

St. Theresa's Catholic Church

(Diocese of Punalur)
Kunnicoode P.O., Kollam Dist.,
Kerala, 691 508, India

Ref. No.: 001V01

Date: 11. July, 2025

To: Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life,
Palazzo San Calisto,
00120, Vatican City.

Subject: Support for Pontifical Recognition of the Missionaries of Mary, Phoenix, Arizona, USA

Your Eminences,

With heartfelt reverence, I write in support of the application for Pontifical status of the *Missionaries of Mary*, based in Phoenix, Arizona, USA. Their spirit-driven apostolate is a vibrant response to the New Evangelization proclaimed by our beloved St. John Paul II, and is deeply inspired by St. Maximilian Kolbe's vision for a Marian-centered community—"Mary Town"—anchored in Servant Leadership spirituality.

This missionary movement has proven to be a beacon of faith, forming Catholic lay leaders through holistic evangelization & catechetical instruction rooted in Scripture & the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). Their Kerygma training have not only reached hearts but transformed lives—including my own.

Having personally encountered their zeal and witness, I am compelled to speak of their remarkable service across continents. From Latin America—Peru, Chile, Guatemala, and Ecuador—to Africa—Nigeria and Uganda—and throughout Asia, especially India, their dedication has remained unwavering. I recall with great affection the visit of Mr. Armando, the International Coordinator, and Mr. Jorge to our Warangal Diocese in India between 2002 and 2005. Their presence ignited a missionary spark that led me to rediscover the richness of my Catholic identity.

My journey with the Missionaries of Mary flourished during my missionary tenure in England, where I served at St. Joseph's Parish in Nechells, Birmingham, and collaborated with the Catholic Student Chaplaincy at Aston University. This period was instrumental in deepening my vocational call, culminating in my ordination as a Catholic priest in 2019.

From May 2007 to December 2010, I was blessed to serve alongside these missionaries during various apostolic missions in the U.K., Nigeria, Uganda, and India. Even now, while serving as parish priest at St. Theresa's Church in the Diocese of Punalur, I continue to carry that missionary fire in my heart. My deepest longing is to dedicate myself to empowering the laity in proclaiming and defending the Catholic faith—drawing strength and inspiration from the charism of this missionary movement.

The Missionaries of Mary exemplify the kind of lay formation envisioned by the Church: faithful, courageous, Marian, and ecclesial. I humbly pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary intercedes for this cause, and that, if it be the will of the Father, their mission may be officially embraced by the Church through Pontifical recognition.

Yours in Christ and Mary,



Rev. Fr. Sunny Thomas,
Diocese of Punalur, India.

