



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

Dearly beloved,

This year as we celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, we pause to reflect on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year. Last year many of our churches were unable to conduct Holy Week Services let alone regular Sunday services. Yet, soon after this year began, many of us received the news of the decline in COVID cases and the acceleration of the vaccine effort in America and Canada. Hence, a small ray of hope has begun to shine.

The Church, in Her infinite wisdom, has always held onto a Truth, that beyond all the pain, suffering, and death around us, there is *Someone* greater that shines through – the Risen Lord. In the Church's liturgical tradition, we sing on the Feast of the Resurrection, "*Behold O Mary, I am the Revival, the Resurrection, and the Life of all things.*" The Lord had already won the victory over death through His Passion, echoing the words of St. Paul the Apostle, "*O Death, where is your sting?*" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Now, as the earth warms and flowers bloom, and as the world around us returns to a sense of normalcy, we are reminded that Christ was and is always in control. There was never a moment through this pandemic and through all the difficulties of navigating through the past year where He had not already won the victory. The infinite eternal hope that our Lord gives us through His death and glorious Resurrection is what we hold onto now, and for all eternity.

It is with this great hope in the Risen Lord, that we greet you. May the light and hope of this Feast illumine our clergy, and faithful. May all of our parishes and congregations joyfully witness the Resurrection of Christ our God! Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Yours in our Lord,



Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan