



Alexios Mar Eusebius  
Metropolitan

# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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DSWA/C/07/2013

July 25, 2013

Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons and all the faithful of our Diocese.

Dearly beloved,

We are entering the period of Soonoyo Lent, one of five canonical Lents in our Church observed annually from August 1-15, culminating with the blessed Feast of Dormition of the Holy Theotokos. There is no doubt that St. Mary stands as a role model for all people. From her humility and obedience at the Annunciation, her gift of hospitality as seen at the Wedding of Cana, to her patience and willingness to suffer along with Christ, she is exemplified as a Christian model for modern families and continues to be a great intercessor for the Holy Church and its members.

As it is in practice by the Holy Church, we exhort all parishes to observe August 15th or the following Sunday as Morth Mariam Samajam Day. A special prayer should be offered for the leaders of the spiritual organization, its members, and all its activities. We urge all Morth Mariam Samajam members to promote and participate in the special cover collection that should be taken on this day, which is the main source of income for this spiritual organization and its charitable efforts. The Morth Mariam Samajam of our diocese continues to do a considerable amount of charitable efforts, and this is through the love, prayers and financial support of its members.

We take this opportunity to also remind you of the fifth annual Morth Mariam Samajam Conference of our Diocese that will be held at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Edmonton, Canada, from September 13-15, 2013. The details of this conference have already been communicated to you. A local committee in Edmonton is working hard to make this event a great success. It is our desire that all parishes of our Diocese will be represented at this conference. Please follow the directions from the Vice-President, Rev. Fr. Rajesh K. John, the Secretary, Mrs. Santhamma Mathew, the Treasurer, Mrs. Gigi K. Simon, along with all the regional, area, and parish level office bearers.

My dear children, we hope and pray that the observance of the upcoming Lent will allow us to put into practice the spiritual discipline of abstinence and be a time for personal transformation through the renewal of our souls and bodies.

May the intercessions of St. Mary and the holy saints be a stronghold for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius  
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