



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-episcopoi, Deacons, *Kaisthanees*, and faithful of all parishes in our Diocese of South-West America!

As we have already received the Kalpana of His Holiness the Catholicos regarding the Great Lent and information on the preparations for the Consecration of Holy *Mooron* to be held on the 40th Day of the Great Lent, we take this opportunity to first offer our love and prayers to each of our clergy and faithful for a blessed Lenten journey and seek your most valuable prayers for us.

We are extremely pleased to know that the printing of the new liturgical book project initiated and primarily led by the clergy and faithful of our diocese is complete and is in the process of being shipped to all the parishes who submitted pre-orders. While we realize the entire process has taken much longer than anticipated, we assure you that your patience has helped ensure this book is published in the best manner possible.

The unique liturgical service book which includes both new and revised English translations along with the Malayalam and its transliteration side-by-side with a featured commentary will be a valuable resource, especially for the parishes throughout North America and outside Kerala. Additionally, parishes will now have a greater capacity to use both Malayalam and English within a liturgical service using a single book, thereby increasing participation and understanding for all our faithful when gathered together and attending more to the growing multilingual needs within the Holy Church. While change can be difficult at times, we are confident the revisions and additions will be a transitional change that will lead to growth within the Holy Church with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, the dream envisioned by the pioneer clergy in North America to have one unified liturgical book is now a reality as this service book is published by MOC Publications with the blessing of the Holy Synod and is an approved liturgical service book of the Holy Church.

We take this opportunity to extend our personal gratitude to our predecessor, His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan, under whose blessing and guidance this project was initiated, and to every individual, both clergy and laity, who have laboured countless number of years with diligence and perseverance to publish this liturgical service book. May the Lord God bless every individual, whose names are known to our Living God, for their valuable and immensely treasured contribution to the Holy Church. We request your continued support and prayers for the Ministry of Liturgical Resource Development of our diocese and its members who work tirelessly to produce and make available more English translations and understanding and experience of the Holy Qurbana for all our faithful, especially our dear children who are being raised outside of Kerala.

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 through this Great Lenten season, and we extend our prayers for a season of repentance, renewal, transformation, and growth.

From Sreyas Aramana
Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India
On February 17, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem

