



# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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No. 50/2018

Blessings to all our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful of the Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly Beloved,

We offer praises and thanksgiving to God Almighty for the blessings showered upon us as we celebrate the completion of nine years since the inception of our diocese in April 1, 2009. We take this opportunity to first and foremost to reflect on the prayers and sacrifices of our most beloved predecessors along with all the clergy and laity, both the living and the departed, who pioneered the mission and growth of our Church in North America. Today, we bear witness to the fruit of their labour with established parish communities and places of worship for our faithful across the North American continent along with expanded ministries that seek to cater to the varying age groups and growing spiritual needs of our faithful.

We also take this opportunity to appreciate the zeal and commitment of our clergy and faithful who continually labour for the diocese and contribute daily to the growth of the Holy Church. As we complete nine years, we rejoice in the significant growth, our diocese has made through their effort, while also realizing the challenges and greater mission before us. Every clergy and faithful member is an essential part to the body of Christ as each member belongs to a local parish community which is linked to a diocese and is part of the Holy Church.

As it has been in practice, diocesan day is celebrated annually on the first Sunday of June, and this year it will be celebrated on Sunday, June 3rd, 2018. We exhort all our parishes to conduct a fitting celebration at the parish level on this day by remembering our diocese during the celebration of the liturgy and offering a special prayer for the diocese, its ministries, and all our clergy and faithful. It is our hope and desire to have each family participate in the annual diocesan day collection with your prayerful and financial support through the minimum contribution of \$100.00 per family. The united efforts of us all for the annual diocesan day collection, which serves as the primary source of income for the diocese, supports the daily diocesan operational needs and current and future projects and ministries of the diocese.

We thank God for the opportunity to serve as a shepherd of this diocese, and we seek your most valuable prayers for wisdom, guidance and strength from our Lord to full fill the responsibilities entrusted to us. 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 Sreyas Aramana  
Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India  
On May 18, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem