



The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

2158 ROUTE 106 • MUTTONTOWN • NEW YORK 11791



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

CK No. 5/2017

April 12, 2017

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

Dearly beloved,

We once again come to the joyous celebration of the Feasts of Feasts – the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The anticipated festal joy of the Christian Church, has been violently disturbed with the attacks upon our sister Church – the Coptic Orthodox Church, and the persecution of many other Christians. It is in the midst of this darkness and sorrow, the Church proclaims to us a great joy that our Lord has risen from the dead. It is during the midnight office of the Feast, in the midst of darkness, we are given the wonderful news that “Christ has risen from the tomb, and has struck His enemies behind Him.”

We participate in our Lord’s victory over death, yet many of us continue to feel the weight of the cross, as we endure through much struggle, confusion and despair in our own lives. We see in the news terrorist attacks on Christian Churches, bombings and the constant threat of war, which make such negative feelings lurk in our minds and hearts. These same feelings were what the disciples also had after Jesus was betrayed, arrested, killed, and buried. They hid in fear, and felt a sense of hopelessness. These feelings however, turned into joy and courage on Sunday, when they saw their Master no longer dead, but alive in the flesh. It is this joy and courage that fueled the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The disciples knew very well there were many individuals and powers of the world who were against the news of the Gospel; however, they were given great hope and courage knowing the One Who conquered death walks among them, and with them. It is this same wisdom we must carry in the midst of the chaos we see in this broken world.

Before His passion, our Lord gave us a great promise “In the world you will have tribulation; be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (St. John 16:33). On this glorious Feast, let us not be overwhelmed with the difficulties which surround us in this life, rather let us look to the courage of the disciples who continued on their earthly journey knowing their God is not dead in a tomb, but alive with them always!

May Christ, the Risen Lord, bless you and keep you throughout this joyous season.

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan