



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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

Dearly Beloved,

The Diocesan Family Conference is a vital ministry of our diocese because it is one of the few times we gather together as one family from across the diocese. This coming together gives us the opportunity to set aside a few days in the summer to pray and to learn about our faith and apply it to our daily lives and enjoy fellowship. The 2015 Diocesan Family and Youth Conference will be held in Dallas, Texas, July 8th- 11th 2015 (Wednesday-Saturday). The venue of the conference is InterContinental Hotel (15201 Dallas Parkway, Addison, TX 75001). The theme for this year's conference is: "The Home: A Church" based on St. Luke 19: 9, "Today salvation has come to this house". This theme is based upon St. John Chrysostom's teaching where he explains that each household is a mini church.

This year's Diocesan Family and Youth Conference will be especially blessed with the Apostolic visit of His Holiness Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II. This will be a great opportunity of the Malankara Orthodox Faithful in America to hear, see, and spend time with our Catholicos. His Holiness is visiting the Diocese for the Catholicate Day awareness program like we had in the previous year. Rev. Dr. Varghese Varghese, the General Secretary of MGOCSM has agreed to be the keynote speaker of this year's family conference. Achen is a well-known scholar and teacher and can effectively communicate the teachings of the Church. There will be breakout sessions for all our age groups of adults as well as the youth and children. Each of the sessions will be handled by experts in different area of relevant topics to be discussed. Babysitting for young children will also be provided so that parents can attend sessions. In addition to this, during the family conference, time has been given to the spiritual organization of the diocese to host their annual business meetings.



We will also hold our Annual Clergy fellowship meeting on Tuesday, July 7th from 6.00 PM to 9.30 PM and Annual Diocesan Assembly on Wednesday July 8th 9.30 AM to 2.30 PM at Dallas St. Marys' Valiya Palli. More information regarding the conference, the Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference will be communicated to you in a timely manner and the details of the family conference can be obtained from: www.fyc2015.com.

A family conference committee is working under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Mat Alexander (Director), Mr. Elson Samuel (Secretary) and Mr. Legit Mathew (Treasurer). There are different committees formed under the leadership of the Dallas area clergies. Regional and area level coordinators should be nominated across the Diocese to make the registration be smooth and effective.

Finally, as we all know, when we plan and participate in these programs there is a financial commitment. Without the financial support of our people and parishes, we are not able to effectively run our ministries. We have consolidated all these events to one place to alleviate the financial burden and travel difficulties of our faithful. We exhort all our parishes to give their full support toward the fundraising efforts for the 2015 Family and Youth Conference. Being a diocesan event it is up to each one of us to make it a great success.

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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