



By the Grace of God
METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS

CK No. 25/2024

December 4, 2024

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

Dearly beloved,

The MGOCSM of our Diocese continues to make a significant impact upon the lives of hundreds of young people throughout the Diocese. Such outreach include our presence through our ministry on college campuses by our respected clergy, along with the numerous college & high school camps, conferences, online workshops on both area level and Diocesan level. As a result, youth who are being challenged by secularism or those who have stopped coming to church, are being engaged. Much of this has been done through the support of our clergy and faithful, along with the leadership of the MGOCSM Council.

While we are encouraged with the impact this ministry has been making, it is evident that there is still much work to be done. We are seeking your prayers and generosity so we can continue this ministry, and strengthen it even more so we can reach more of our youth.

As per the unanimous decision of the Diocesan Assembly held in June 2023 to support this ministry, the Diocesan Council has designated the Sunday following His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas' Dukhrono (December 9th) as 'Youth Ministry Sunday.' Vailya Thirumeni was a strong supporter and advocate of effective youth ministry programs in the Diocese to cater to the growing needs and challenges our youth face. This year Youth Ministry Sunday falls on Sunday, December 15th, 2024. All of our faithful are asked to give generously so we can fund the variety of ministry programs for the youth of our Diocese.

Our Vicars, Assistant Vicars and Diocesan Assembly delegates are asked to create awareness in the parishes of the obstacles we are facing when ministering to our youth. One young person lost from the path of Christ, is one too many. Together, if we join in our efforts in a prayerful manner, we can strengthen our ministry to our youth. The youth are not our future, they are our *present*. We must invest in this ministry today, to ensure our youth have a strong future anchored in their faith in Jesus Christ.

May the blessings and mercies of God Almighty be showered upon us.

Yours in our Lord,

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos