

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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DSWA/C/06/2015

Metropolitan

May 26, 2015

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

Dearly beloved,

As is the practice, Diocesan Day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of June, and this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, June 7th. This is an opportunity for us to first and foremost give thanks to God for the blessings we have received since the inception of our diocese in 2009. As the Malankara Orthodox Church in North America has grown into two dioceses, we must continue our purpose and mission and seek to establish a strong identity and witness in this part of the world. When we look at some of our sister Orthodox Churches, we see how they have developed in this land in various aspects including their involvement in social and charitable activities and the establishment of spiritual centers. This should be a model for us as our diocese seeks to continue to build from its infant stages. The already announced developmental projects at the Diocesan Center in Beasley must be a primary concern for each and every member of our diocese, and we urge you to pray and work with us in this regard.

We exhort all our parishes to conduct a fitting celebration at the parish level on Sunday, June 7th by remembering our diocese during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana and offering a special prayer for the diocese, its ministries, all our clergy and faithful, and especially the Metropolitans, clergy and lay leaders who pioneered the establishment of churches in different parts of North America. Additionally, the diocesan share collection should be conducted and each family of our diocese should contribute their minimum \$100 share to the diocese. The Diocesan Day collection is the primary source of income for the diocese, and it pains us to know that even after six years, we have still not achieved the targeted 100% collection from all the parishes in our diocese. It is our humble request that each family and parish contributes their share and meaningfully and actively participates by supporting the active and future ministries and projects of the diocese. It is when we work together and give a helping hand that we can accomplish great things.

We seek your continuous prayers and support for our diocese. Let us unite as one in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in the years ahead. May the intercessions of St. Mary, the Mother of God, and all the saints who have pleased God by their lives be a stronghold and fortress for us all.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Marlensburg

Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan