



# The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

2158 ROUTE 106 • MUTTONTOWN • NEW YORK 11791

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

CK No. 15/2017

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

Dearly beloved,

The states of Texas and Louisiana have been battered by Hurricane Harvey this past weekend. The current projection of weather officials state this Tropical Storm will retreat into the gulf, only to return with more strength. As of today, it has been reported that none of our churches have been damaged. However, there are active threats of flooding, which include voluntary and mandatory evacuation in various parts of Houston, Texas. Till now, none of our clergy or faithful have been injured by this chaotic storm.

This storm is still ongoing and slow moving, hence the extent of the damage remains unknown. As we see images of destruction and lives torn apart, it is our Christian responsibility to offer maximum support to our fellow brothers and sisters. We hereby direct all of our parishes to offer support to all disaster relief efforts through Church World Services. CWS is a faith based organization the Malankara Church has been actively involved with. It provides immediate relief to disaster stricken areas, and humanitarian crises. Information on this ministry can be found on their website: [www.cwsglobal.org](http://www.cwsglobal.org)

Aside from monetary support, our faithful can also assist making Hygiene Kits and Emergency Cleanup Buckets through CWS. We have asked the Vice Presidents of Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam, MGOCSM, and Sunday School to work together in possibly organizing the creation of such kits. More information will soon follow from the respective office bearers of these Diocesan ministries, or from us.

We know very well, every member of our parishes will respond according to every rich gift God has bestowed upon them, as done many times in the past.

Let us continue to pray for these affected areas. May God's merciful Hand overshadow them, all relief efforts, and the emergency personnel working tirelessly around the clock to save lives.

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan