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

Dearly beloved,

With faith in Christ and in the hope of the Resurrection, we inform you of the falling asleep of our beloved spiritual shepherd and father in Christ, His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, Catholicos of the East & Malankara Metropolitan, on July 12th, 2021 at 2:35 AM (IST) at St. Gregorios Medical Mission Hospital, Parumala.

While there are no words to express the pain and sorrow all of us as clergy and faithful are enduring at the moment, we mourn a great loss for the Holy Church. We take this moment to remember the life of His Holiness and His service to the Holy Church, especially the paternal love and affection shown to our Diocese since its inception. We thank God for granting to us a shepherd who earnestly loved his Church and the flock entrusted to his care by exemplifying a life of prayer with unwavering faith and trust in God. His Holiness was a man of simplicity and transparency.

The mortal remains of His Holiness will be taken to Parumala Church this morning, Monday, July 12th and will be arranged for the clergy and faithful to see and pay their respects from 6:00 am onwards along with the celebration of the Holy Qurbana. Following the farewell prayers at Parumala Church on Monday evening, the mortal remains will be taken to Devalokam Catholicate Palace, Kottayam where the Holy Qurbana will be celebrated at 6:00 AM on Tuesday, July 13th in the Chapel with the final funeral and burial services to be completed by 5:30 PM. We will continue to be present here for all the services, and seek the prayerful participation of all our clergy and faithful through the live stream links that are provided online.

Through this circular, we hereby declare 30 days of mourning in the Diocese of South-West America. Furthermore, we direct all our clergy to offer prayers of incense for our beloved Bava Thirumeni during all the Canonical Hours offered in our parishes and during the celebration of all Divine Liturgies for the next thirty days.

May we all comfort one another, and uphold His Holiness in our prayers seeking his intercession to Christ our God for the Holy Church, our Diocese, and all our clergy and faithful. May the memory of our beloved father in Christ be eternal!

From St. Gregorios Medical Mission Hospital, Parumala
July 12, 2021

Metr. Dr. Zacharias Mar Aprem