

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



July 28, 2011

DSWA/C/07/2011

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

Dearly Beloved,

We are now entering the period of canonical lent in commemoration of the Feast of Assumption of the Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God. This lent is always observed during the days of August 1-15. There is a tradition in practice that observes September 1-8 in commemoration of the Nativity of St. Mary, but the Holy Church does not consider this a canonical lent. The Nativity of Christ is the only birth we celebrate in the life of the Church.

The life of St. Mary is a model to all Christians in this world. She was chosen by God Almighty to be the Mother of His only begotten Son. Her righteousness was pleasing to God and now honored by Christians all over the world. The righteous man Joseph accepted her because he knew of her righteousness. In Proverbs 10:7 it says, "The memory of the righteous will be a blessing." It is a true blessing for us to keep the memory of St. Mary and her intercession will always be a fortress for us. When we celebrate the feast of the Mother of God, it is our responsibility that we also follow the values she taught us through her life. Pride and ego has spoiled many families and continues to disrupt the peace in our parishes. We must seek the intercessions of St. Mary and work to follow her example so that we can retain the peace and harmony in our parishes and family life.

Every year, the Holy Church also observes August 15th as Martha Mariam Samajam Day. The Martha Mariam Vanitha Samajam is a very active spiritual organization of our Church, and its patron saint is St. Mary. During the celebration of this year's Dormition feast, all parishes should also observe Martha Mariam Samajam Day. We urge all of you to promote the special collection that should be taken from the members of MMVS on the this day, which is the only source of income for this spiritual organization and its activities. Last year, we were able to make remarkable contributions to different charities on a Diocesan level because of the support we received from our faithful.

The third annual Martha Mariam Samajam Conference of our Diocese will be held in Chicago from October 7-8, 2011. A committee is working hard to make this event a great success. The details of this conference will be soon communicated to you by the Vice-President, Rev. Fr. George Paulose and the

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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. 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 intercession of the Mother of God be a fortress to all of us.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan