

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



September 24, 2010

DSWA/C/015/2010

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

Dearly Beloved,

We are pleased to know that the Prayer Fellowship of our Diocese is active in our parishes. The Director, Rev. Fr. K.Y. Wilson, is working to organize it on a Diocesan level and make it more active. We encourage parishes that do not yet have such prayer fellowships to organize it and to elect a coordinator to assist the Vicar in having regular organized meetings.

As you are aware, we have been observing Wednesdays at the Diocesan Center as a day for silence, prayer, study and meditation. We thought of a way in which the members of our Diocese can also partake in this observance. As a ministry of the Prayer Fellowship of our Diocese, we are inaugurating a telephonic prayer fellowship on every Wednesday morning from 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM beginning on October 13, 2010. Through this new ministry, the members of our Diocese will have the opportunity to hear a weekly devotional message and take part in intercessory prayers for those with special requests, especially the sick. We believe that through this new ministry, the members of our Diocese can be connected through prayer and give spiritual consolation to those who are in great need. The telephone number which can be accessed every Wednesday morning beginning at 10:30 AM is 218-632-0187 and the pass code is 3703. Please be aware this is an open invitation to all members of our Diocese. We especially urge the elderly, those who may be retired, sick, or living alone to take part in this prayer fellowship.

Mission work is an integral part of the Prayer Fellowship. While we are spiritually nurtured, we also need to make a difference in the world through our charitable efforts for our Lord said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (St. Matthew 25:40). While we have many goals for our Diocese, none of this can be achieved without the proper tithe from each member of our Diocese. Tithing is a basic teaching found in both the Old and New Testament that we must incorporate in our daily life. When we set apart a portion of our earnings on a monthly basis and share it with those in need, we should consider it as an offering of thanksgiving to God Almighty for the blessings we receive from Him.

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Currently, the Diocese has several projects under the name '**ORTHODOX FELLOWSHIP FOR CARE AND SHARE**' to which members of our Diocese can donate. The following is a brief highlight of these projects for your awareness:

- 1) **Theological Endowment Fund** – supports the theological studies of seminarians from our Diocese
- 2) **Hope for Education** – supports the higher education of students in our diocese who are unable to attend colleges and universities due to financial struggle and students in Kerala, especially the children of priests, who need financial assistance for their higher education
- 3) **Medical Assistance Fund** – supports individuals in Kerala who cannot afford a physician or are unable to do medical procedures that are crucial to their health and survival
- 4) **Hope for Parishes** – supports financially struggling congregations of our Church located in rural areas of Kerala to be given the opportunity to worship on a regular basis

Further details of these projects are available on the Diocesan website. We encourage all our faithful to consider donating to any of the above mentioned purposes as you so desire.

Please continue to pray for the Prayer Fellowship & Mission Work of our Diocese. May the Spirit of God guide us to be changed and to be a change for the world.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan