



## MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Rambans, Deacons, Kaisthanees, and faithful of all parishes in our Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings and blessings on the Great Feast of Theophany, the Holy *Denho*, where we commemorate the Baptism of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. At the moment of Christ's descent into the River, the Jordan River reversed its course, and all of Creation witnessed the theophanic manifestation of Jesus Christ. The Holy Trinity was made manifest for the first time in human history. The Son of God in the water, the Holy Spirit hovered over as a dove, and the voice of God was heard. May the light of Jesus Christ shine on you on this blessed Feast.

We exhort you to the saying of St. Paul, Ephesians 5:1-2 – "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." With profound joy and happiness, we share in the blessed service of our beloved clergy. Their immaculate service through the long chapters of history in America is noteworthy and we remember with pride their dedication to the Holy church and the faith of the Holy Fathers.

It is with much delight that we announce the elevation of our esteemed priests, Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew, Rev. Fr. V.C. Varghese Rev. Fr. John Kunnathusseril, Rev. Fr. C. G. Thomas, Rev. Fr. K.G. Philipose and Rev. Fr. Philip Sankarathil to the rank of Cor-Episcopos. The elevation of Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew, and Rev. Fr. V.C. Varghese will be held in St. Thomas Cathedral Houston on Saturday, March 16, and the elevation of Rev. Fr. John Kunnathusseril, Rev. Fr. C. G. Thomas, and Rev. Fr. K.G. Philipose in St. Mary's Valiyapally, Dallas on Saturday, April 6, and the elevation of Rev. Fr. Philip Sankarathil in St. Mary's Church South-West Florida on Saturday, April 20. We take joy in all the services rendered by these priests as they served the diocese and the Church faithfully for many years. They have been true imitators of Christ through their outstanding examples of selfless sacrifices and true love. Their remarkable journey across the vast expanse of our diocese to cater to the spiritual needs of the faithful especially the youth is worth cherishing. We earnestly require everyone to pray for the reverend Fathers, their families, and their parishes. May Christ our God preserve their priesthood in His Holy Kingdom and guide all our priests for many years to come!

May the love of God the Father and grace of the Only Begotten Son and the fellowship and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley  
January 6, 2024

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios