

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

3703 Chesterdale Dr. · Missouri City, TX · 77459 · Ph: 281.403.0670 · Fax: 281.459.0814

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



DSWA/C/14/2010

August 19, 2010

Blessings to all our Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful, especially our dear children.

Dearly Beloved,

As the long summer vacation concludes, it is the time for the start of a new academic year. For many students, this is not exactly the most exciting time of the year as it requires discipline on many levels. Students now have to get back into the habit of waking up early, attending classes, finishing home work, and studying for exams. While this is the responsibility of every good student, there is a greater purpose for education which must be understood by all.

In the Deuterocanonical book of Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 1:9-10 it says the following, "It is God who created Wisdom. He saw her and took her measure. He poured out wisdom upon all his creations, upon all the living as His Gift."

Wisdom is Divine, and we approach wisdom in holiness. Humankind receives wisdom as a gift from God. In order to attain this wisdom, we must live a life of purity and holiness. We urge all our students to create a discipline of prayer and to pray to God for strength, good health, and intelligence each day so that the Wisdom of God may be attained.

We pray that our students will be able to make the right choices by surrounding themselves with people who will bring them up and not distract them from fellowship with Christ. St. John reminds us in his first letter, "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1:6).

We also take this opportunity to remind you of the respect that is due unto your teachers, your elders, and your parents. Treat others the way you want to be treated. God honors those who obey and live according to his commandments.

We extend our love and prayers to all our beloved children for the new academic year. May the blessings and mercies of God Almighty be showered upon us all.

May the Triune God bless you and grant you a peaceful and prosperous life.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexios Mar Eusebius" with a small cross above the 'i' in "Eusebius". The signature is underlined.

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Prayer for the start of a New Academic Year

Our Loving and Gracious Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we come before You this day and entreat Your children into Your holy hands. Bless them with the abundance of Your grace as they prepare for the start of a new school year. Endow them with all wisdom and strength. Send forth Your Heavenly knowledge upon them. O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Send forth Your blessings upon all the teachers and professors, that they may find You to be the source of all truth through Jesus Christ our Lord. O Lord, teach these Your children to seek first Your glory and honor. Guide them to perceive what is right, grant them the courage to pursue it, and the grace to accomplish it. May the blessings of God the Father Almighty, the grace of the only begotten Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the communion and indwelling of the Holy Spirit be upon us all, especially Your children who are preparing to start a new school year, both now and always, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.