

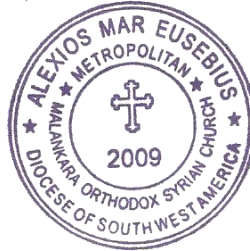
Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

2711 Creek Terrace Dr. • Missouri City, TX • 77459 • Ph: 281.403.0670

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



DSWA/C/014/2009

September 25, 2009

Blessings to our dearly beloved Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful.

Dearly Beloved,

It has been just months since the formation of our Diocese, but we thank God for the positive response and enthusiasm of our people. As we have visited many of the areas, it has been a blessing for us to witness such commitment and desire to carry out the vision of our Diocese.

Over the past few months, there has been much discussion about the building of a Diocesan center from where both the bishop can reside and administer the spiritual needs of the faithful. Since our coming to America, we have been residing in a rental home in the Houston area that was graciously offered to us for a short period of time. It has become clear to us that it will take some more time to accomplish the building of a permanent Diocesan center. We feel it is more effective to build up the Diocese and its ministries before we can take on such a project.

When both the clergy and the Ad-hoc committee of our Diocese met back in August, it was strongly suggested that we should proceed to find a temporary bishop's residence of our own. It was evident that paying continuous rent would be a loss for the Diocese, and that it is better to have a facility of our own, though it would be temporary. A budget for \$500,000 was approved, and it was agreed that each family would contribute \$200 as a one-time donation for this project.

In the past month, a three person committee was appointed to search for an appropriate residence within our budget while striving to meet our needs. After visiting various places, a nice residential home was found and proposed as the best option. The house which has been approved for \$383,000 is more than 5,500 square feet and sits on 1.25 acres of land. It is located in Missouri City, Texas, near to the highway, airports, and churches in the Houston area. The house has multiple bedrooms and bathrooms to accommodate visiting clergy and guests, and enough space for an office, business meeting room, and area for making a chapel.

The Diocese currently has over 2300 families, including all of our parishes and congregations. If each family is to contribute a minimum of \$200, we can purchase the property without having to take a loan and create a burden. Therefore, as was discussed and passed, each parish

administration should take the initiative to collect this amount from each family at the earliest. The closing date is set for October 23, 2009; therefore the finances need to be collected by October 15th. If necessary, there was a proposal to collect loans from either individuals or parishes in the amount of \$5,000 or \$10,000. We believe this is good to be sure that the house can be paid in full at the time of purchase. All loans will be paid back within one year at an interest of 5%.

Please be aware that this purchase is also being done with the support and consent of His Holiness, the Catholicos. Even at such old age, His Holiness shared great joy in knowing that a building of our own is being purchased, which is just one of the positive results in forming the Diocese.

Our dear children, each and every individual should feel a part of this project. We can only proceed with your support. We must all see this as an investment to build up the vision and mission of our Diocese. We request that both the clergy and the faithful sincerely fast and pray for the future of our Diocese. May all Glory be given to the One True God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now, always, and forever.

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan