



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons and all the faithful of our Diocese especially the members of Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam!

Dearly beloved,

We are entering the period of one of five canonical lents in our Church observed annually from August 1-15, culminating in the blessed Feast of *Soonoyo* of the Holy Theotokos. St. Mary continues to be a role model for everyone. From her humility and obedience at the Annunciation, her gift of hospitality at the Wedding of Cana, to her patience and willingness to suffer along with Christ, she is exemplified as a Christian model for modern families and continues to be great intercessor for the Holy Church and its members.

As is the practice of the Holy Church, we exhort all parishes to observe August 15th or the following Sunday as Morth Mariam Samajam Day. A special prayer should be offered for the leaders of the spiritual organization, its members and all its activities. We urge all Morth Mariam Samajam members to promote and participate in the special cover collection that should be taken on this day, which is the main source of income for this spiritual organization and its charitable efforts. The Morth Mariam Samajam of our diocese continues to do a considerable amount of charitable work, and this is possible only through the love, prayers and financial support of its members.

As you all know the MMVS has launched a project among its members named "Navajyothi MOMS" to explore and improve the skills of its members and use them for the growth of the Church. The members of each unit come together and make different types of handicraft items or any other useful things. It creates cohesion among the members in a congenial manner. Since it is approved by the Holy Synod and is well accepted in the parishes in India, we as a diocese have to encourage the members of MMVS to uphold their integrity, novelty, good will and talents.

We would also like to remind you that the 6th Annual Morth Mariam Samajam Conference of our Diocese is to be held at St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, Houston, Texas on October 3-4, concluding with Holy Qurbana on Sunday, October 5, 2014, at *Urshlem*, our Diocesan Center. The theme for this year's conference is "Jesus Christ: The Unchanging Model", based on 1 Peter 2:21. A committee is working hard to make this event a great success. The details of this conference have been communicated to you by the Vice-President Rev. Fr. Rajesh K. John, Secretary Mrs. Santhamma

"Let your deeds glorify your Father in heaven" - Matthew 5:16



Mathew, the Treasurer Mrs. Gigi K. Simon, including all the regional, area, and parish level office bearers. It is our desire that all parishes of our Diocese will be represented at this conference.

Dearly beloved, we hope and pray that the observance of the upcoming lent will allow us to put into practice the spiritual discipline of abstinence and that it becomes a time for personal transformation through the renewal of our souls and bodies.

May the intercessions of St. Mary and all the holy saints be a stronghold for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexis Mar Eusebius