



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Rambans, Deacons, and faithful of all parishes in the Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly beloved in Christ,

As we journey through the Shoonoyo Nombu from August 1st to 15th, we reflect on the unwavering faith of Mother Mary, who dedicated her entire life as a beautiful offering to God. This feast is not merely a commemoration of Mary's passing but a celebration of her transition from earthly life to heavenly glory. Her deep commitment to prayer and love made her the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Feast of the Dormition, this powerful image of Mother Mary reminds us that just as she was surrounded by the apostles at her death, so too does she surround us with her prayers, especially in our moments of trial and transition. And her dormition stands as a powerful testament to the victory of life over death, offering a glimpse of the resurrection that we all hope to share.

This year, as we honor the Feast of Mother Mary, we shall also observe the **Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam Day** in our Diocese on **Sunday, August 18th**. On this day, let us gather for the Holy Qurbana and offer prayers for the spiritual activities of the Vanitha Samajam members, as well as for their families and loved ones. We encourage all MMVS members to actively promote and participate in the special cover collection in your respective churches, dedicated exclusively to charity. With heartfelt love and gratitude, we extend our appreciation to all the MMVS leaders at the parish, regional, and diocesan levels.

Additionally, the MMVS Annual Conference for 2024 will be held at St. Gregorius Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, from October 3rd to October 5th. The theme for the conference is drawn from 1 Corinthians 9:16, "Glorification through Witnessing the Gospel." We urge each parish to encourage and ensure maximum participation in this conference. Let us all pray for the successful completion of the conference, that it may be fruitful in advancing the ministry of the Kingdom of God.

May the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley
August 8, 2024

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios