



KNANAYA CATHOLIC SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

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May 2nd, 2021

Subject: Court Order regarding The Membership within the parishes of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam

On April 30th, 2021, the sub magistrate court in Kottayam, Kerala, India has declared its verdict in favor of plaintiffs, who voluntarily left the Knanaya parishes of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam, seeking legal assistance to regain their membership within the parishes of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam. The Archdiocese of Kottayam was established as a “Personal Diocese” exclusively for Knanaya Catholics after carefully studying their history and traditions including the strict adherence to the discipline of marrying from within the community. Hence any change in the membership criteria for the parishes and missions of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam is unacceptable to the Knanaya Catholic community.

Religious practices and Spiritual life of the Knanaya Community has biblical, theological and Canonical basis and it was reiterated and upheld by the highest authorities within the Catholic Church multiple times over the years. Therefore, the Executive Committee of Knanaya Catholic Society (KCS) of Chicago strongly condemn any attempt to change the membership criteria within the parishes of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam through litigation within the legal system in India. KCS is committed to stand by KCCNA in any effort to support the Arch Diocese of Kottayam, as needed, to get the order of April 30th repealed, in order to maintain the membership within the parishes of the Arch Diocese of Kottayam exclusively for Knanaya Catholics.

For the Executive Committee,

Thomas Poothakary
President

Linson Kaithamala
General Secretary