



The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

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By the Grace of God,
Zachariah Mar Nicholovos,
Diocesan Metropolitan

CK No. 13/2016

September 15, 2016

Blessings to our Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Reverend Deacons, and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese!

Dearly beloved,

Our Church in North America has grown tremendously since her canonical establishment in this hemisphere. We have grown into two Dioceses, of which our Diocese is the most densely populated. Our Church here has raised more than thirty young men from this country to serve in the ordained ministry, and that number continues to grow. A strong majority of our parishes are well established, and have beautiful places of worship. We have more priests becoming full time Vicars, who can totally commit to the spiritual needs of our faithful, as they are properly being supported by the parishes.

These signs of stability and growth indicate the spiritual needs of our faithful have also increased. Our challenges in this country are many and much different from those in Kerala, India. We are trying our best to address those challenges. It is in this context that our Diocese Assembly unanimously approved the purchase of the Fatima Renewal Center located in Dalton, Pennsylvania. This center will be a great source for our continued training, and witnessing. It is with the prayerful cooperation and financial support of our clergy and faithful, we envision this to be a retreat home for *every family* in our Diocese. For this reason we wish every family in our Diocese donate a minimum of \$2,000 to the future **Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center**. Just as we supported numerous initiatives of the Church in India, let us support this initiative of our Diocese – for our families and our children growing in this country.

During the recent Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, our Catholicos was able to visit and learn more about the plans for our future Diocesan Retreat Center. His Holiness was so convinced of the need of such a place for the Church in North America, he offered an initial donation to this ministry. His Holiness donated this substantial amount anticipating that every family in our Diocese will follow his example. We invite every family to be part of this ministry, by offering your prayerful cooperation and generous financial support. Please look through the brochure, and visit the various media pages as indicated in the brochure as well. God Willing, through our corporate prayers and efforts, we will raise sufficient funds by December 2016, to ensure we can close on this property by January 2017. Let us answer God's call to act!

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan