



Metropolia of the Americas
Eastern Catholic Archdiocese
(Chaldean-Syrian)

Office of the Metropolitan

Daly City
15 March 1995

No. ...1995.363.1....

This N. Should Be Prefixed to the Response

Nicholas and Mirna Nazour

The Reverend Father Elais Zahlaoui

The Reverend Joseph Malouli

Church of Our Lady of Damascus

Soufanieh, N. 35

Koussur, Syria

Dear Nicholas, Mirna, and the Reverend Fathers Elias and Joseph:

We have been requested by the Very Reverend Chor-episcopus John (Frederick), O.S.J., the Pastor of Saint Michael the Archangel Church in Honolulu, Hawaii within the United States of America to address this letter of invitation to you.

We were greatly overjoyed when His Holiness, the Pope John Paul II, the Bishop of Rome and the Patriarch of the West signed a proclamation with His Holiness, the Catholicos Patriarch of the Church of the East, on the 11th November 1994, that our two churches are "Sister Churches" and that all misunderstandings of the Theology of our Ancient Church were semantical in nature.

In our twenty-one years as the Metropolitan of this ecclesiastical province which includes both of the Americas and the Far East, we have constantly prayed for and attempted to work for the Unity of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. As you may know, the Church of the East, hence, Eastern Catholics, were never a part of the Great Schism of 1054. A.D., being in the Persian Empire not the Roman Empire. In spite of this historical fact, we have prayed for mutual cooperation between the Papal and Patriarchal (Orthodox) Churches.

Therefore, having read the book concerning the Miracle of Damascus, we have whole heartedly approved of Chor-episcopus John's request to invite you to speak at our parishes in Hawaii and to the peoples of Hawaii.

We, therefore, formally approve of and invite you to speak to and to minister to the needs of our parishioners in Hawaii.

Chor-episcopus John would desire to have you come to Hawaii during your forth coming, already scheduled trip to the United States in May and June of this present year. during your visit to the Los Angeles area. He is authorized to coordinate all of the necessary details concerning your visit. When the plans are solidified, we shall clear our schedule and come to Hawaii to visit with you and to publicly proclaim our approval of your ministry.

Awaiting your response, we shall remember you in our forth coming Archierarchal Holy Liturgy (Quiddish Qurbana) this Sunday. With our prayers for the unity of all of the branches of the Historic One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, we remain,



Sincerely yours in Christ,

Metropolitan Dr. Mar Mikhael

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Dr. Mar Mikhael of Edessa
by the Grace of God, most unworthy Primate

c.c. The Very Reverend Chor-episcopus John
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