



APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF NORTHERN ARABIA

BAHRAIN • KUWAIT • QATAR • SAUDI ARABIA

Prot. N. : 007 / 2018

Date: 12 January 2018

Rev. Fr. Peter P. Mathew, OFM Cap
Cathedral of the Holy Family
Kuwait

Reverend and dear Father Peter,

As you know, the result of my inquiry by all the priests about whom they see more suitable as Vicar General, your name received a very big number of votes, almost like a plebiscite. Congratulations to you for the trust I and our priests have in you. Don't be afraid of this charge, trust in the Lord and in yourself and you will perform your ministry as Vicar General in an excellent way.

By this letter, I appoint you Vicar General of our Apostolic Vicariate of Northern Arabia. You shall start your responsibility on January 31st 2018, for three years.

Your job description is explained in Canon Law NN. 475-481. In particular, Can. 479.1 affirms: "*In virtue of his office, the Vicar General has the same executive power throughout the whole diocese as that which belongs by law to the diocesan Bishop: that is, he can perform all administrative acts, with the exception however of those which the Bishop has reserved to himself, or which by law require a special mandate of the Bishop*".

In our situation, where the Bishop has to travel a lot among the four Countries of our Vicariate, and he is very often absent from his office, the Parish priests will relate to you for canonical dispensations for marriages.

I would like also that you also visit all the parishes, meet especially the priests, listen to them and to their remarks and proposals. Perhaps some priests are more free with you than with me. They will relate to you also for some practical problems of their church or ministry.

Since you had a long experience in Qatar, you will advise me and the Episcopal Vicar of what you see more convenient for that Syro-Malabar community.

It will be your task also to plan the vacations of the priests, so that we can avoid inviting too many guest priests for replacement. When you reach consensus on this matter, it should be notified to me.

At last, but not at least, you will encourage the priests and the faithful to keep alive the interest for the project of our Vicariate, the building of the Cathedral in Bahrain; the construction will start in April 2018.

Dear Fr. Peter, I thank you again for your generosity in accepting this big responsibility: God will be always with you.

+ Camillo Ballin, mccc

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Copy to: + His Grace Msgr. Francisco M. Padilla, Apostolic Nuncio
+ Rev. Fr. Paul Koenig, OFM Cap, Custos
+ All the clergy of the Vicariate

