



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to our dearly beloved Cor-Episcopoi, Vicars, Priests of the locality, Deacons, Kaisthanees, 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 since the formation of our diocese on April 1, 2009. We rejoice in the continued growth and achievements made within our diocese over the past few years made by the dedicated clergy and lay people who lead the different spiritual organizations of the diocese. Our diocese has great potential, and the more that we work together, we can overcome the challenges before us and build up our communities. As God told Joshua when leading the people of Israel to the promised land, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9). As we continue our spiritual journey as a diocese, let us continue to put our trust in God, and do His work in supporting the initiatives and spiritual organizations activities of our diocese.

We take this opportunity to reflect on the prayers and sacrifices of our most beloved predecessors, Metropolitans His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios and His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas of blessed memory, 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 greatly appreciate the able leadership of His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, the first Metropolitan of our Diocese, and are profoundly grateful for the hard work of His Grace Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem who served as the assistant Metropolitan of the Diocese during the time of transition. 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.

As it has been in practice, Diocesan Day is celebrated annually in June. We exhort all our clergy and faithful to come together on this coming Sunday, June 25, 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 labored much for the growth of our diocese.

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 laboring and supporting the diocese through your prayerful and financial support. We thank God for all of your support and the warm reception all of you have given since we have been appointed and come to the diocese last year. We seek your most valuable prayers for wisdom, guidance, and strength from our Lord so that we may fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to us.

May the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley
June 20th, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Mar Ivanios', with a horizontal line underneath.

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios