



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. 1/2017

January 20, 2017

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

Dearly beloved,

We wish to offer our sincere gratitude, and the appreciation of our entire Diocese, for the generous financial contributions towards the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center. Through the corporate prayers and efforts of our clergy and faithful, our Diocese has been able to raise \$2 million for our Retreat Center.

Last year, we shared that the formal closing on the property will be during January 2017. However, by the Grace of God, the seller has graciously given us a 60 day extension. This gives us additional time to raise the remaining \$1.3 million. We call upon the continued efforts of our Vicars, Assistant Vicars, Diocesan Assembly delegates, and all parish officials to work together and raise the remaining funds for this ministry.

This spiritual center will be of great significance in building up of the spiritual lives of our present and future generations of our Diocese, and the greater Malankara Church. There are many ministerial initiatives being planned from this Retreat Center, as shared with you in our brochures, and videos. As we envision this to be a retreat home for *every family* in our Diocese, we call upon the involvement of every family to this sacred ministry.

Let us continue to support this initiative of our Diocese – for our families and our children growing in this country. May you be reminded that your contribution will be planted in very good soil, and will bring good and abundant fruit in the Lord's vineyard.

With our continued prayerful efforts, we hope to inaugurate our Retreat center after our Diocesan Family & Youth Conference, on Saturday, July 15, 2017. This will also ensure our MGOCSM Leadership Camp can take place at our Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center from Wednesday, July 26th to Saturday, July 29th, 2017.

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan