **QURBANA DUKRANA IN INDIA HONORS MEMORY OF TWO BISHOPS OF IRAQ**

A Qurbana Dukrana in memory of the two bishops of Iraq who recently died was held by the Church of India on receipt of this sad news.

Mar Zaya Sargis, bishop of Jilu, and Mar Yahabalaha, bishop of Barwar, expired within a few months of one another. The Qurbana was celebrated by the Rev. P.T. John in the church of Mar Aprim, at Trichur, South India. He was assisted by Shamasha M.O. Varghese. A large congregation attended.

In the picture printed herewith, showing this congregation, donors of the Patriarchal regalia are seated next Father John. They are M.O. Thomakutty, trustees of the church; C.T. Raphael, giver of the Cross of Blessing, and O.D. Ousep, giver of the miter described in this issue.



## **ARAMAIC LANGUAGE**

by Youkhana Yacu,  
Habbaniyah, Iraq.

The Aramaic language was first spoken in the land of Aram, where it gained its name. Aram is that region now referred to as Iraq and Syria. The Hebrew calls it Aram-Naharaim. In Greek it is called Mesopotamia.

The Aramaic language once spread from Aram to Palestine and was the universal language of the business of the world.

In that language Jesus and his Apostles spoke. The holy books were written in that tongue. When the Roman emperors found the Christian Church was the dominant force in their empire, they ordered the Gospels translated into Greek.

In that Aramaic language the Holy Apostolic and Catholic Church of the East has spread knowledge of the Gospel throughout the world to the people both of the East and West.

All the faithful of this Church, and Assyrians in particular, must be deeply interested in studying this immortal tongue, the Holy Language.

If it is a pleasure to converse with the ordinary man we meet in every day life, how much greater is the privilege of reading in books the noblest and most spiritual thoughts of such great writers as Mar Aprim (303-373), Mar Narsai (347-502) and the Metropolitan of Saurwa (1209-1318) The thousands of books written by them are scheduled in the back of "Marganita".

These writers of world-wide fame, who are not of an age but for all time, are the highest pinnacle of glory.

We should not let their struggle be lost, but love and cherish the high ideals of their magnificent work written in the Aramaic language.

## **JOSEPH HOLLERBACH**

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## GLORY OF THE CHURCH OF THE EAST

by Shimshon DBeth Malik Rasho De Gangachin

At this most critical point in the history of Christianity, efforts of Light From the East to restore the ancient Church of the East to that sublime glory which was its due centuries ago will be a great contribution towards the building of a better world to live in.

They also may help to recover vision to the politically blinded masses of the earth, enabling them to foresee the destruction they are building with their own hands for the extinction of the human race.

True missionary enterprise in the East can only be undertaken by the people of the East, and by none else. By the East, I mean the cradle of civilisation, birthplace of the greatest prophets of God in the history of mankind, not what the present political word East implies.

It is an occasion for great rejoicing to see our ancient Church revive again and follow in the path of its forefathers in exploring the four corners of sphere, preaching the holy gospel and conquering more for the camp of righteousness.

Our greatest need today is for great institutions of learning such as those old universities of Edessa and Nisibin to produce men wise enough to live unabashed in this atomic age.

Cathedrals will crumble and fall in time, but wisdom and knowledge remain like precious stones. Our greatest disadvantage, shortage of numbers, can be overcome if the scholars at such institutions can be trained in all the arts of science and philosophy, and simultaneously as master theologians. If this can be achieved, our next generation will be enabled to serve both mankind and God, because service to humanity without service to God is like a motto without an ideal.

Young men everywhere look to you for leadership in the campaign for truth.



Mar Eshoo Sargis (Right) Bishop of Jilu, Bazand Rehkan with Archdeacon Yosih (left) and Archdeacon Ahikhar (with hat).

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 תמוז תש"ט

ממשלת ישראל  
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ממשלת ישראל  
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