



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

What is *The Mar Thoma Besorah*?

The Hebrew word, *besorah*, is translated as message or report. This newsletter includes a brief report of the Diocesan activities. It is our hope and prayer that the *Besorah* will be a blessing for those who read it and also will provide an opportunity to connect the members of this Diocese.



EVENTS

**Young Family Fellowship
National Retreat, NY**
October 28-30, 2011
Contact: Rev. Joseph Johnny
Church (914) 376-9675
Parsonage (914) 376-6530

Institute of Counseling
November 17-19, 2011 (Dallas),
December 1-3, 2011 (New York);
Led by Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla
joeachan@gmail.com

**XV Diocesan Leadership
Conference-Tampa, FL**
January 5-8, 2012
mtleadership2012@gmail.com
[www.stmarksmtctampa.org/2012lead
ership/](http://www.stmarksmtctampa.org/2012leadership/)

**NCCC Governing Board
in Chicago,**
November 9-10, 2011

**Governing Board of Canadian
Council of Churches, Toronto**
November 22-23, 2011

Ecumenical Dinner in Philadelphia
January 2012

India Mission Trip 2012
Mrs. Laila Anie Philip
avarampath23@msn.com

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The Assembly of the Diocese of North America and Europe expressed the need to communicate to the members the Diocesan activities in an effective and timely manner. I hope and pray that this newsletter, **the Besorah**, will address this need. Periodically the Besorah will bring you news about the upcoming events within the Diocese and give you suggestions on how you can get involved (either through prayer, or personal or collective participation, or through your financial support). The Besorah will also serve as a medium to advertize and promote the Mar Thoma Messenger and give readers sufficient reasons to visit the Diocesan web site for obtaining additional information. In addition, the Besorah will also serve as a tool to communicate the goals and accomplishments of the various Diocesan subcommittees through the Diocesan Council. May God Bless and guide this endeavor!

We are celebrating the Family Sunday in the month of October. Church is a family of families. Bishop Desmond Tutu said, "You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them". I thank God for giving me the gift of being a part of our Diocesan Family. Our family can flourish when we are willing to accept differences amongst individuals, tolerate and forgive each other's mistakes, cherish each other's success, sympathize with each other's failures, and communicate respectfully, truthfully and openly. Every year we have a Family Conference at the Diocesan level in July. The second National Young Family Fellowship retreat will be held in New York from October 28 to 30, 2011. The Diocesan Council is planning to host the 30th Diocesan Family Conference from July 5 to 8, 2012 with the assistance of the parishes in the Southeast Region. I request you all to pray for the growth and welfare of our families and urge you to plan to participate in the forthcoming family conferences.

Once again, I appreciate the launch of the Besorah and request your feedback for making this newsletter an efficient tool for communicating to the Diocese and for glorifying God.

**With prayerful regards,
Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa**

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Consider attending/ participating in the appropriate events listed above.
2. **Pray:** Uphold the Diocese of North America and Europe, all the individual members of our church, our vicars, and leaders. Pray for our nation as a whole and God's presence in this world.

THE LEAD PROGRAM

Layperson Education And Development Program

Engage in a great opportunity to learn and grow as a leader within the Mar Thoma Church. This program will equip you with the knowledge and tools to be a great leader and disciple of Christ. Come learn more about the church and your faith beliefs to become a more effective leader! Classes start in November 2011 and meet once a month for 6 months. Registration: Only \$25 for each phase of the program and deadline: October 25, 2011

PHASE I: Church History, Mar Thoma Doctrines/Sacraments, Liturgy/ Worship, Preaching/Sermon Preparation, Introduction to the Bible: Old Testament and New Testament

PHASE II (prerequisite: completion of PHASE I): Prophetic Literature: Vision and Mission, Pauline Epistles, Missions, Polity of the Mar Thoma church Understanding our Neighbors (diversity within Christian denominations), Introduction to Christian Theology

For additional details and registrations forms, please contact your vicar or Ms. Arlene Mathew, LEAD Program Convener, at MTC.LEADprogram@gmail.com or (281.772.7429).

MISSION BOARD

Featuring Mexico Mission....The Manna Package

The families that live in Colonia Mar Thoma (our Mexico mission field) are dependent on their employment in fishing boats and in the fish processing factories. As one can imagine, the fishing business is highly dependent on the season of the year and the local weather conditions. Even when work is available, these families barely make enough to feed the household for a short period. During fishing off seasons and non-working days, these families, especially their elderly and children, starve. Such extreme hardship forces many of the families living in Colonia Mar Thoma to leave that site in search of food. Recognizing this dire need, our Diocesan Episcopa instituted a nutrition program called "Manna Package". This program will assure the weekly delivery of a food package to the residents. The package will include essential items to meet the nutritional needs of an average family (family of four) for a week, and will contain rice, beans, toiletries, vegetables, oil, etc. The Diocese is seeking individuals/organizations/parishes to sponsor the "Manna Package". Please remember to support the needy in Colonia Mar Thoma, while we celebrate our own birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Sponsorships costs are:

One family for a week (U.S. \$40.00)

One family for a month (U.S. \$175.00)

One family for a year (U.S. \$2100.00)

One may even choose to support multiple families for a week/month/year.

Please continue to pray for those involved in this ministry. Participate whole-heartedly and contribute generously for this venture. Please contact the Diocese or your local vicar on how you can contribute.

JOB OPPORTUNITY



The Diocese is introducing the Lay Youth Chaplaincy Program to provide assistance to our current Youth Chaplain Program to meet the spiritual needs of the youth. This program is also an opportunity to utilize the resources of members of the Church who are qualified and have a desire to serve the church. Lay Youth Chaplains would supplement the youth ministry of the current Chaplains. This would involve leading Bible Studies, serving as conference speakers and leaders, and reaching out to youth who are and are not engaged in the Church.

The applicant for this position must have the following qualifications: Theological degree; Knowledge on the faith and practices of the Mar Thoma Church; the applicant must also be an active member of the Mar Thoma Church with strong recommendations. Please contact the Diocese at marthomadiocese@gmail.com if you are interested or would like more information.



"The family should be a closely knit group. The home should be a self-contained shelter of security; a kind of school where life's basic lessons are taught; and a kind of church where God is honored; a place where wholesome recreation and simple pleasures are enjoyed."

--Billy Graham,
"My Answer," syndicated
newspaper column

Mar Thoma Messenger

*The official publication
of the Diocese.*

2 years (8 issues)-\$20.00

5 years (20 issues)-\$50.00

Life Members-\$300.00

For information, please contact
marthomadiocese@gmail.com.



Sinai Mar Thoma Center
2320 Merrick Avenue,
Merrick, New York 11566

www.marthomanac.org

Phone # 516 377 3311

Fax # 516 377 3322

email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com