



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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No. 76/2018

Our beloved Very Reverend Cor-Episcopoi, the Vicars, Priests of the Locality, Deacons, Kaisthanees, Members of the Managing Committee, our beloved faithful in all parishes of the South-West Diocese of America!

Dearly beloved,

The unprecedented calamity that has struck havoc in our native state Kerala is a matter of much pain and one that calls for our united prayers and consolidated efforts to strengthen our fellow brothers and sisters. The Holy Episcopal Synod that held at Devalokam Aramana, Kottayam from the 7th-11th August expressed sincere concern in this regard and has decided to extend utmost solidarity with those affected and also support all those involved with the relief process. The ongoing flood in Kerala has brought the life to a standstill in all 14 districts of Kerala. The monsoon has caused immeasurable misery and devastation throughout the state. Thousands of homes damaged, thousands of kilometres of roads destroyed, livestock and agriculture destroyed, many bridges collapsed, hundreds of people perished, and the estimated damages are more than what we can imagine.

It is our Christian responsibility to be one with those affected by this calamity in their times of sorrows. The incessant rains and flood have deprived people of their homes and means of sustenance in many districts of Kerala. It is time that each one of us gathers together in prayers and also extend all possible support to those afflicted.

You all would have by now known of the deep concern that the Church has expressed in restoration of our native state. His Holiness The Catholicos and the Malankara Metropolitan has been ever vigilant and concerned that the Church should in all its potentials come out and work with the people to rebuild our state and its people. The Church has decided to build homes for 1000 families, offer medical assistance to all people affected by the floods, ensure food guarantee to 1000 needy families, assuring educational assistance to the children who have been deprived of the same and distribution of free food and medicines and materials for daily sustenance to all in need. Towards this noble cause, I urge all the faithful believers to contribute generously and selflessly so that this great venture can be fulfilled.

As you all know, His Holiness our Bava Thirumeni will be in our diocese for 5 days (from August 28 to September 4) at Los Angeles for the Apostolic visit. With paternal love and affection, we urge all our parishes to stretch your helping hands by contributing your donation directly to His Holiness at a meeting held on September 1. We exhort our beloved Vicars to take a special initiative in this fund-raising program.

May the love God the Father, Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

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From Sreyas Aramana,
Adoor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala
August 22, 2018

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem