

# 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

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**Alexios Mar Eusebius**  
**Metropolitan**



DSWA/C/004/2010

March 12, 2010

Blessings to our dearly beloved Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful.

Dearly Beloved,

As we are going through the experience of Great Lent, it is our hope that all our fasting and prayer are in preparation for the passion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Great Lent is a spiritual journey that symbolizes the entire human life. It reminds us of the fall of humanity and the way of restoration. Indeed, repentance is the most blessed and God-given way of returning to Him.

Let us keep in mind that God is always with us. Just as He was with the Israelites in the wilderness, day and night, through the visible clouds and flame, He is always with us, helping, protecting and guiding us. It is indeed our turn to commit ourselves to return to Him, confessing our sins, with fasting and prayer, in humility and simplicity, in mindfulness and watchfulness, and in compassion and love, so that we may make this journey fruitful. May this Great Lent be a time of personal transformation, a sincere confession and a renewal of our souls and bodies.

As we approach Holy Week, let this be a reminder that all individuals should receive the Sacrament of Holy Confession in this Lenten season and prior to the Holy Pesaha Qurbana. It is only through our repentance, we receive His grace. It is also our hope that all parishes will make efforts to make contributions towards charity during this Great Lent. Lent is not only about us and the experience we gain but also what we can give to others.

As you are aware, the sixth Sunday of Great Lent is Catholicate Day. His Holiness has sent us a Kalpana and this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, March 21, 2010. This is the time we specially pray for our witness and the Church as a whole in this World. Let us continually pray for the health and ministry of our Catholicos, His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Didymus I. The identity of the Church is revealed to the world through us, and we must be individuals who show our support and love to the Holy Church. Catholicate Day should be celebrated in each parish, and it is good that the collection be taken on the same day. All Vicars should make the necessary arrangements to collect a minimum of \$25 per family.

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Please do not delay in sending the total collected amount to the Diocesan Office. It should reach the Catholicate office before November so that it should reflect in the current year's report and accounts.

My Dear ones in Christ, may we all take advantage of the remaining days of Great Lent, and thus, be prepared to enter Holy Week with great eager, anticipation and love for the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord.

May the Grace and Mercy of God be with you all during this Lenten season.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius  
Metropolitan