



Alexios Mar Eusebius  
Metropolitan

# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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DSWA/C/68/2016

December 7, 2016

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

Dearly beloved,

The Mar Barnabas Educational Award was instituted in our Diocese in 2011 as our humble effort to honor the memory of our beloved Barnabas Thirumeni, who was instrumental in building up of our parishes in North America. I am glad to announce this year's award on the 4<sup>th</sup> memorial feast of this saintly father of our church. The award encourage our youth to excel in their academic achievement with a commitment to the mission of the church. Our children have been contributing to the brain power of this country in an inevitable manner. Our students have been able to secure some of the most competitive accolades from this country. It is truly the sacrifices of the parents and also the role of the Holy Church that brings up some gems from within our community.

The basic criteria for this award selection is academic merit, regular participation in parish and church activities, Sunday School and MGOCSM involvement, community awareness and community services, a sincere desire to serve the church, good character and conduct, and the vision of their personal and life in the church. 16 applications were received from 5 regions. All the applicants were of good caliber and we congratulate them for their excellence in studies. However, for the purposes of awarding them, the following winners are chosen to receive the 2016 Mar Barnabas Educational Award: The prizes will be sent to the respective parish Vicars who are to distribute them in an appropriate manner.

### **South East Region**

*First Place:* Sofia Koshy Abraham, St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Pompano Beach, Florida

*Second Place:* Christin James, St. Paul's Orthodox Church, Orlando, Florida

### **Mid-West Region**

*First Place:* Kripa Mariam Thomas Poozhikunnel, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, Illinois.

*Second Place:* Melanie Mary Thomas, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Rochester Hills, Detroit, MI



### **South Region**

*First Place:* Sarah Koshy, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Austin, Texas

*Second Place:* Ashley Ann Abraham, St. Mary's Valiya Pally, Farmers Branch (Dallas), Texas

### **West Region**

*First Place:* Zerina Varghese, St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, California

*Second Place:* Noel John, St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, California

### **North West Region**

*First Place:* Nived Josey Kurian, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Edmonton, Canada

*Second Place:* Avin John Ivan, St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Calgary, Canada

May I take this opportunity to appreciate the award evaluation committee which includes Rev. Fr. Joy Pyngolil, Mr. George Geevarghese and Mr. Jason Varghese, especially the efforts of Mr. George Geevarghese for taking care of the tabulation and paper work involved in this evaluation process.

We pray and wish all of our children a blessed spiritual and academic future. May the intercession of St. Thomas the Apostle, the patron saint of our church, be a stronghold for us all.

I wish you all a blessed feast of Nativity and a graceful year 2017.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius  
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