

Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

(Catholicate of the East)

Diocese of South-West America

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Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan



February 1, 2011

DSWA/C/02/2011

Blessings to our Chor-Episcopoi, Priests, Deacons, Office Bearers, Parish Managing Committee members, and all the faithful of our Diocese.

Dearly Beloved,

As you are aware, His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas has formally retired from the administrative responsibilities of the Northeast American Diocese. His Grace came to the United States in 1992 to serve the then undivided American Diocese. During his 18 years of service to the American Diocese, much development took place. His Grace traveled across the states to develop the administration of the Diocese, but more importantly spread the love of Christ through his prayer, simplicity of life, sermons, charitable deeds, writings, and more. It was during His Grace's period that over 25 young men, who were primarily raised in the states, accepted the call for the ordained ministry. We, who were called to serve this Diocese beginning in 2009, are forever indebted to His Grace for his sacrificial leadership and contribution to the growth of the Malankara Church in America.

As His Grace retires and prepares to settle back in India in the coming months, the Northeast American Diocese is planning to arrange a formal meeting to honor His Grace prior to his departure. It is our desire to attend this meeting once the date is finalized and present a gift on behalf of our Diocese. We desire for all members of our Diocese to be part of this gift. Thus, we request that each parish to take initiative in taking a collection which should be sent to our Diocesan Center and will be given to His Grace at the public meeting in New York on behalf of the Diocese.

Again my dearly beloved in Christ, in the letter to Hebrews we are reminded of the need to remember our forefathers. The late lamented, His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, was the first Metropolitan of the American Diocese. His Grace's third memorial is to be celebrated on February 23rd, which is also the feast of St. Dionysius of Vattasseril. We urge all our parishes to commemorate the feast of both St. Dionysius and His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios during the celebration of the Holy Qurbana on the following Sunday. Remembering the shepherds of our Diocese should be a practice that we maintain in the future.

May the blessings of God Almighty be showered upon us all.

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.

Alexios Mar Eusebius, Metropolitan