

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

3703 Chesterdale Dr. • Missouri City, TX • 77459 • Ph: 281.403.0670

Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



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December 15, 2009

Blessings to our Dearly Beloved Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful,

Dearly Beloved,

In the midst of the fears and instability such as terrorism and unemployment which is common in the world today, many are unsure of where to turn for peace, a sense of balance and for strength. Today's joyous message is that God, Who was far from us, has become near to us. He became Immanuel, which means **God is with us**. Today, we rejoice because God the Word has become like us and has sanctified our nature.

My Dear Children, many kingdoms have come and gone, but only one Kingdom remains unchanged. This Kingdom was established on earth in the city of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. The King, Who was born in a manger, was rejected by mankind, but became a sacrifice for them on the Cross. Today, He reigns in Heaven at the right hand of the Father among the holy angels and in every heart that is willing to receive Him. The Heavenly Father spoke of this King through the angel Gabriel and said, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:32-33).

Let us therefore come to Him. Let us offer Him our meaningless lives and He will give us peace, direction, and a sense of purpose. Let us offer Him our weakness and He will give us strength. Let us come to Him in our sinfulness and He will give us forgiveness and lead us to perfection. Let us follow the shepherds and the Wise Men from the East to the city of Bethlehem and join with the angels that surrounded the birthplace of our Savior and say: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14).

May our society, our Church, our homes, and our lives be filled with His everlasting peace, He who is the Savior of all creation. We greet you all on this occasion of the Great Nativity Feast. We pray that like the shepherds we all may hear the heavenly voice of Peace during this Christmas season.

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In the past, we have had experiences of beginning a new year with fear and sorrow. It was in 2005 that the world began a new year with great fear after the shocking news of the deadly tsunami that struck South Asia. Let us join together in one spirit and pray that we may have a good beginning for 2010. May we experience the peace that comes from our Lord throughout this coming year. May the New Year bring us all good health, prosperity, inner peace and joy in Jesus Christ.

CHRIST IS BORN! LET US GLORIFY HIM!

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

Your Shepherd in Christ,



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan