



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. 24/2012

December 22, 2012

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

Dearly beloved,

In the midst of our sorrow as we mourn the Falling Asleep of our most beloved predecessor, His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, Metropolitan, we look to Bethlehem where the One who wipes our tears away and gives us the hope of eternal life, is born.

The Church proclaims the great mystery of the Incarnation to a world that remains cold, dark, and senseless. We speak in the shadow of the tragic and senseless killing of twenty innocent children, and seven adults, in the quiet suburb of Newtown, Connecticut.

The media shares the opinion that the United States of America needs more gun laws. The Holy Church speaks the truth that the United States of America, and the world as a whole needs to experience the love we find in the fulfillment of the law – the Christ Child. Our country and the world as a whole, needs to place their security in the hands of God, not in man-made weaponry. When we place our security in this Divine Love, we find the true meaning of this great Feast, and be armed with greatest weapon that all evil forces succumb to – love.

This call to love does not justify the agony or heartless actions of any person or group of people. Rather, it must bring an awareness of how much violence is in our society. Cain killed Abel, his own brother, in very beginning, and we continue to kill our own brothers and sisters with guns, knives, and even our own words and intentions. Senseless violence is not limited to killing of innocent people but also is projected in the callousness of the legislators in handling the situation of the fiscal cliff of our country. Their callousness and eagerness to protect the interests of the mighty at the cost of the humble, poor will add tremendous misery to the ordinary people of our nation.

Dearly beloved, this broken and dark world we live in must be converted through the virtue of love. Love must be taught, lived, and experienced in our homes and parishes. Our children must know that love is not an abstract principle that we talk about, rather something to be practiced and lived. Many of our families remain broken, and many people leave the Holy Church, because we have yet to reach our infinite potentiality in loving one another. Our prayer with each of you is that our experience of our True Love, Christ our God, will make us willing and able to share the healing power of love in this broken and dark world.

May the Prince of Peace sustain you and your loved ones on this Holy Day, and throughout the New Year!

Yours in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos Metropolitan