



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee Members, Diocesan Assembly Members and all the faithful of our Diocese!

Dearly Beloved,

By the grace of God, the new Diocesan Center, Urshlem, has been modified and renovated enabling us to conduct many diocesan level events at the center over the past year. However, there is still more work to be done so as to make Urshlem a spiritual center that fully caters to the needs of our growing diocese.

It was decided at the last Diocesan Assembly held May of 2014 in Houston, to build a chapel in the traditional Orthodox architectural style along with a museum with an approved budget of \$1.5 million for this first phase of our long-term projects. The primary aim for this chapel and museum is to build a spiritual center where all who visit can experience the beauty and serenity of God's presence. It is intended to be a quiet place set apart for prayer, meditation, and worship that allows for one to be away from the busy and stressful life we often live. A core fundraising committee was formed and has met on different occasions to develop ways to raise funds for this project. It was proposed that in all our major cities, that a stage program be conducted inviting artists from Kerala, as a major fundraising program that can help raise a considerable portion of funds for the construction of the first phase of the developments desired for the Diocesan Center.

As you all know, our faithful are part of other Kerala/Malayalee communities and we cooperate with them for many social and religious programs, and we know that members of these groups will cooperate with us in the development of the Malankara Orthodox Church in the North American Continent. We hope that they would consider this as an opportunity to become part of a great cause. We further hope that it will instill a positive message among the Indian community that the Malankara Orthodox Church continues to rise and grow with a focus on the coming generations in this part of the world.



Therefore, we request you to organize a committee under a convener in each area with individuals from our parishes who can willingly work for the success of this program. The core committee of the Diocese led by the General Convener, Rev. Fr. Slomo Isaac George, and Secretary, Mr. George Geevarghese, will give you more detailed information with regard to this matter. In order to organize such a program effectively, we seek the cooperation of all our clergy and faithful in each area of our diocese. It is our request to all our parishes that priority be given to this fundraiser, and you do not arrange similar programs of fundraising on a parish level till we conclude this diocesan level event in September 2015.

May the intercession of Mary the mother of God, St. Thomas the apostle to India and our saints Mar Gregorios and Dynisios be a fortress for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius