



# MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

## DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



Alexios Mar Eusebius  
Metropolitan

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Blessings to our Cor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, members of the Parish Managing Committee, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Assembly, and all the faithful of our Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

The Mar Barnabas Award was instituted by our Diocese in 2011 to encourage youth to excel in their academic achievement with a commitment to the church, diocese and the mission of the church. It is our humble effort to honor the memory of our beloved Barnabas Thirumeni as well as to encourage our kids to improve in their academic pursuits.

The basic criteria for selection is academic merit, active and regular participation in parish and church activities, Sunday School and MGOCSM involvement, community awareness and community services participation, a sincere desire to serve the church, good character and conduct, and a clear vision of personal and academic future (a two hundred word essay on personal life goals).

17 applications were received from 5 regions. All the applicants were of good caliber and we congratulate them for their excellence in studies. However, for the purposes of awarding them, the following winners were chosen to receive the 2013 Mar Barnabas Award:

### **South Region:**

Asha Abraham, St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Valiyapally, Dallas	1st
Sephra Thomas, St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Houston	2nd
Bella Kalayilparambil, St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Cathedral, Houston	2nd

### **Mid-West Region:**

Anand Poozhikunnel, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, Chicago	1st
Chris Mathew, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, Chicago	2nd
Gilbert G. Mammen, St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, Chicago	2nd

### **North-West Region:**

Sneha Philip, St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, Edmonton, Canada	1st
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### **East Region:**

Vyshakh Shibu, St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Church, Tampa, Florida	1st
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**West Region:**

Sherin Mathew, St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, California 1st

Sonia Josemoan, St. Thomas Malankara Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, California 2<sup>nd</sup>

The prizes will be sent to the respective parish Vicars who are to distribute them in an appropriate manner. We pray and wish all of our children a blessed spiritual and academic future. May the intercession of St. Thomas the Apostle, the patron saint of our church, be a stronghold for us all.

Your shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius,  
Metropolitan