



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee Members, Diocesan Assembly Members and all the faithful of our Diocese,

Dearly Beloved,

The Diocesan Assembly that was held in Houston on May of 2014 decided to build a chapel in the Diocesan center considering the fact that it should be the first stage of development to make this place a spiritual center. A chapel in the traditional Orthodox architectural style along with a museum showcasing the tradition and heritage of Malankara Orthodox Church will surely teach the richness of the faith and beliefs of the Malankara Orthodox Church in this country. Also these are the physical signs, which makes one who visit Urshlem feel and experience the beauty and serenity of God's presence. It is intended to be a quiet place set apart for prayer, meditation, and worship that allows for one to be away from the busy and stressful life we often live.

To achieve this goal, a core fundraising committee was formed and has met on different occasions to develop ways to raise funds for this project. It was proposed that we hold a raffle draw, as a major fundraising program that can help raise a considerable portion of funds for the construction of the first phase of the developments. The raffle booklet contains 10 raffle tickets and the value of each ticket is a \$100. I wish that each family of our diocese take at least one book and sell it to their friends and families explaining to them the good cause behind this collection. This exciting raffle draw includes prizes such as a brand new Mercedes Benz SUV, 24kt gold ornaments and two round trip tickets to the destination of your choice.

As you all know, our faithful are part of other Kerala/Malayalee communities and we cooperate with them for many social and religious programs. Similarly, we know that members of these groups will cooperate with us in the development of the Malankara Orthodox Church in the North American Continent. We hope that they would consider this as an opportunity to become part of a great cause. We further hope that it will instill a positive message among the Indian community that the Malankara Orthodox Church continues to rise and grow with a focus on the coming generations in this part of the world.



We have to organize area committees in all the areas of our diocese with a priest as a chairman, a lay leader as the convener and individuals from our parishes in each area who can willingly work for the success of this program. The core committee of the Diocese led by the General Convener, Rev. Fr. Slomo Isaac George, and Secretary, Mr. George Geevarghese and Raffle Coupon Coordinator Mr. Thomas Poovathur will give you more detailed information with regard to this matter. In order to make this raffle drive as effective, we seek the cooperation of all our clergy and faithful of our diocese.

May the intercession of Mary the mother of God, St. Thomas the apostle to India and our saints Mar Gregorios and Dionysius be a fortress for us all.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius