

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

3703 Chesterdale Dr. · Missouri City, TX · 77459 · Ph: 281.403.0670 · Fax: 281.459.0814

Alexios Mar Eusebius

Metropolitan



DSWA/C/016/2010

October 28, 2010

Blessings to all our Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful, especially the members of the Sunday School Association.

Dearly Beloved,

The Sunday School aims to educate and mold our children in spiritual and moral values, equipping them for a commitment to Divine life. The Sunday School Association of our Diocese has been growing under the leadership of the Director, who is assisted by a team of energetic and dedicated individuals at the diocesan, regional, and unit levels. We take this opportunity to thank all the Vicars, principals, and teachers for their commitment to our children.

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Sunday School Association is divided into three regions, and our Diocese falls under the outside India region which includes North America, U.K, Europe and Africa. The Holy Episcopal Synod has appointed us as the president of this region. The regional level organizational set up will be made shortly, and we will inform you about the structure once completed.

The children are our future, and we have to take every effort to make our Sunday School program excel. With this objective in mind, we bring the following matters to your attention:

1. Our goal is to make sure that all teachers of the Sunday School in our Diocese complete the new teachers certification program within a period of three years. After three years, all new teachers will be required to have completed the certification in order to teach. It will be a nine month on-line course and the enrollment will begin in October of 2011.
2. All Sunday Schools beginning this academic year (2010-2011) are required to use the new textbooks and workbooks distributed by the Diocese. This will ensure uniformity and will allow us to hold centralized exams and competitions. Presently, we plan to conduct centralized exams for Grades 5, 8, 10, and 12. There will also be essay writing, Bible quiz, poetry/songs, and a drawing competition at the Diocesan level.
3. In order to ensure the participation of parents role in the Sunday School a Parent Teachers Association can be introduced in parish level. Its guidelines will be available from the General Secretary.
3. A Bible Resource Study Program is being launched to familiarize our students with the Bible. This will function at the parish level, and the lessons and worksheets will be supplied from one source at the diocesan level. We

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request all of you to get a copy of the Orthodox Study Bible as this program will be based on it. For now, the King James Version will be used.

We ask everyone to cooperate and coordinate with the Sunday School Association of our Diocese. Both the dioceses in America (Northeast and South-West) are working together to optimize the most efficient use of resources and to avoid duplication of efforts. Detailed guidelines and instructions will be issued by the Director of the Sunday School Association, Rev. Fr. Mathew Koshy. They will also be put up on the diocesan website for easy access. All inquiries can be sent to the Director or the General Secretary, Mr. Alex Alexander.

May the Triune God bless you and give strength and grace to work for His glory.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan