



## MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars and Assistant Vicars of the Parishes, Cor-Episcopoi and Priests of the locality, Deacons, Kaisthanees, and faithful of all parishes in our Diocese of South-West America!

The summer heat fades away and we slowly move to a new season, while preparing to send our children back to school. In Proverbs 22:6, King Solomon writes, "Train a child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it when he is old." We, as responsible parents, want our children to demonstrate Christian Values and Virtues, but we neglect that we have a responsibility to set an example for them as, St. John Chrysostom, in his book "On Marriage and Family Life" quotes "For generally the children acquire the character of their parents, are formed in the mold of their parents' temperament, love the same things their parents love, talk in the same fashion, and work for the same ends". The upbringing of our children in godliness is the most essential duty and it is a 24/7 responsibility. Parenthood does not consist solely of passing on our wealth and fame, but also of guiding our children to bear witness to the meaning of life in Christ. Sacramental Life and Spiritual Exercises should be practiced by parents to help their children adhere to them and live a Christ-like life ensuring their formation and happiness, making our families a place of transformation.

As our children prepare to return to school, they are exposed to a variety of people, changing value systems, diverse cultures and ideologies, and peer pressure. In the midst of this, we must equip them to navigate with a clear understanding of the Faith and the adventure of life. As parents, we must prioritize prayer and family time over technology and help our children strengthen their gifts by engaging in their activities, guiding them to face difficult tasks, overcome failures, and make sound decisions.

A word of thanks to all of our teachers for their invaluable service to the Holy Church and the Nation as they lay down the foundation for a better tomorrow. My humble prayers and God's blessings for a successful school year to all of our children, teachers, and parents.

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.

Mar Baselios Dayara, Njaliankuzy  
August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Feast of Transfiguration

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios