

Besorah

The *Besorah* is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

“Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt. 5:48)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Of the 50 days of the Great Lent, March 2nd marks mid-Lent. March 20th is Palm Sunday, and then we look forward to celebrating Easter Sunday on March 27th at which time we acclaim the boundless transformation and holistic newness that we experience through the power of Christ’s resurrection. We must proclaim the resurrected and victorious Lord through our lives every day and look forward to join Him in His second coming.

Lent enables us to acquire the ‘mind of Christ.’ During Lent we meditate upon the life and work of Christ remembering the words of St. Paul as we read in Philippians 2: 1-11. We ought to do this not simply to be identified as a religious person but for creating a total transformation in our lives. During Lent, some people turn to God to repent of their sins. This is good, for it is the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables a person to do so. Others give up certain habits that enslave them and prevent them from experiencing the presence of God. That is also good, as we are called to be holy as the heavenly Father is holy. But these alone are not enough. St. Paul is exhorting us to develop ‘the mind of Christ.’ We see ‘the mind of Christ’ in His incarnational ministry, servant ministry, self-emptying ministry on the Cross (suffering ministry), humbling and obedient ministry. Hence God raised Christ from the dead and we recognize Christ as Lord and Master of our lives. Therefore, Lent is a time for this process of transformation where we realize that, ‘for me to live is Christ.’

Jesus, through the Sermon on the Mount, exhorts us to be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect. This is the meaning of ‘Christian Life’ and the purpose of ‘Christian Living.’ God is not satisfied with anything less. We are called to live by the values of the Kingdom of God that manifests the nature of God-head, the greatest of which is love. Our life must become the manifestation of God’s love (Jn. 3: 16). Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another as He has loved us. Let us follow in His footsteps.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter!

Mar Theodosius+



Seminar on Youth Ministry



A youth ministry seminar was held on January 7, 2016 at the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmer’s Branch. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa presided over the meeting. The Southeast Regional Youth Chaplain, Rev. Dennis Abraham, presented a paper on *Revisiting Youth Ministry: Challenges in the Context of the Mar Thoma Diaspora & Millennial Christianity*. The purpose of the seminar was to discuss and brainstorm methods to improve the youth ministry in the Diocese and make it more relevant for our youths today. Special thanks to the MTC of Dallas Farmer’s Branch for hosting this meeting.

Southeast Regional Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Training

The training program for the Altar Boys & Covenant Girls of the Southeast Region - parishes in Staten Island, New Jersey and Pennsylvania was held on January 2, 2016 at the Christos MTC, Philadelphia. The sessions were led by Rev. Dennis Abraham, Rev. Binu C. Samuel, and Rev. Christopher P. Daniel. Around 40 students attended from various parishes in the area, completed the syllabus, and are now serving as Altar Boys & Covenant Girls in their respective parishes. Special thanks to Rev. Varghese K. Thomas & Christos Mar Thoma Church for hosting the training program.



Northeast Regional Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Training program



By the grace of God, the Northeast Region – from New York to Boston – was able to conduct the first two sessions of the training program for the Altar Boys & Covenant Girls. The first session, in which 64 boys and girls participated, took place on December 28, 2015 at the St. Thomas MTC in New York. The second session, which had 48 participants, took place at the St. John's MTC, New York on December 29, 2015. Aghens taught classes and answered questions to help participants understand the faith and practices of the Mar Thoma Church. Let us uphold all those in the Altar Boys and Covenant Girls Program that they may be fruitful workers for God.

Maramon Convention 2016



The 121st Maramon Convention was held on the sand-bed of River Pampa at Maramon near Kozhenchery from February 14 to 21, 2016. The convention started on February 14th with the opening prayer led by Valiya Metropolitan Philipose Mar Chrysostom and the inaugural message by Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. In addition to our bishops, Bishop Daniel Thyagaraja, (Sri Lanka), Rev. Malcom T.H. Tan (Singapore), Rev. Dr. Francis Sunderraj (Chennai), and Rev. Dr. Leonard Sweet (USA) were featured speakers.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 31 & April 1**
Diocesan Clergy
Conference
Philadelphia, PA
- **April 1**
Farewell & Welcome
Meeting
Philadelphia, PA
- **April 1 & 2**
Diocesan Assembly
Philadelphia, PA

3rd Western Regional "MTVEA" One Day Conference

The 3rd MTVEA Conference of the western region was held at the San Francisco Mar Thoma Church, California on February 13, 2016. The theme of the conference was "*Building Effective Leadership for Witnessing*". 130 members participated from different parishes from the western region. The conference was a blessed occasion for many families to come together in Christian fellowship and strengthen their relationship with God and with each other.



Northeast RAC Send - Off Meeting

The Northeast RAC of the Mar Thoma Diocese of North America and Europe organized a farewell to our Diocesan Episcopa Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius on Saturday, February 26th, 2016 at the Cotillion Restaurant, Jericho, NY. It was a memorable time to reflect the various contributions of our Diocesan Episcopa and thank God for his selfless service to the Diocese. Members from different parishes, RAC executive committee members, clergy, and friends participated and gave felicitations.



Sinai Mar Thoma Center
2320 Merrick Avenue
Merrick, New York 11566
www.marthomanae.org

Contact Information:
Phone # (516) 377-3311
Fax # (516) 377-3322

Email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com

Editors:
Rev. Binoy J. Thomas
Ms. Reshma Raghavan
Dr. Mathew T. Thomas