



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

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DSWA/C/66/2016

Nov 26, 2016

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

Dearly beloved,

The days of preparation for the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ have once again drawn near. For the next 25 days, we are called to prepare ourselves through increased prayer and fasting in order to receive the Heavenly King. The great mystery of God's love for us is that God became a human in the person of Jesus Christ. Entering into the world as a human, God restored humans to their natural, God-given role in creation and restored all of creation. God's desire is to dwell in us and for us to dwell in Him. Through the incarnation, God in uniting Himself to us heals human nature and heals each of us.

This healing ministry extends through the Holy Church where we find both physical and spiritual healing in Christ. The Department of Pastoral Care & Counseling of our diocese has recently taken steps to provide a greater understanding of wellness with a focus on the healing of the body, soul and mind. We are pleased to hear the response and success of the one day workshops that were held recently in the Tampa and Chicago area, and we hope the coming year will bring more opportunities for such gatherings.

The national FOCUS conference will be held February 9-12, 2017 at Camp Allen near Houston. We hope this camp will be an opportunity for our young adults and couples to gather and continue discussions on this theme of healing within the context of Orthodox spirituality. The keynote speaker for the conference will be Rev. Fr. Abey George, New York. Details of the camp will be communicated by the camp committee.

We take this opportunity to extend our love, prayers and blessings for the upcoming Nativity Fast and hope that everyone will have a blessed celebration of the birth of our Lord. Along with the angelic hosts, let us cry aloud and proclaim: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good-will toward all mankind!"

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan