



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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DSWA/C/07/2014

May 07, 2014

Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Office Bearers and all the faithful of our Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

It is with immense gratitude we write this letter as we celebrate the fifth anniversary of our diocese. We first and foremost praise God Almighty for the abundant blessings showered upon us these past few years. Since its inception, our focus has been on building up the ministries and spiritual organizations of our diocese to meet the varying spiritual needs of our growing Church in North America, and we see how the labor and cooperative efforts of our clergy and faithful in this regard have borne much fruit in recent years. From the regional family conferences, weekly prayer fellowship tele-conferences and the numerous ministries and organizations serving our children, youth, men, women, elders and clergy, we are growing in ways that affirm it is the Holy Spirit Who sustains and leads the Holy Church. With this confidence, we must now look ahead to the next five years, and focus our attention on continuing to build up the ministries of our diocese while also focusing on the various projects and dreams associated with a comprehensive diocese center. The recent transition to the 100 acre property in Beasley, Texas would not have been possible without your whole-hearted support and prayers.

As is the practice, Diocesan Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of June, and this year it will be celebrated on June 1st. The Diocesan level celebrations will take place in conjunction with the Annual Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference on Friday, May 16, at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Houston, with the cooperation of the South Region parishes. We exhort all our parishes to conduct a fitting Diocesan Day celebration at the parish level on Sunday, June 1st by remembering our Diocese during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana and offering a special prayer at its conclusion for the diocese, its ministries, and all our clergy and faithful.

As you know, the diocesan day collection is the primary source of income for our diocese, and it is with this amount we support all ongoing projects and ministries as well as the envisioned projects of the new comprehensive diocesan center. Each family in our diocese should contribute a minimum of \$100 towards the Diocesan Day collection. It is imperative we reach 100% of the target amount for this year. In addition, it is just as important to set aside a major portion of one's tithe for the completion of the diocesan projects. It is our desire to see each family make these contributions and meaningfully



participate in the growth of our diocese as a privileged member of this ancient Church. Parishes also have to see this as their responsibility toward the Diocese.

During the celebration of our fifth Diocesan Day, let us take time to reflect upon these past few years and thank God Almighty for His blessings upon us. Let us also rededicate ourselves and unite in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us to accomplish the many goals that we have for the diocese. May the intercessions of St. Mary the Mother of God, St. Thomas the Apostle to India, and the saints of Malankara, Mar Gregorios and Mar Dionysius, along with all the saints, be a fortress for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
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