

## The Homily of Bishop Odisho Oraham and the Resignation of Bishop Emmanuel Yosip

Fred Aprim  
Jan 5, 2023

A December 2023 homily by Mar Odisho Oraham, Bishop of Scandinavia and Germany of the Assyrian Church of the East, at St. Thomas Church, Stockholm, Sweden, touches on how different the parishioners are viewing the church leaders these days and the problems of Assyrian church members leaving the Church to Evangelical churches.

In his homily, Mar Odisho Oraham said, our people come to church mainly on Christmas Day and on the Feast of Resurrection (Easter). Where are our people? Throughout the world, our diocese and our churches are emptying. Our people are going to the Evangelicals and to other churches. Our people are going to those other churches because they want to listen to the words of God, they want to understand the love of Jesus Christ and seek Jesus' mercy. On the other hand, we come to our churches and leave [spiritually] empty ... all we hear in our churches is donate, donate, donate, make payments, pay, pay, pay. We will pay and we have paid, but with that our people are leaving. Why? because, **My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge**, [Prophet] Hosea is telling us, because the word of God is missing in our churches, the hearing the sermon of Jesus Christ is not there anymore as we continue pursuing traditions. Our people do not look at us [church leaders] as they used to do. Today, our people look at us and see us living in ostentation ( فخفة ), splendor, or seeking fame. Our Jesus Christ, who is God and who owns heaven and earth could have chosen to be born in a castle, but we know where he was born – his mother, Saint Mary, bigoted him where animals fed, yet, he performed miracles.

<https://www.facebook.com/100067380729984/videos/1109883363276803/>



### Note:

Mar Odisho Oraham referred to a line from a Biblical verse that states: “**My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge**. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.” (Hosea 4:6)

Simultaneously with Bishop Mar Odisho Oraham homily, Mar Emmanuel Yosip, Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East, Canada Diocese, resigned unexpectedly. His Grace stated that his resignation will be effective as of December 31, 2023. The bishop stated that his resignation was for personal reasons.

No one is suggesting a connection between the two events. However, the courageous admittance by Bishop Mar Odisho of the presence of troubles with the church must be appreciated. We cannot solve the church problems by remaining silent rather by all working together to find solutions that are suitable and appropriate at this junction of the history of the church. Intimidating practices, smearing campaigns or attacking members of the congregation or community who criticize the church leaders must end. Criticism is often perceived as a negative thing; However, criticism could also be the beginning of a positive turnaround in the path of any troubled institution, including a church, and a valuable mechanism for growth and improvement.

We must admit that the churches of the Assyrians in the diaspora have survived, because of one main reason and that is the new blood of refugees and immigrants who have kept arriving to the West from the early 1970s. As the population of Assyrians decreases in the homeland and the new blood of arrival depletes, the church in the diaspora will be lost for all practical purposes in perhaps two to three generations.

One final note, few observers believe that this resignation of the clergy will spread to others. These observers believe that the new Patriarch Mar Awa III will need to have his own group of bishops who are willing to carry out his new vision for the future church.

المجمع السونهادوسي المقدس  
لكنييسة المشرق الآشورية



ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܕܡܚܘܠܡܐ  
ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܕܡܚܘܠܡܐ

✦ The Holy Synod of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East ✦

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT

بيان صحفي

امانة المجمع المقدس

الى اعضاء كنيسة المشرق الآشورية في ايرشيه كندا، والعالم  
تحيه باسم ربنا يسوع المسيح.

الغرض من هذا البيان الصحفي السينودسي هو ابلاغكم بالتقاعد المبكر لنيافة الاسقف مار صانويل يوسف، اسقف  
ايرشيه كندا الحالي، من ادارته كاسقف للأيرشيه.

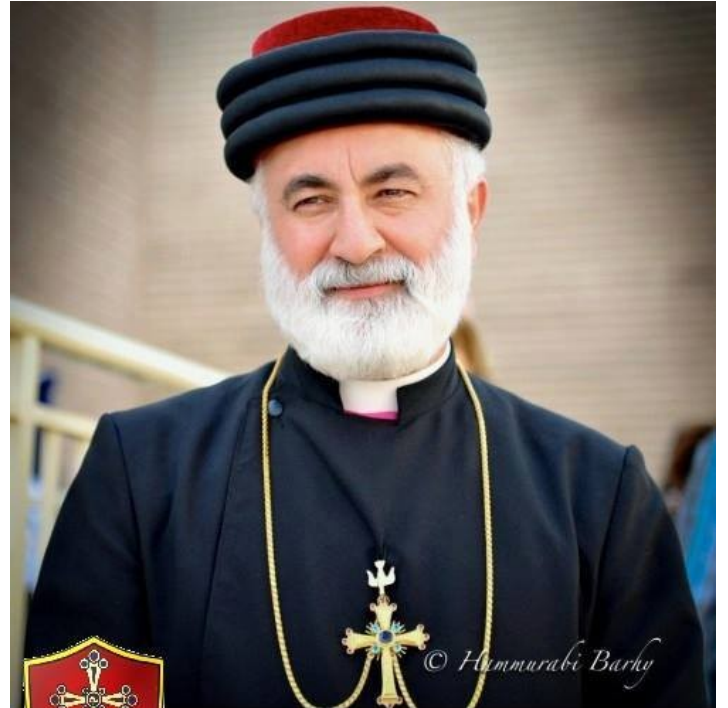
حيث قدم نيافته تقاعده المبكر لتقاسة البطريرك في رسالته المؤرخة في 31 كانون الأول 2023، وذلك لأسباب  
شخصية، بموجب المرسوم رقم 4.3 (ثانياً) لمجمع السينودس المقدس لعام 2022.

لقد كان قداسة البطريرك مار أوا الثالث، على اتصال مع نيافة الاسقف مار صانويل، لتقديم أي دعم قد يحتاجه،  
وشكره على خدمته حتى الآن.

واعتباراً من تاريخ تقاعد صاحب السيادة، تخضع ايرشيه كندا للإدارة المباشرة للكرسي البطريركي لكنيسة المشرق  
الآشورية، إلى حين تعيين أو انتخاب أسقف دائم.

سيقدم مكتب سكرتارية السينودس المزيد من المعلومات في الأيام القليلة المقبلة، فيما يتعلق بالمسائل الإدارية لأيرشيه  
كندا.

مار بنيامين اليبا  
بالنعمه، أسقف ولاية فنكوريا ونيوزلندا  
سكرتير المجمع المقدس



© Himmurabi Barky



ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܕܡܚܘܠܡܐ

ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܡܚܘܠܡܐ ܕܡܚܘܠܡܐ