



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



3703 Chesterdale Drive
Missouri City, Texas, 77459
Office: (281) 403-0670
Fax: (281) 459-0814
dswadiocesanoffice@ds-wa.org
www.ds-wa.org

DSWA/C/11/2012

July 24, 2012

Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Office bearers, and all the faithful of our Diocese.

Dearly Beloved,

We are entering the period of a canonical lent in our Church commemorating the blessed Feast of Dormition (Assumption) of the Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God. This lent is always observed during the days of August 1-15. As we all know, St. Mary is a role model for all people, and she continues to be a great intercessor for the Church and its members. We know the account of Elizabeth who experienced the babe in her womb leap with joy when she was met by St. Mary and our Lord who was also in the womb at the time. Thus, Elizabeth, filled with spirit proclaimed aloud, "Blessed are you among woman, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." These words which we still use in our prayers to this day remind us of the title and honor she received to bear Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to the world.

As it is in practice by the Holy Church, we exhort all parishes to observe August 15th or the following Sunday as Morth Mariam Samajam Day. A special prayer should be offered for the leaders of the spiritual organization, its members, and all its activities. We urge all the Morth Mariam Samajam members to promote the special collection that should be taken on this day, which is the only source of income for this spiritual organization and its activities. Over the past few years, we were able to make remarkable contributions to different charities on a Diocesan level because of the support we received from our faithful.

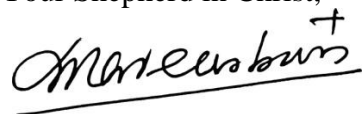
The fourth annual Conference of MOMS of our Diocese will be held at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Los Angeles from October 12-14, 2012. Rev. Dr. O. Thomas, Professor of Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam & Coordinator of the Prathyasha Counseling Center, will be the main speaker for the conference. A local committee in Los Angeles is working hard along with the Diocesan office bearers to make this event a great success. The details of this conference will be communicated to you by the Vice-President, Rev. Fr. George Paulose, and the General Secretary, Mrs. Susan Thampan. It is our desire that all parishes of our Diocese will be represented at this conference.



My Dear Children, we hope and pray that all the faithful will observe this canonical lent, which we have in the name of the mother of our God. By putting into practice the spiritual discipline of abstinence, we hope this lent will be a time for personal transformation through the renewal of our souls and bodies.

May the intercessions of St. Mary, the Mother of God, and all the saints be a stronghold for us all.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



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