



MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA

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Blessings to the beloved Vicars of the Parishes, Priests of the locality, Cor-Episcopoi, Ramban, Deacons, Kaisthanees, and faithful of all parishes in our Diocese of South-West America!

Dearly beloved in Christ,

As the Great Lent commences on March 03, 2025, we embark on a great spiritual journey the destination being the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. As we know, in the two weeks preceding the commencement of Great Lent, the Holy Church commemorates the departed clergy and the departed faithful respectively. This year on Sunday, February 16, we remember with gratitude and joy the blessed service of all our departed clergies. As St. Ignatius of Antioch exhorts us, "See that you follow the bishop as Jesus Christ does the father, and the presbyters as you would the apostles and reverence the deacons as being the institutions of God. Let no man or woman do anything connected with the Holy Church without the bishop, presbyter, or the deacons." The clergy forms an important backbone of our Christian faith and liturgical practices. Our diocese is truly grateful for the holy ministry of all the living and the departed clergy. We especially remember L.L. Mar Makarios Thirumeni and L.L. Mar Barnabas Thirumeni and along with them all the departed clergies of our diocese. May their memories be eternal.

Last year we received 7932.09 dollars as Kohne Sunday collection and disbursed 8000 dollars for the beneficiaries. We joyfully commend and appreciate the support of all the churches and well-wishers towards our clergy. Therefore, this year also, we request all the churches to continue to set apart your gracious donations, especially **the Kohne Sunday offertory**, and the contributions be sent to the Diocesan Headquarters at the earliest so that we can utilize the amount to help the clergy who are in need and especially the retired priests. It is our duty to remember and uphold them and their families in our prayers and all their selfless sacrifice and love that they offered for the Churches here in America.

May the love of God the Father, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship and communion of the Holy Spirit be with us forever and ever.

Urshlem Aramana, Beasley
February 14, 2025

Metropolitan Dr. Thomas Mar Ivanios