



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, and all the faithful of our diocese,

Dearly Beloved,

In the summer of 2015, we inaugurated a weeklong Summer Camp for young men entering 11th and 12th grade in high school or pursuing their undergraduate degree. The camp experience immersed youth in the Orthodox way of life through prayer, community living and fellowship, study of the Scriptures, and several workshops related to college orientation, career development, maintaining friendships, upholding family life, confronting daily challenges in the modern world, and the use of technology. The success of last year's camp and the positive feedback we received has led us to move forward with the decision to host the Summer Camp again in 2016. Additionally, we have decided to inaugurate a similar camp experience for the young women of our diocese of the same age group.

We are pleased to inform you that the 2016 Urshlem Men's Summer Camp will be held from July 10-17 and the 2016 Urshlem Women's Summer Camp will be held from July 17-20 at the Diocesan Center. The detailed information regarding these camps are included in the attached flyers and available online on our diocesan website. The main leaders for these camps will include our own clergy and seminarians as well as qualified people from the local Orthodox churches.

We encourage high school students from all areas of the Diocese who are entering 11th and 12th grade as well as college students pursuing their undergraduate degree to attend this camp. Our mission in offering these camp experiences is to provide our youth with a living experience of Orthodoxy that empowers them to stand firm in their identity in Christ across all areas of their life. Held at the Diocesan Center, this camp offers a unique experience that many youth have never experienced before and has the potential to make a significant and lifelong impact on the spiritual lives of all those who attend. A comprehensive study program and schedule is being prepared for both the camps, and we hope it will greatly impact the formation of our youth. For more information regarding these camps, please contact the Diocesan MGOCSM General Secretary, Ms. Lijin Raju, or the area MGOCSM Council Representatives.

We extend our prayers and blessings to the individuals who are planning and preparing for these camps, and hope it will be a life-changing and empowering experience for all the attendees of the camp.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius