

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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No. 51/2022

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

Dearly beloved,

By the grace of God, the 2022 Diocesan Clergy Conference, Diocesan Malankara Association meeting and Diocesan Assembly was conducted on July 8th & 9th at our St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Houston. We first and foremost express our sincere thanks to Metropolitan His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, Metropolitan of the Northeast American Diocese, who graciously agreed to preside over the diocesan meetings in our absence as per the order of His Holiness Baselios Mathews III, Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan and the Diocesan Metropolitan. It brought us great joy to know that most of our parishes were represented and many of our clergy and lay representatives from across our diocese were in attendance. We are especially grateful for the presence of our diocesan priests, deacons, seminarians along with our faithful for the funeral services of our beloved Rev. Fr. C.O. Vargis of blessed memory. We were also able to participate in the services via livestream, and it was a very befitting farewell given to a pioneer and senior priest of our diocese who will forever be engraved into the hearts of our clergy and faithful as a loving, dedicated and visionary priest of our diocese.

We take this opportunity to thank the host parish, St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Houston, especially the Vicar, Rev. Fr. Johnson Punchakonam, the Parish Managing Committee, and all the parish members who worked together along with the Houston area Vicars, priests of the locality, and area volunteers. We appreciate the efforts of all the various sub-committees for their dedicated time and service to help with the smooth functioning of all the diocesan meetings and for the generous hospitality given to all those in attendance.

We also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Fr. Philip Abraham, and the Diocesan Council members, Rev. Fr. Binny Kuruvilla, Rev. Fr. Diju Skariah, Mr. Abraham Varkey, Mr. Manoj Thomas, Mr. Roy Thomas and Mr. Selby Thomas for their service to our diocese since February 2017 and hereby relieve them from their respective positions effective August 1st, 2022. We acknowledge and appreciate their commitment to our diocese and the time and energy they put forth to serve our diocese in various capacities. May the Lord God shower His choicest blessings upon each one of them.

As per the final election results of the Diocesan Assembly meeting held on July 9th, 2022, Rev. Fr. George Sajeev Mathews was elected as the Diocesan Secretary for the 2022-2027 term, and we hereby approve the election and appoint him as the Diocesan Secretary effective August 1st, 2022 until further orders.

As per the final election results of the Diocesan Assembly meeting held on July 9th, 2022, Rev. Fr. Binu Mathews, Rev. Fr. George Ninan Manampuram, Mr. Alex Varghese, Mr. Bijoy Thomas, Mr. Jason Thomas and Mr. Prasad John were elected to the Diocesan Council for the 2022-2027 term, and we hereby approve the election and the term of their office shall take effect on August 1st, 2022 until further orders. Additionally, Mr. Koshy Alexander

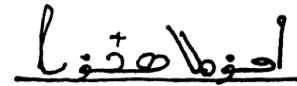
was unanimously elected as the Diocesan Auditor for the 2022-2027 term, and we hereby approve the election and the term of his office shall take effect on August 1st, 2022 until further orders.

As per the final election results of the meeting of the Malankara Association representatives from our diocese held on July 8th, 2022, Rev. Fr. Philip Abraham, Mr. Ninan Mathews and Mr. Philip Mathew were elected as the nominees to represent our diocese for the 2022-2027 Sabha Managing Committee, and this will be subject to the formal election and approval of the Malankara Syrian Christian Association to be held on August 4th, 2022. We take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Sabha Managing Committee members from our diocese, namely, Rev. Fr. Dr. Mathew Koshy, Mr. Abraham Pannikottu, and Mr. George Geevarughese for their service, dedication and commitment to represent our diocese and attend the various meetings over the past five years. May the Lord God bless them and lead them in the years to come.

We also thank Mr. Varughese Jacob, the Returning Officer, for his diligent efforts to oversee the entire election process for both meetings and ensure it was done in an organized manner. May God Almighty bless him for his service to our diocese.

We once again seek the prayers of all our clergy and faithful for the newly elected individuals and pray that God may grant them grace, wisdom and strength to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to them. May we all work together in a spirit of unity and continue to cater to the growing needs of our diocese. May the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forever and ever.

From Sreyas Aramana
Adoor, Pathanamthitta Dt., Kerala, India
On July 15th, 2022



Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem