

**FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
SACRED MUSIC & COMMUNICATIONS
DR. JOSEPH MAR THOMA METROPOLITAN**

Circular No.287

Beloved in Christ,

We observe Sunday May 28th as Sacred Music Sunday. We set apart this day to pray for our parish choirs and their dedicated services and for the rededication of the choir members. Special Order of Service prepared by the DSMC should be used and special preference be given to singing songs on that day. You are exhorted to take part in the offertory collection for the Sacred Music Department.

Department of Sacred Music & Communications, the music wing of the church was visualized through the farsightedness and effort by the late Most Rev. Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan in 1969. As a result, sacred music could be organized and used in a systematic way with a theological and musical intent.

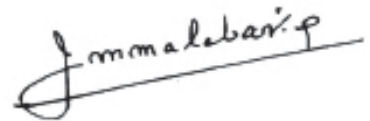
Our worship in the Syriac tradition has a dense musical content with its vivid eight-fold colors. Systematic training and deep God-consciousness are essential to make it heartfelt. It is a remarkable fact that songs extracted from the life experiences of many devotees like Sadhu Kochukunju Upadesi, Vidwankutty, and Mosevalsalam are an integral part of our liturgical life. Most of the meaningful prayers that we often use in our sacraments are poetic in character. Beloved, let us not forget that it is when we all sing with devotion and discipline that our impoverished praises are blended with that of the heavenly hosts. We pray that our singing help us to grow in faith.

DSMC is doing a commendable job in organizing the choirs which function at the parish level through systematic training, and periodic audition tests. Parish choirs must register with DSMC. Unregistered choirs are not permitted to have representation in the Kaisthana Samithi. Once in every five years each choir must conduct audition test in accordance with the DSMC constitution. This is to let new members get an opportunity for choir selection. It is mandatory that the existing choir members also participate in the audition. Make an effort to have the parish choir itself sing during the service of the holy matrimony. Staff notation is available for the liturgical hymns used in the Holy Communion and matins service. All are encouraged to sing them according to those settings. Carefully select and sing songs that are suitable to the contexts of special liturgical days. Take a genuine effort to use those stipulated songs in the liturgical calendar for worship. New edition of the Christian Hymns is available now. Be enthusiastic in using it. Preparation is on for the third edition of the Christian Hymns, Music Edition. Be careful to purchase and use the audio CDs published by DSMC.

Beloved, we pray and greet you so that our singing and worship be instrumental for our life itself to become a sacred music before God. Let DSMC help contribute their services to this end.

Grace be with you all.

From Tiruvalla DSMC office on May 1st 2017



Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan