



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to the Vicars, office-bearers and all the faithful of our Diocese, especially the teachers and students of the Sunday School.

Dearly beloved,

By the grace of God, the activities of our Sunday School are growing and we appreciate the dedicated efforts of our beloved clergy, teachers, parents and children for their contribution in this area. The Orthodox Vacation Bible School (OVBS) is an opportunity for our children to gather during their summer vacations and spend time together in fellowship with one another and study. The theme for this year is taken from the letter of St. James 4:10, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." This is certainly an applicable theme as humility is one of the keys to the Kingdom of God. Humility for a Christian is the ability to put God first, others second and ourselves last. We hope this theme of humility will be understood by our children and result in much fruit for generations to come.

We express our gratitude to the several volunteers who have worked in various capacities over the past few months to produce the materials and coordinate all efforts with the Northeast American Diocese, especially our Diocesan Sunday School Directors. All of the OVBS resources will be sent via e-mail and made available online on our Diocesan website. Though the material is provided online for download, we request every parish of our diocese to provide a minimum \$50.00 contribution to help support the continuous efforts and activities of the Sunday School Association of our diocese. This amount can be sent to the Diocesan Center, Attn: Sunday School Treasurer with a special mention of "2013 OVBS Contribution" in the memo.

We take this opportunity to extend our prayers and blessings for the success of this year's OVBS. We hope and pray that the OVBS will be conducted throughout our Diocese and will provide an environment for fellowship and learning among our children.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
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