



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



Summary of The Diocesan Assembly Decisions held on 3rd & 4th March of 2023

Diocesan Center Updates

- Renovation / Maintenance of the Aramana will begin at the earliest
- Chapel Construction was approved by the Diocesan Assembly

Administrative

- Budget 2023 was presented
- Previous Years (2021 & 2022) - Reports/ Financials presented and approved
- Churches who haven't yet - the following needs to be submitted before May 01, 2023 to the Diocesan Office: a) *A copy of the Deed*, b) *Bylaws* & c) *Incorporation*

Diocesan Capital & Operational Revenue Generation

- Every church to collect and sent Diocesan Share per the Kalpana (\$100 per family per year)
- Harvest Festival – 2023 at Houston – hosted by all parishes in and around Houston. Next year – 2024 – Harvest Festival – Dallas

Spiritual Growth

- The Assembly has approved to start the Monastery in the Urshlem Aramana Property
- Exploring options for Minor Seminary at Diocese level – Lead by retired professors from Kottayam Seminary.
- New Satellite Church in remote areas on need basis

Mission Outreach

- Mission Outreach program was discussed – His Grace proposed to start a Mission Board National
- Campus Ministry - all parents/churches are encouraged to sign up their respective students/children to the campus ministry registry prior to going to college – An MGOCSM Initiative.

Events

- Diocesan level Family & Youth Conference will be held in the year 2025
- Next year Clergy Retreat & Diocesan Assembly will be held at "URSHLEM" Aramana on April 11, 12 & 13, 2024.
- His Holiness's next visit in Sept/Oct 2023 – Rough schedule was provided

Scholarships and Grants

- Mar Makarios Scholarship is being worked on, and more details will follow.
- Seminary Education funds will be offered soon to our seminarians.
- Clergy Welfare Fund – Sunday Offertory of All Departed Clergy Remembrance Sunday will be collected and used for this purpose

Other Updates

- Centralized Clergy Salary was discussed in length, more to come.
- An App was presented to connect every individual to his/her local parish and the Diocese
- Every Assembly Member received an ICON from the Diocesan Metropolitan.
- Stream – 'A Diocesan Level Newsletter' - Parishes are encouraged to send news materials on a monthly basis.
- Total Expenses Incurred for the Assembly \$11,858.94 (Registration, Food, Logistics & Transportation).