

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD ALMIGHTY
HIS GRACE GEEVARGHEESE MAR PHILOXENOS
ASST. METROPOLITAN DIOCESE OF BANGALORE**



C. No. 02/2025

Blessings to the Vicar, Asst. Vicar, Kaisthanees, Secretaries, Managing committee members and members of the Parish.

Dearly Beloved,

Rev. Dr. V. C. Samuel (1912–1998) was a renowned Indian Theologian, Historian, and Ecumenical leader of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. A scholar in Patristics, Christology, and Church History, he contributed significantly to the Orthodox and ecumenical thought. He played a key role in starting dialogues between the Oriental Orthodox Churches and Eastern Orthodox Churches starting from 1964, also with the Roman Catholic Church on Christology. Dr. Samuel taught at institutions like the United Theological College, Bangalore, Orthodox Theological Seminary (Old Seminary), Kottayam, Theological college of Ethiopian Orthodox Church, other major Indian and foreign universities and authored several world-renowned theological works. His scholarship influenced the understanding of Oriental Orthodox Christology worldwide. Deeply rooted in the Orthodox tradition, he remained a bridge between Eastern and Western Christian theology throughout his lifetime.

This year Fr. Dr. V. C. Samuel Memorial International Seminar organised by DETHRI Foundation, will be held on November 22 & 23, 2025, at United Theological College, Bangalore, where Achen taught for six years. He also did his Masters in Theology there in 1952. Seminar will have two sessions a day, totally four sessions. The sessions are Church History, Indigenisation, Theology and Ecumenism. H.G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Meletius Metropolitan, H.G. Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenaios Metropolitan, Rev. Fr. Dr. M. O. John and many other scholars from our church, faculty from UTC, from other Orthodox Churches around the world will be participating in this seminar. To conduct such international academic seminars in Bangalore was a dream of Fr. Dr. V. C. Samuel. The first seminar of this type was conducted by DETHRI Foundation in Mumbai, last year. These seminars series have been organized in response to the Kalpana of His Holiness, dated November 10, 2023, with the approval of the Holy Synod.

DETHRI Foundation is a Section 8 Company, nonprofit organization founded by lay members of our Church educated in Orthodox Christian theology and has a thorough background in research of Church History in India and abroad. Hence their work focuses on research in Church history and theology, and they are also engaged in renovation of our Church's old libraries, doing social work, particularly in tribal communities of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

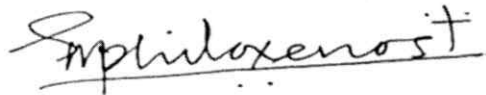
As the conference is being held in Bangalore Rev. Fr. Nithin V Rajan will be the Diocesan Coordinator for the same. We request the Vicar of each Parish to form a group of like-minded people who are interested in being part of the seminar and forward such names to the Diocesan Coordinator by April 25, 2025.

In order to make this event more relevant to all, as part of this seminar in collaboration with DETHRI Foundation we are planning to collect copies of past memories (photos, videos, letters), personal incidents (to be narrated as written format or audio recording), articles which belong to or gifted by Fr. Dr. V. C. Samuel Achen. Selected ones will be later published with due credits to the members who have shared them.

For the preparation of the Seminar, the De'thri Foundation is conducting two workshops at Lonavala during the last week of April. The expenses for the workshop and seminar are close to 14 lakhs. Requesting all faithful to contribute towards this cause.

May the Grace and Blessings of the Almighty abide with you forever.

From The Bangalore Aramana on April 09, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mar Philoxenos', with a horizontal line underneath.

Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Philoxenos