

EXHIBIT 5

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Chancellor



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July 29, 1996

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Mr. Joseph Mullappallil  
President  
Knanaya Association of North America  
4305 West Irving Park Road  
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Dear Joseph:

As we discussed today by telephone, Cardinal Bernardin met with Bishop Mar Kuriakose Kunnacherry on July 26th. Also present for this meeting were Father Simon Edathiparampil and myself. Their conversation was cordial and open, while respecting their mutual differences.

They first discussed Bishop Kunnacherry's petition to the Holy See asking the Congregation for Oriental Churches to revoke or revise its rescript of January 30, 1986 (Prot. N. 124/83), which stated, "This Congregation does not accept that the customary practice followed in Kerala, of excluding from the community those who marry non-Knanaya spouses, is extensible to the United States of America." In response to Bishop Kunnacherry's request that Cardinal Bernardin support his petition, the Cardinal responded that in conscience he could not do so. He said that he would, of course, abide by whatever decision the Holy See renders in this regard.

While this matter is pending in Rome, and also since the Holy See has appointed Bishop Gregory Karotemprel as Apostolic Visitor to North America to assess the pastoral care of Syro-Malabar Catholics in the United States of America and in Canada, they decided that it will be best in the meantime to maintain the *status quo* at the Knanaya Catholic Mission of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Accordingly, in the meantime, the implementation of a pastoral council for the Mission as previously proposed will not be insisted upon.

Given the complexity of the matters involved, I hope that you will understand and accept the outcome of this meeting. It is sad that divisions remain in the Knanaya community, but unity will only come about when all the members of the community are willing to overcome their differences. I pray that God will one day grant this grace.

With cordial good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki  
Chancellor

cc: Ms. Teresita Nuval, Asian-American Consultant, Office of Ethnic Ministries