



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Assistant Metropolitan

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No. 41/2019

Blessings to our dearly beloved Cor-Episcopoi, Vicars, Priests of the locality, Deacons, 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 have completed ten years since the formation of our diocese on April 1, 2009. As we complete a decade, we rejoice in the significant growth and achievements made within our diocese in such a short period of time while also realizing the greater potential of our diocese and knowing the challenges and work that is still before us. Every year is an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, where we currently are, and where we would like to go while realizing our potential and committing to our future goals. We are reminded of the words of St. Paul: "Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). St. Paul uses this image to explain that just as there is one body with many different and essential parts that perfect the body, likewise, we who are diverse and individual members of this diocese and the church are one united body in Jesus Christ.

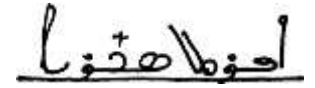
We take this opportunity to reflect on the prayers and sacrifices of our most beloved predecessors, Late Lamented Metropolitans His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios and His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, who served as the spiritual shepherds of the American Diocese and H.G. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos Metropolitan as the Assistant Metropolitan of the Diocese of America. We with great honour and respect reflect the able leadership of His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, the first Metropolitan of DSWA. Along with them, we thank God for 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 in many places across the North American continent.

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 2nd, 2019. We exhort all our clergy and faithful to come together on this day and celebrate the Holy Qurbana with the spirit of unity and thanksgiving while offering prayers for the departed clergy and faithful of our diocese who laboured much for the growth of our diocese. The 10th year anniversary of our diocese will be formally celebrated in conjunction with the diocesan family & youth conference in Chicago in July 2019.

As in previous years, each member of our diocese is to participate in the annual diocesan day share through the minimum contribution of \$100.00 per member and this is to be given to the respective parish. The total diocesan day share from the parish is to be sent to the diocesan center before the end of the financial year. The united efforts of us all for the annual diocesan day collection serves as the primary income resource for the diocese and supports the annual diocesan operational needs and both current and future projects and ministries of the diocese.

We take this opportunity to appreciate the zeal and commitment of all our clergy and faithful who have been continually labouring and supporting the diocese through your prayerful and financial support. We thank God for the opportunity we have been given to serve as a shepherd of this diocese and to assist His Holiness the Catholicos for the past 18 months. We seek your most valuable prayers for wisdom, guidance and strength from our Lord so that we may fulfil 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.



Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem

Camp: Sreyas Aramana
Adoor, Pathanamthitta, Kerala
On May 30, 2019