



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to our beloved Vicars, Assistant Vicars, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Rambans, Deacons, Diocesan Council Members, Managing, Assembly and Association members, Leaders of the Spiritual Organisations, Parish Managing Committee Members, and our faithful of the Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

As the Holy Church joyfully celebrates the feast of the Holy Pentecost, we remember today **June 8, 2025**, as the **Diocesan Day**. May the power of the Holy Spirit enlighten and illumine our spiritual lives and lead us to holiness and purity. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all for your constant prayers and generous contributions that have uplifted and sustained the ministry of our Diocese. Your deep commitment to the mission of the Church has been a source of strength and inspiration. We especially remember in blessed memory, Mar Makarios Thirumeni and Mar Barnabas Thirumeni, and all the former metropolitans, the clergy, the living and departed, and the faithful who worked day and night in prayers and contributions for the diocese.

We thank the Lord for the successful completion of the renovation work at the Aramana house, a work made possible by your kind donations and continuous prayers. At present, renovation work is ongoing at the Aramana Chapel, where the roof and structure are being strengthened and sealed to prevent further leakage. We request your continued prayers so that this sacred space, where prayers are offered daily on behalf of the faithful, may be completed and beautified for God’s glory.

With immense joy, we also share that a monastery has been purchased in Los Angeles. This is a great blessing for our Diocese and a vital step toward its spiritual enrichment. The growth of this monastic community is essential for the spiritual upliftment of our faithful. We encourage those who feel a calling toward a deeper life of prayer and charity to speak with their respective Vicars and discern how they can participate in the life and ministry of the monastery. Let us nurture vocations that are tuned to a monastic life, which shall bear witness to the love of Christ in our times.



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We also ask for your prayers for the proposed construction of a new chapel and cemetery, which has reached the final phase of approval. We trust that with your support and by the grace of God, this dream too will become a reality and serve the needs of our community for generations to come. We are also glad to inform you of the initiative in the setting up of a Christ the Good Shepherd Orthodox Mission Church in Houston to spread the gospel to all those undeserving and lost children of society. Our faith and our ministry are to bring all those people, irrespective of culture, nationality, colour, creed, etc, towards Christ and his selfless love.

It brings us joy to report that the Diocese continues to provide scholarship support through the *Mar Makarios* and *Mar Barnabas* Scholarship programs, which help school students who have excelled in the field of education. In addition, support is extended to our retired clergy and seminary students to ensure that those called to serve may receive the education and formation they need. With your ongoing support, we hope to welcome even more students into the theological learning and service.

We affirm that the funds received from our parishes and faithful are being utilized effectively and responsibly. A minimum of 10% of all contributions is allocated for charitable work and community service. This is Christ's ministry among the poor, the sick, and the struggling.

We remain ever grateful to our clergy, Diocesan Council Members, Managing, Assembly and Association members, Leaders of the Spiritual Organisations, parish managing committees, and all faithful members for your selfless support throughout the past year. Also, we thank the members of all spiritual organisations of the diocese. Your prayers, donations, and participation have made a significant impact on the success of the Church's mission and the spread of God's love in this world. As we mark this Diocesan Day, let us recommit ourselves to Christ's calling to be light and salt in this world. May we continue to walk together in love, prayer, and service, bearing witness to the Gospel and building the Kingdom of God in our time.

May the love of God the Father, the grace of the Only-Begotten Son, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley
June 02, 2025

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios