



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

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Blessings to our dearly beloved Cor-Episcopoi, Rambans, Priests, Deacons, and all the faithful of the Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The great Resurrection Day of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is finally come. The foundational message of Easter, the 'feast of all feasts' is declared in Christ's own words, "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (John 11:25). The resurrection is the source and outcome of Christ's Sacrificial Love for the Church and his dear children.

If human hatred had rejected, abandoned, and killed Jesus Christ on the cross, then Divine Love repulsed human hatred, overcame it, and established Eternal Life back into humanity. If this great mystery of Divine Love was not gifted to us, our lives would only be of struggle, filled with strife, indifferences, little affection, strangers to one another, where relations would be fragile, and attachments between families and friends would be disconnected and dissolved. Nothing in this world would have had any meaning.

But now through the taste of His resurrection, His Divine Love is shared. There is no despair or hopelessness. We do not lose heart because His promise to us is to look forward to the heavenly bliss and joy. Those who weep, those who are sick, those who are burdened, those who are weak, remember, our Christ rose from the dead. He has overcome death and suffering. Remember my children, we shall celebrate Easter as something that happened and still happens *to us personally and intimately*.

That is why we declare in the Resurrection manifesto during the special Liturgy of Easter, "Christ has risen from the tomb and has struck his enemies behind him." I wish all of you a Happy and joyous Easter. And that the hope and love of Easter fill your lives, the lives of your children, and all your deeds of righteousness.

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

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley  
March 31, 2024, on Easter Day

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios