

With blessing from:



**St. Gregorious**  
(Parumala Thirumeni)

## The leader, the higher order was looking for.

Muthoot Group Chairman Mr. M.G. George Muthoot has been elevated to the most respected and responsible post of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. He has been elected as the Lay Trustee of the Church.

This is an apt recognition for his continuous efforts to uphold the values and involvement in public affairs. He has been in the forefront of religious activities, charity, promotion of education, health, trade and commerce. He is an active participant in many affairs related to church activities. He had played a major role in shaping the present activities of the Church.

Mr. M.G. George Muthoot is a great visionary and dreamer. A great orator and humorous person, he has a great passion for newer technologies, business opportunities, and possesses a global vision. He is known for his continuous involvement in matters related to the poor and marginalized and worked hard for the upliftment of these sectors. A committed social worker of high calibre, he has been instrumental in promoting the prospect of Kerala industry and trade at national level.

He is the chairman of Kerala State Council of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Such a knowledgeable person of high standard, Mr. M.G. George Muthoot has spearheaded many campaigns to project Kerala as a major business destination for many foreign countries.

Recently, a large number of foreign delegations from countries such as South Korea, Italy and other countries had visited Kerala to interact with the industrialists in the state. They had visited the state accepting Mr. M.G. George Muthoot's invitation. He is a highly respected industrialist among his peers and has close contacts with political, social, religious and business leaders. He had visited many countries as part of business delegations accompanying Prime Minister and Commerce Minister. He was a member of FICCI delegation to many countries for interacting with global industry. He is also a member of National Executive Committee of FICCI.

As chairman of Muthoot Group, he is continuously giving more energy and enthusiasm to the group and employees in an inspirational manner. He is humane and extends his help for lot of charity works.

A businessman who advocates that commerce and industry should go hand in hand with social development, Mr. M.G. George Muthoot has been rewarded for his efforts with various Rotary & Y's Men's International Awards and also with the Mahatma Gandhi National Award for social development.

It was the 51st Malankara Syrian Christian Association meeting held at Parumala that elected Mr. M.G. George Muthoot of the Delhi diocese as Lay Trustee of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church.

The MSCA meeting has also ratified on the occasion the nomination of 43 clergy representatives and 86 lay members from 25 different parishes of the Church to the managing committee of the association.

Malankara Metropolitan and Catholicos of the East Basilius Mar Thoma Didymos-I presided over the association meeting held at the St. Gregorious Nagar (Parumala Seminary premises) on the banks of river Pampa on 21st March 2007.



**The Muthoot Group**

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Being the lay trustee of the Church brings enormous responsibility on the shoulders of Mr. M.G. George Muthoot who has several decades of experience in the world of business.

The new responsibility through his election is symbolic of the faith and trust the Orthodox Church has placed in him and he is ready to take up the challenge and bring all his resources and experiences to the fore.

The lay trustee is also the representative of the body of the Church as a whole. Blending spirituality with the day-to-day affairs of the Church, the lay trustee gives the governance of the Church a new face altogether.

As a lay man he is aware of the working of the Spirit that guides him and the Church, and using his experience he is able to set an example to be emulated by others in serving the Church in a better way.

Coming as it is at a time when the political atmosphere is highly charged, Mr. M.G. George Muthoot has the added responsibility of acting in the best manner possible so that the Church continues to be the beacon of light in the true Christian spirit.



# The Indian Orthodox Church - An Overview.

Christianity is widely believed to have been brought to India in 52 AD by St. Thomas, the apostle. In fact, a Christian community flourished and was present even at the arrival of Vasco da Gama in 1498, in what used to be then referred to as the Malabar Coast. According to the tradition in Kerala, it is believed that St. Thomas landed at Cranganore (Muziris, now called Kodungalloor) on a trading ship.

During his stay here and on his sojourns into the neighbouring Tamil country, he converted hundreds of people. He established seven churches in Kerala and appointed priests to look after the Christians. Each of the local churches were self-administered, guided by a group of presbyters and presided over by the eldest priest or the bishop.

According to the tradition, St. Thomas was martyred at Mylapore, His final resting place continues to draw thousands of pilgrims every year.

The Christian community established connection with Rome only after the arrival of European Missionaries. The first of these connections began in 1599.

The Synod of Diamper ended these connections because a group of traditional Christians decided to break away from Roman dominion. This was officially in effect with the Koonan Kurisu Sathyam (The Vow of the Curved Cross) in 1653.

By this the breakaway group vowed that they and their succeeding generations would not be subjected to the control of Rome. The Christians tied a long rope to the historic cross at Mattancherry, and holding the rope, took the vow.

The local Christians referred to themselves as the Thomas Christians until the arrival of the Portuguese Catholic missionaries in the 16th century. They were followed by the Dutch and the British.

These Thomas Christians are today under different churches and denominations. But a significant group of the Thomas Christians has maintained their independence to remain as the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church under the Catholicose of the East with its headquarters at Devalokam, Kottayam.

And, it is quite a miracle that a relatively traditional community of Christians has kept their faith vibrant over the last 2,000 years.

The Orthodox Church in India is among the 37 Apostolic Churches and it belongs to the family of the five Oriental Orthodox Churches, which include Syria, Egypt, Ethiopia and Armenia, and to the wider stream of the world's Orthodox Churches.

The Orthodox Church has had a democratic tradition dating back to the time of the Apostle. As a result, the Indian Church has remained independent, administered by an assembly of local people representing the parish church and major decisions pertaining to the church are taken in the General Assembly known as Malankara Orthodox Syrian Christian Assembly.

The role of the lay trustee is of great significance in the context of this democratic process in the Orthodox Church. The elevation of Muthoot Group chairman M G George Muthoot to this highly respected post is recognition for the Group as a whole. We are all proud to be a part of the Muthoot Group.