



**By the Grace of God**  
METROPOLITAN ZACHARIAH MAR NICHOLOVOS

CK No. 24/2023

November 10, 2023

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

Dearly beloved,

In January 2023, we had appointed Rev. Dn. Shojil Abraham, as the youth minister for our Diocese. Since this appointment, we have successfully been able to reach hundreds of young people throughout the Diocese. Such outreach include youth who have either stopped going to Church, and others who are interested in the resources our Diocese is providing.

This initiative has also been able to coordinate numerous college & high school camps, college campus visits, conferences, and online workshops. All of these have been strengthening our young people as they face different thoughts which contradict the Orthodox Christian faith. While we are encouraged with the impact this ministry has been making, it 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 Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as *Youth Ministry Sunday*. His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas, Metropolitan of Blessed Memory, was a great supporter in strengthening the spiritual lives of our youth. Hence it is only appropriate to designate the Sunday following Vailya Thirumeni's Dukhrono (December 9<sup>th</sup>) as '*Youth Ministry Sunday*.' 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, which includes being underfunded. The statistical data presented at the Diocesan Assembly meeting, shows we must work together to strengthen our ministry to our youth. Our prayerful united efforts, and generous giving on Youth Ministry Sunday, December 10th will help ensure *none* of our youth lose their way from Christ and His Church.

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

Yours in our Lord,

Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos