



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

Urshlem, 3101 Hopkins Road, Beasley, TX 77417, USA
Office: (281) 403 0670 Fax: (281) 459 0814



Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem
Assistant Metropolitan

Email: metropolitan.dswa@gmail.com
Website: www.ds-wa.org

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

Dearly Beloved,

Following the concerns raised from the diocesan assembly and request to bring greater attention to our youth attending colleges and universities, the diocesan council approved a budget to increase financial support to campus ministry and appointed a sub-committee to further study the needs. Several recommendations were made by the sub-committee of which a few are highlighted below:

- 1) Formally establish a diocesan-wide campus ministry project initiative under the MGOCSM of our diocese with a focus on serving our youth who are pursuing post-secondary education while either commuting to or residing on college and university campuses
- 2) Provide greater support and coordinate resources to existing campus ministry units and work to establish new campus ministry units on college and university campuses where at least five or more Malankara Orthodox students are enrolled
- 3) On college campuses where there are fewer than five students, identify clergy and/or student leaders to contact those students to provide any needed resources and support
- 4) Coordinate with local area clergy or other diocesan clergy as needed to assign a lead campus ministry clergy coordinator for each campus unit who will personally connect with our students, be available for ongoing spiritual guidance and counsel, and connect them to the local parishes and/or other needed resources
- 5) Assign one or two of the college students at each campus as unit coordinators to promote student leadership and coordinate the campus meetings and activities with the support of the assigned campus ministry clergy coordinator
- 6) Extend ongoing mentorship and support to college students in their educational and career path by connecting them with professionals and alumni students of the universities and colleges from within our diocese
- 7) Create and maintain a national database of all the college students of our diocese
- 8) Create and maintain a national database of all the active and new campus ministry units of our diocese with contact information of campus leaders to be made available on our diocesan website
- 9) Coordinate with the Northeast Diocese to serve our diocesan youth who may be pursuing education outside of the geographical jurisdiction of our diocese and vice versa.

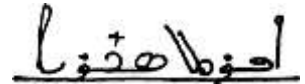
By accepting the recommendation of the diocesan council, We hereby appoint diocesan council members, Fr. Diju Skariah, Mr. Manoj Thomas and Mr. Selby Thomas as the coordinators for the diocesan-wide campus ministry project for the 2019-2020 academic year and authorize them to coordinate the implementation of these recommendations as supported by the diocesan council. Further communications regarding campus ministry will be made available on our diocesan website at: www.ds-wa.org/campusministry and questions or other needs can be sent to dswa.campusministry@gmail.com.

To begin the process of identifying our students, we request the support and cooperation of all parish Vicars, Sunday School Principals and Teachers, Parents, and our Youth to coordinate the efforts within each respective parish and collect and submit all the contact information for both incoming and current college students using the form and link attached herewith. The collected information shall be inputted using the electronic link by September 15, 2019.

Upon receiving the contact information of students, the coordinators will identify the list of campuses where at least five or more students exist and make initial contact with the college students as well as the local area clergy to develop a plan for strengthening current units or establishing a new campus ministry unit at the respective campuses for the coming academic year. Thereafter, an initial meeting of our students on campus will be coordinated and scheduled to be held during the Fall semester of 2019.

We request your whole-hearted support and prayers for this initiative and pray that God Almighty may bless and guide our increased efforts to care for our youth throughout their college years, so they may be preserved in the one true faith and thereby become responsible members and leaders of the Holy Church and the society.

May the love of the Father, grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all



Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem

Sreyas Aramana
Adoor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala
On August 16, 2019