



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

The Diocese of North America & Europe wishes you a Happy Thanksgiving! May we continue to give thanks to God for He is good!

EVENTS

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/2012leadership/

Governing Board of Canadian Council of Churches, Toronto

November 22-23, 2011

Ecumenical Dinner in Philadelphia

January 20, 2012

India Mission Trip

May 12-28, 2012

Mrs. Laila Anie Philip

varampath23@msn.com

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends in Christ,

The first issue of *Besorah*, the news letter of the Diocese, has caught the attention of a large number of people. As the *Besorah* is well accepted, we intend to publish it every month.

In 2011, our Diocese held ten National conferences at various places. I appreciate all the organizers and pray that all the conference attendees continue to be blessed for a fruitful Christian Living. The most significant among these conferences in the Diocese is the National Family Conference which brings together the Families from all walks of life.

In 2012, the 30th National Family Conference will take place at the National Conference Centre, in Leesburg, Virginia (near Washington DC) from July 5 to July 8. The themes selected is, "Remembering the Covenant for a Reforming Church" (Joshua 24: 24). The Holy Bible tells us that God remembers His covenant with His people. The people of God are expected to remember the Covenant they have with God. Starting from Adam we have the Biblical narration about the fall of man which compels God to re-establish the Covenant with His people. Jesus Christ established the new Covenant through his death on the Cross. The culmination of the experience of the Covenant relationship is in the Kingdom of God with the second coming of Jesus the Christ. We have to look up to God to realize the love manifested in the Covenant. We need the grace of Jesus the Christ to realize it in human life. We need the fellowship of the Holy Spirit to share it among God's community, the Church. This necessitates the reforming spirit of the Church that has to continue until the wholesome establishment of the Kingdom of God. The Church is alive and dynamic when reformation remains a continuing experience. I invite all of you to come together for the 30th National Family Conference to look into the Holy Bible and to be in the presence of God for an enriching and blessed spiritual experience.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

With prayerful regards.

**Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa
November 2011**

The Relationship Between the Church and Mission:

*The church exists by mission,
just as fire exists by burning.*

-Emil Brunner

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Consider attending/participating in the appropriate events listed above.
2. For the Mexico Mission: pray for the mission field, support the 'Manna' Project, and the 'A Tree for House Project' (\$30 for each tree sponsored. Contact marthomadiocese@gmail.com for more information.
3. Participate in the India Mission Trip that will be taking place May 12-28, 2012. Please contact Laila Philip at varampath23@msn.com.
4. **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.

MISSION BOARD



It is beautiful to see the mission work of the Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America and Europe continue to flourish. Both the Mexico Mission and Native American Mission have been actively serving the respective communities and it is our hope that through these updates, you will be encouraged to take a part in what God is doing through our church!

Featuring the Mexico Mission...

The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius visited Mexico Mission field on October 21st, 2011. Thirumeni was accompanied by Diocesan Secretary Rev. K.E Geevarghese, Treasurer Chacko Mathew, Council member Arlene Mathew and Mexico Mission Sub Committee members Rev. Zachariah John, Rev. A. T. Thomas, John Thomas and P. T. Abraham.

Mexico Mission Infrastructure development and the Education / Nutrition assistance programs are progressing well. Currently there are 35 families living in Colonia Mar Thoma. More families are moving into the allotted houses. Drinking water distribution system and fencing to secure the Colonia and Hostel properties were recently completed. Work is in progress for building the septic system, flood control plans, kitchen and bathrooms. Efforts are also under way for establishing electrical connections.

The "Manna" (Diocese's Nutrition assistance program) is progressing well since its inception in June 2011. We are distributing essential grocery kits to each family on weekly basis. This has substantially reduced the starvation and poverty of Colonia residents. During his visit, Thirumeni initiated a green program, "A Tree for a House," where each family will be provided a fruit tree, which is to be planted and nurtured by the family. Members of the Diocese can get involved and sponsor a tree for a house for \$30. We expect to implement this program in January 2012. Your involvement and prayers are greatly needed and appreciated.



Featuring the Native American Mission...

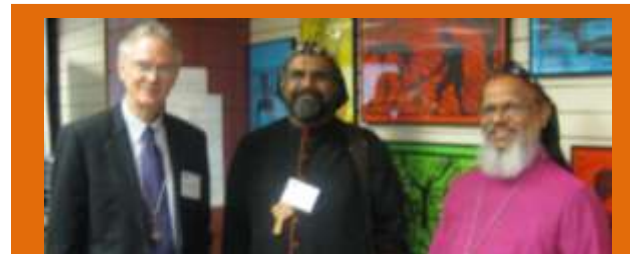
Leadership conference in Alabama

The second leadership conference was held during the weekend of October 29th-30th. 23 persons participated. Of these, 14 persons were from the Choctaw community and the rest were our members from Atlanta and Alabama. The conference, especially the mentoring portion was a blessing. Our goal is to develop ten young people from the Choctaw community to provide active leadership in the 2012 VBS.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

National Council of Churches

The Governing Board of the NCCC met on November 9, 2011 to install the new President Rev. Kathryn Lahore, a member of the Ecumenical Lutheran Church in America, for the term 2012-2013. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius represented the Mar Thoma Church at this meeting. The Governing Board met in ELCA central office in Chicago at 9 am and the installation of the new NCC officers took place at the Lutheran Center Chapel at 11:15 a.m.



Ecumenical Consultation at Chicago

An Ecclesiology Summit was organized by the Ecumenical Relations committee of the National Council of Churches of Christ in USA at the Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glen View, Chicago on November 10, 2011. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius participated in the summit representing the Mar Thoma Church.



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