



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

Urshlem, 3101 Hopkins Road, Beasley, TX 77417, USA
Office: (281) 403 0670 Fax: (281) 459 0814
Email: 2010aprem@gmail.com Website: www.ds-wa.org



Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem
Assistant Metropolitan

Email: 2010aprem@gmail.com
Website: www.ds-wa.org

No. 66/2018

Blessings to our beloved Cor-episcopoi, Vicars, Assistant Vicars, Priests of the locality, Trustees, Members of the managing committee and faithful members of all our parishes in the diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved,

The holy Church venerates St. Mary, the Mother of God, (*Theotokos*), as the Second Heaven and relies on her for divine intercession which is a stronghold for the holy Church. In order to commemorate the sacred memory of St. Mary, the Church observes the Fast of the 'Dormition of the *Theotokos*' or 'the entering of the Virgin Mary to eternal glory from this temporal life', from August 1-15. In Syriac tradition this is acclaimed as *Shunoyo* Fast or *Shunoyo Nombu*. We, with paternal affection, exhort all our beloved ones to observe *shunoyo nombu* in its purity and holiness for our own deification and for the strengthening of the walls of the Church. We hope and pray that these fast days will enhance our spiritual discipline and empower all our families.

Beloved ones,

It is our practice to observe the Sunday after August 15 as Morth Mariyyam Vanitha Samajam Day in order to offer special prayer for MMVS and its activities. We encourage all the members of the Morth Moriyam Samajam to promote and participate in the special cover collection which is exclusively meant for the purpose of charity. With utmost love and gratitude we express our appreciation to all the leaders of MMVS in parish, regional and diocesan levels.

We are delighted to inform you all that the Annual Conference of MMVS will be held at St. Mary's Orthodox Valiyapally, Dallas from September 27-30, 2018. Each parish must encourage and ensure maximum participants to this conference. We will be present in all sessions of the conference and we exhort you all to pray for the successful completion of the conference.

May the love of God the Father, grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

From
Urshlem Diocesan Centre,
Beasley, TX 77417
On July 27, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem

