

## **Latest Directive from the Apostolic See On the Land Sale Issue in the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly**

It might have come to your attention news being spread that Vatican has changed its stand regarding the restitution in the land sale of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly. Together with this news, the text of letter from the Congregation for the Eastern Churches (Prot. N. 29/2021, dated 24 September 2021) addressed to Archbishop Antony Kariyil is also being circulated.

The letter which is being circulated states that the dispensation granted to Archbishop Antony Kariyil regarding the common and particular laws regulating economic administration laid down in the previous letter of the Congregation (Prot. N. 29/2021, dated 21 June 2021) has been reconsidered. But it is to be noted that in the latest letter, while reconsidering the dispensatory provision given to Archbishop Kariyil to sell the guarantee properties at Kottappady and Devikulam even without the required consent of the canonical bodies, **it is made clear that it is done without prejudice to the general dispositions given to Archbishop Kariyil in the letter dated 21 June 2021.**

“Without prejudice to the general dispositions” means that all other dispositions proposed in the previous letter from the Congregation for the Oriental Churches (Prot. N. 29/2021, dated 21 June 2021) remain unchanged. They are the following:

1. The suggestion of the Permanent Synod was to sell the land at Kottappady and Devikulam (or to treat the land as assets in lieu of the losses incurred by the Archeparchy).
2. The Congregation is satisfied with the proposal of the Permanent Synod which would definitively complete the restitution desired by the Apostolic See.
3. The Apostolic See instructed the College of Consulters and the Finance Council of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly to collaborate with Archbishop Antony Kariyil to sell the two plots of land for the price approved by the Permanent Synod.
4. In the undesirable eventuality of non-compliance of the canonical bodies, the common law and the particular law which stipulate the canonical consultation with the above named bodies were to be considered derogated and Archbishop Kariyil could complete the transaction under the guidance of the Permanent Synod.
5. The Congregation for the Oriental Churches made clear that its communication (Prot. N. 157/2018 dated 26 June 2019) to His Beatitude Cardinal George Alencherry was misinterpreted by the authors of the reports sent to Rome as if the

request was personally to make restitution, rather than to obtain it in his official capacity.

6. Archbishop Antony Kariyil is given the direction to warn those who spread such misinformation, without presuming malice on their part, and if necessary impose appropriate canonical penalties on those who persist.

Therefore, as it is evident, out of the six dispositions given by the Congregation in the previous letter, only the provision in no. 4 is reconsidered through the latest letter of 24 September 2021, **without making any change to the other dispositions already given.** The Congregation has stated in its latest letter **that the reconsideration of the dispensation granted to Archbishop Antony Kariyil was done considering the petition dated 30 June 2021 from the College of Consulters and Finance Council of the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly.**

Ultimately the question of restitution is to be settled by the Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly, following the dispositions given by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, by selling the two guarantee properties at Kottappady and Devikulam, in consultation with the canonical bodies.

This communication is given since misrepresentation of the facts regarding the land sale issue is being continued by the interested parties.

**Media Commission**