



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 and all the faithful, especially the members of the MMVS of our Diocese,

Dearly Beloved,

We are beginning our journey into the *Shoonoyo Nombu* which is observed annually from August 1-15 and commemorates the blessed life of the Holy *Theotokos*. St. Mary is given a place of honor among the Saints as the one who bore God and lived an exemplary life on earth with the virtues of holiness, humility, and obedience. As she continues to stand as a great intercessor for the Holy Church and its members today, let us meditate on her life during this Holy Fast, and seek to imitate her life as we continue on our spiritual journey in this world.

The Morth Mariam Samajam of our diocese continues to grow as an active ministry that contributes highly to the building up of the family and the church as a whole. The diocesan activities and events of this ministry continue to increase each year. We praise God Almighty for the spiritual growth and the considerable amount of charitable contributions that have been initiated by its members. The charitable activities and educational assistance introduced by the MMVS over the years continue to assist many both in India and in North America. The application for upcoming charity projects is now available on our diocesan website and hard copies are also available with each parish unit secretary.

As it is in practice within the Holy Church, we exhort all parishes to observe Sunday, August 14th as Morth Mariam Samajam Day. A special prayer should be offered for the leaders of the spiritual organization, its members and all its activities. We urge all the Morth Mariam Samajam members to promote and participate in the special cover collection that should be taken on this day. The annual conference for the MMVS will be held at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Atlanta from October 7-9, 2016. We urge each parish to bring the maximum number of participants to attend and participate in this annual conference.



My dear children, we hope and pray the observance of this upcoming fast will allow us to put into practice the spiritual discipline of abstinence and be a time for personal transformation through the renewal of our souls and bodies.

May the intercessions of St. Mary and all the holy saints be a stronghold for us all.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
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