



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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Your Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon,

The clergy and faithful of the Northeast American Diocese, joins me in offering our prayers and condolences on the falling asleep of the Very Reverend Thomas Hopko.

Father Thomas' contribution to the Orthodox Church in America, and to Holy Orthodoxy as a whole, is immense. His zeal for the Orthodox Christian faith, and dynamic ability to preach the Truth, has brought many of our young people in our Church in North America, closer to the Faith. Our Church has been blessed, and humbled by his presence in the past, as he spoke at various retreats, and conferences hosted by our clergy brotherhood, and family ministries.

During his tenure as Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, the relationship of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church and with the seminary grew significantly. Today, because of the vision, and support of Father Thomas Hopko, St. Vladimir's Seminary plays an integral role in the theological training, and pastoral formation of our priests in North America.

The passing of Father Thomas leaves a great void, and deafening silence for us in this world. Many of us have looked forward to his daily podcasts, and speaking engagements. Nonetheless, we know that his voice now joins the innumerable angelic hosts who offer praises to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We offer our prayers and condolences to Your Beatitude, the St. Vladimir's Seminary community, and most especially the Hopko family. May the memory of Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko, be eternal!

Your Brother in our Lord,

Zachariah Nicholovos, Metropolitan