



Alexios Mar Eusebius
Metropolitan

MALANKARA ORTHODOX SYRIAN CHURCH

DIOCESE OF SOUTH-WEST AMERICA



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

Dearly beloved,

We regret to inform you of the passing of His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, the former Metropolitan of the undivided American Diocese and the Northeast American Diocese. Though we are deeply saddened at this great loss, we rejoice in the fact that His Grace faithfully served the Holy Church in his lifetime. The fruit of his ministry is evident in the Church today, especially in the North American continent.

Since the appointment of His Grace to the American Diocese, he was able to travel across the country, visit parishes, and organize the diocese. Thirumeni always had a strong conviction in what he did. Since he had no ulterior motives, he had the courage to stand for what he said and believed in. He followed a very strict policy that he did not change for any individual or according to any circumstance.

His Grace maintained constant prayer and a simple life which are great examples he has shown to us all. Even if he was sick or extremely weak, he would complete all the canonical prayers without any break. Last week, we had the opportunity to visit His Grace at Pushpagiri Hospital and pray with him. Thirumeni not only led the prayers, but keenly listened to everything, and his presence made it all the more powerful. His Grace had also maintained a daily practice of reading the Scriptures, memorizing it, and making it part of his everyday life. Simplicity was evident in all aspects of his life including the way he dressed, the food he ate, and the conversations and messages he spoke. Following his retirement from the diocese where he had served a long period of time, he returned with only two suitcases to India. Indeed, His Grace will forever be remembered and referred to as the golden bishop with the wooden cross.

When the Diocese of South-West America was formed in 2009, His Grace gave us all the support and encouragement for the organization of the new diocese. When we first arrived in the U.S., we were able to spend a week with His Grace at the Northeast Diocesan Center. Whenever we met with His Grace, he considered us as a younger brother and was always very much concerned about the parishes



and individuals of our diocese. His love was for everyone, and he knew his flock personally. He used to send birthday greeting cards to all the Achens and individuals who he knew personally, and much of what he received as contributions from others, he would disperse out to the poor and needy. We have all indeed been blessed by his presence and ministry. There is no doubt that his contribution to the growth of the Church will be forever remembered, and his presence will surely be missed.

The Metropolitan of the Northeast American Diocese, His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, has issued an order declaring the next 30 days for mourning in the Northeast Diocese. This will also be observed in our diocese, and we request all parishes to offer prayers of incense for the departed soul in all liturgies for the next 30 days.

We thank the Lord for the life of His Grace and pray that his memory be eternal. May God Almighty grant His Grace a resting place along with the great Patriarchs of Christendom.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Alexios Mar Eusebius
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