



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to all our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Diocesan Council Members, Assembly members, Parish office bearers, and all the faithful of our diocese,

Dearly Beloved,

We first and foremost thank God Almighty for the blessings showered upon our diocese since its inception in 2009. We remember the Metropolitans, clergy, and laity, both the living and the departed, who pioneered the growth of our Church in North America through their prayers, labor, and sacrifices. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to each of our clergy, diocesan council & assembly members, and all the faithful who have supported the efforts of our diocese through your prayerful and financial support over the past seven years. Several ministries within our diocese continue to grow to greater heights with the goal of reaching to all the different age groups and spiritual needs of our faithful. We have also recently started the *Urshlem Summer Camps* for both young men and women in upper grades of high school or college at the Diocesan Center in hopes of providing our children with a firm foundation as they continue to pursue their higher education. We thank all those who have provided and are currently providing leadership to these ministries.

We have seen significant progress and growth within the ministries of our diocese including the development of numerous liturgical resources into English, a project that was undertaken as a major initiative within our diocese in recent years. This project has made a significant contribution to the Holy Church by providing a treasure that will hold great value for generations to come. The release of the new liturgical service book for use in all our parishes is in its final stages and will include the canonical prayers for Sunday, the liturgy, and hymns of special feast days in both English and Malayalam along with the Malayalam transliteration and commentary that aims at teaching and understanding the prayers and hymns. Additionally, the She'hemo Namaskaram has already been completed into English and is in the process for publication.



The annual Diocesan Assembly held in Atlanta in April 2016 reviewed the plans for the development of the diocesan center including the construction of a chapel. The project is pending the final approvals from city officials, and we anticipate construction to begin before September 2016. We again seek the whole hearted prayers and financial support of all our clergy and faithful for the success of this project as it is the first of its kind for the Malankara Orthodox Church in this part of the world. We once again urge all of you to participate whole heartedly in the raffle fundraising project and make it a complete success.

As it is in practice, Diocesan Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of June, and this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, June 5th. We exhort all our parishes to conduct a fitting celebration at the parish level on this day by remembering our diocese during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana and offering a special prayer for the diocese, its ministries, and all our clergy and faithful. It would be appropriate to have the elected parish assembly member give a brief message along with the Vicar to provide updates on the current projects and initiatives of the diocese. We also urge each family of our diocese to participate in the annual collection by contributing a minimum of \$100 from each family within our diocese. It is our hope and desire to see that 100% of our target will be met for this year.

May the intercessions of St. Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle to India, the Holy Fathers of Malankara St. Gregorios and St. Dionysius, and all the righteous ones who pleased God by their lives be a stronghold and a fortress for us all,

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius