



The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

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

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Blessings to the Vicars, Assistant Vicars, and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese, especially our students!

Dearly beloved,

After a long summer vacation, a new academic school year is upon our students. We take this opportunity to offer our prayers and blessings to all of our students as they embark on a new rich journey of learning. As you begin the academic year, always remember the words of Saint Paul the Apostle “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17). Be mindful that your education is not only for the benefit of yourselves, but also the greater society. Hence, ensure always you are a living icon of Jesus Christ.

We also invoke God’s blessing upon the many individuals in our Diocese, who have taken up the noble vocation of being a teacher. You have been entrusted a great responsibility to teach and encourage the future of our society. We recognize the hard work and dedication of all teachers who provide an exemplary service. May you always follow the example of the greatest Teacher – Jesus Christ.

Last, but certainly not least, Sunday School classes also begin. One of the main goals of our Sunday School ministry is to ensure that our children become strong Orthodox Christians. This however, is not merely done by bringing them to Sunday School class, and teaching them from their textbooks. They must see this faith alive, which is only experienced in the Christian home. We encourage our parents, the leaders of the household, to establish a discipline of family prayer, which includes Scripture Reading. If our children do not see Christ alive in our homes, they will not see Him alive in Church. When we attend Church services in a timely manner, and actively participate in Holy Qurbana, we are bringing the Living Christ back to our homes to dwell with us. We also call commend and appreciate all of our Sunday School teachers, as they continue to teach our children through service and example.

May God, Who is the source of all Wisdom and knowledge, bless and sanctify each student as they begin this new academic year.

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan