



# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to our beloved Vicars, Cor-Episcopoi, Priests of the Locality, Deacons, Trustees, members of the Managing Committee, beloved Children, Teachers and Faithful of all parishes in our South-West Diocese of America!

Dearly beloved,

As the end of summer vacation draws near, we are approaching the start of a new academic school year. St. Paul the Apostle reminds us in his letter to the Colossians (3:23-24), "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ." We remind our children to commit yourself unto Christ, who is the source of all knowledge and understanding, and strive to imitate Christ in all aspects of your life. We urge all our children to seek to mould yourselves to be disciples and servants of Christ by honouring and glorifying Him in all things.

We also take this opportunity to remind all our parents of the need to model the classroom and the life of the church within your own household by establishing a daily discipline of family prayer and Scripture reading. Our children will not experience these disciplines in school, and it is the responsibility of parents to commit themselves to prioritizing and instructing children in these basic spiritual disciplines at home, so they retain it through their life. As we also approach the start of a new Sunday School year, we pray that parishes will take the extra effort to focus on the formation of our children and model for them a Christian community and life in Christ that is deeply rooted in worship, learning, and fellowship.

We take this opportunity to extend our love and prayers to all our beloved children and to all who have been entrusted the ministry of teaching at the start of this new academic year. May God Almighty continue to bless and sanctify each one of you and may you dedicate yourselves to follow the example of Christ, the Great Teacher.

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.

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From Sreyas Aramana,  
Adoor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala  
August 17, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem