



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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GEN 04/2025

Beloved in Christ,

With a heavy heart, we grieve the tragic events that have unfolded recently in Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, where precious lives have been lost. In moments of deep sorrow such as of this extreme magnitude where a midair collision in Washington D.C. claimed the lives of many, including young figure skaters and their families and in Philadelphia where a jet crash resulted in the death of a child patient and her mother and other 8 people, we shall turn to the unfailing love of our Lord, who alone can comfort the brokenhearted. As the Psalmist declares, *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18).*

To the families, friends, and all those affected by this sorrowful event, we extend our deepest sympathies and prayers. May Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, grant you strength and peace in the midst of your grief. As our Lord Himself assures us, *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted" (Matthew 5:4).*

At this time of loss, let us find refuge in the hope of the Gospel. Death does not have the final word, for Christ has conquered the grave. May the love of God surround you; the prayers of the Church uphold you, and the promise of eternal life give you courage.

As one body in Christ, we stand with you, lifting our prayers to the Almighty, that He may grant rest to the departed and consolation to the living. May His peace, which surpasses all understanding, be with you now and always.

In the love of Christ,

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley
January 31, 2025

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios