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No. 81/2018

Blessings to our dearly beloved Cor-Episcopoi, Vicars, Priests of the locality, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee Members, and all the faithful, especially the members of the MGOCSM!

Dearly beloved,

With immense joy and gratitude, we, not only as the Assistant Metropolitan of the Diocese but also as the Central President of the MGOCSM of our Church, express our sincere love and appreciation to the leaders of the MGOCSM of the diocese for their trying efforts and dedicated services rendered to the ministry among our students.

Our diocesan MGOCSM has grown significantly through the cooperative efforts of the diocesan office bearers, regional council members, and unit representatives across the diocese with the support of our beloved clergy and faithful. In recent years, the MGOCSM of our diocese has taken an active role to continue to conduct the annual leadership camp, initiate the men's and women's summer camps, increase more domestic service event opportunities across the diocese, and restore the international mission's trip in 2017 with a new opportunity and partnership with the Coptic Orthodox Diocese in Bolivia, South America. We are pleased to inform you that the planning for these events and activities for the year 2019 is ongoing and will be communicated in due time.

The yearly MGOSM unit registration plays an important role for the smooth functioning of the Diocesan MGOCSM by supporting these various ministry projects and events. This year, the annual unit registration for each parish must be completed by November 25, 2018. The registration fee of \$100.00 along with the completed registration form should be submitted to: **Diocese of South-West America, Attn: MGOCSM General Treasurer, 3101 Hopkins Rd., Beasley, TX 77417**. Only those parishes completing the annual registration will receive delegate seats to attend the Annual MGOCSM Leadership Camp.

As it was initiated in 2017 within our diocese, the Third Sunday of October is to be celebrated as *MGOCSM Day*. This year, MGOCSM Day is to be celebrated in all parishes of the diocese on Sunday, October 21st, 2018. The significance of MGOCSM Day is to offer prayers for the continued growth of the ministry, make the faithful aware of the initiatives and activities of the MGOCSM across the diocese, and reflect on the ongoing needs of the ministry with a focus on the areas that can be strengthened.

Throughout the month of October 2018, the MGOCSM will focus on the theme, *Month of Giving*. Online podcasts related to this theme will be released during each week of October and posted via various social media outreach areas of the ministry. In addition, each region of the diocese is encouraged to collectively plan and coordinate one local fundraiser during the month of October in support of the diocesan MGOCSM activities. All contributions received will help our annual leadership camp as well as both domestic and international mission trips with an opportunity to grow and expand the ministry of MGOCSM to other areas that need more attention.

We exhort our beloved Vicars and faithful to continue to strengthen the MGOCSM of our diocese. We encourage each parish unit to be active and committed to fulfilling the motto of MGOCSM which is *Worship, Study, Service*. We offer our continued prayers for the successful and charismatic functioning of all MGOCSM units across the diocese to enhance the overall ministry and outreach to the high school and college youth within our diocese. May the intercessions of St. Gregorios of Parumala, the patron Saint of MGOCSM, continue to be a stronghold for us all.

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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Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem

From Sreyas Aramana Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India On October 15, 2018