

**INSTALLATION OF  
MOST REVEREND JOY ALAPPATT  
AS SECOND BISHOP OF ST. THOMAS SYRO MALABAR  
EPARCHY OF CHICAGO  
MAR THOMA SLEEHA CATHEDRAL  
BELLWOOD, IL  
OCTOBER 1, 2022**

Your Eminence Cardinal Alencherry, Your Excellencies, Bishop Angadiath, Bishop Alappatt, Archbishop Pamplany, from the Archdiocese of Thalassery, my brother bishops, especially those who have travelled a great distance to be here with us today, Reverend Fathers, dear religious and faithful from the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Chicago, in particular those who are responsible for coordinating this beautiful and meaningful event today... I am honored to be with you all.

To you, Mar Jacob Angadiath, we say a special word of thanks, for you have faithfully and perseveringly headed the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago since its founding in 2001. Together with the help of your Auxiliary Bishop since 2014, Joy Alappatt, your Diocese has made steady progress from its foundation and now there are 50 parishes and 34 missions over which you have been presiding. Praise God for giving us such great growth!

I would like to direct some kind words to Bishop Mar Joy Alappatt, Bishop Angadiath's successor, the second bishop of the Eparchy. We know, dear Excellency, that your roots are in Kerala, India, such a highly renowned and revered area, consecrated by the blood of the martyred apostle, St. Thomas. While you were baptized "John", named after the patron saint of your home parish, St. John Nepomucene, you are commonly known as "Joy" Alappatt. How appropriate a name for one who is a consecrated minister of the Lord, for one who proclaims the Gospel message to those who thirst and hunger for salvation!

Your ministry has extended to various parts of the world, from your parochial responsibilities beginning in India and then into the Archdiocese of New York and the Archdiocese of New Jersey, and onto your studies in Washington for clinical pastoral education and then your service in the St. Thomas Syro Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago, especially as Pastor (Vicar) of the Catholic Cathedral and your appointment as Auxiliary of the same Diocese. You are known as a retreat preacher, orator, musician, and influential pastor with efficient administrator skills. You have written several Christian devotional songs and published a few music albums. In 2014 you received episcopal ordination by His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of Syro-Malabar Church. Essentially, your mission has realized the words of our Holy Father, who says in his Apostolic Exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*": "to evangelize is to make the Kingdom of God present in our world." (n. 176, 2013). He calls evangelization "A joy ever new, a joy which is shared" (I, 2013) and this is how we may describe you, Your Excellency.

What great happiness for one who receives from your lips and your hands the saving grace of redemption!

And now I will read the papal decree appointing you Bishop of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago.