



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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

EVENTS

Yuvajana Sakhyam National Conference

Hosted by Ascension MTC, PA
October 12-14, 2012

APDM Annual Retreat

October 19-21, 2012

Young Family Fellowship National Conference

Hosted by St. Peter's MTC, NJ
October 26-28, 2012

4th Ireland Mar Thoma Family Conference - Kainos 2012

October 26 to 28, 2012

"Walk in the Light of life"

Hosted by Nazareth Mar Thoma Church, Dublin, Ireland

Leadership Conference

Staten Island, NY
January 3-6, 2013

Ecumenical Dinner

Houston Immanuel Hall
January 18, 2013

Inauguration of Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration

January 19, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Our Church observes Family Sunday in October. We always say that a family that prays together stays together. What do we pray? Usually we pray for God's blessings to help the family to stay integrated. Do we also pray for God's purpose to be carried out through the lives of the family members? If so, that demands openness to the world outside at the risk of our experience of coherence, comfort and security.

Jesus Christ stayed with His parents in Nazareth, but from the age of twelve He started speaking about loving God more and doing the ministry of the Kingdom of God. So you see that He had a need for attachment and detachment in His relationship with the family. The Holy Bible says that a man will leave his father and mother and will be united to his wife. So what is the vision when a child is gifted in wedded life? Again, you see a need for attachment and detachment in human life. It is in the coherence and inward nature of the family that values are taught. But the divine plan of each life can be fulfilled only by being spent and living for others. Jesus spoke about the necessity for the grain of wheat to fall and die so that it will yield much fruit.

Each family, like the family of Abraham, Moses and Joshua is a mission agent in time and in space. Life, relationship, resources and potential talents come to us as a gift of God. These are to be a blessing to the entire cosmos by living a meaningful existence in relation to God, others and Nature.

May the Lord bless each Family to be a blessing to the generations.

-Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa

NEW PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE-CONGRATULATIONS!

1. **St. Louis Mar Thoma Church** - 22 families. Rev. Renu John is the first Vicar.
2. **Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Garden Grove, South Area, LA**- 39 families. Rev. Thomas John is the first Vicar.

INDIA MISSION TRIP 2013

The Diocesan Council has decided to arrange India Mission Trip in 2013 to the mission fields in India. Since 2013 is the Jubilee year of the Diocese, the India Mission Trip will be for five different groups which will give more room for the younger generation in the Diocese to know about the Indian mission fields, the people in the fields and the activities that are going on in the mission areas. The Diocese is considering sending different teams from USA, Canada and UK to different places in India, depending on the availability of candidates and also volunteers to lead them. The visit will be for 15 days in the months of June to August, 2013. **Those who are interested please contact Mrs. Laila Annie Philip (varampathu23@msn.com) or the Diocesan Office (marthomadiocese@gmail.com) on or before February 15, 2013, for more details.**



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Consider attending/participating in the appropriate events.
2. Support the 'Manna' Project & 'A Tree for a House Project' in Mexico (sponsor a tree for \$30). Contact marthomadiocese@gmail.com you wish to participate by providing food for the residents or wish to have a tree planted at Colonia Mar Thoma.
3. **Pray for:**
 - a. The Diocese of North America and Europe, all the individual members of our church, our vicars, and leaders.
 - b. Our nation as a whole and God's presence in this world.

RECEPTION TO MAR MAKARIOS EPISCOPA

The Diocese of North America and Europe arranged a reception to the newly consecrated Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathews Mar Makarios, Diocesan Episcopa of Kottayam-Kochi Diocese, at the Westin Hotel, Los Angeles Airport, on Sunday, October 7, 2012. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius blessed the occasion by chairing the meeting and delivering the presidential address. Thirumeni congratulated the new Bishop and wished him well to carry out the God given responsibilities. In his reply speech Mar Makarios thanked the Diocese for arranging the reception and requested prayerful support of the members for a fruitful ministry in the Church and Society. The parishes in the



Western region took the initiative for hosting the reception.

MAR THOMA MESSENGER CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



Mar Thoma Messenger, the official magazine of the Diocese of North America and Europe, has entered into its 30th year of publication in 2012. This was started as a small newsletter in 1982 and has grown to the status of a world class Christian magazine. Now Messenger is a media to propagate enriching Christian thoughts, news and views of the Diocese and Church, not only to the Diaspora Mar Thomites but also to the Global Christian Community. In order to commemorate this special occasion, the managing committee arranged a special release of the October (2012) issue of the Messenger at the time of the Diocesan

Reception to Mar Makarios at the Westin Hotel, Los Angeles, on Sunday, October 7, 2012. This was a time to remember the paths through which God has guided this publication and also to thank everyone who has labored behind the steady growth of this magazine.

VISIT TO MEXICO MISSION

On Saturday, September 29, 2012, the Diocesan Council Members visited the Colonia Mar Thoma in Matamoras, Mexico, the mission field of the Diocese of North America and Europe. The team visited the 45 families that live there. Prior to the field visit Diocesan Episcopa visited the Matamoras Mayor's office and discussed our concerns with the Mayor's political staff. At the time of the mission field visit, the council members took part in the tree planting program with the aim of "greening" the campus. There was a fellowship get-together at the Chapel with the members of the community.



The members of the Council also took part in the Manna food distribution. A grocery shop 'Mar Thoma Super' and a tea shop are run by the community members as an income generating program. Poultry farms and pig rearing units are some other income generating programs attempted in Colonia Mar Thoma. A Chapel in the mission field is an immediate need of the community. It will cost about US \$ 35,000. The Diocesan Council has decided to construct it with the support and contribution of well-wishers. Please contact the Diocesan office if you are interested in making a contribution to build the chapel.



DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Diocesan Council was held on September 28, 2012 in Harlingen, TX. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. The council has decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Diocesan Formation from January through December 2013 and also chalked out various programs and projects to make this celebration relevant and meaningful both at the Diocesan and Regional level. The Report and Accounts of the 30th National Family Conference was passed by the Council. Also the details of the Ecumenical Fellowship Dinner at Houston on January 18, 2013 were planned. Various mission involvements of the Diocese were evaluated and the Council took appropriate decisions to strengthen them during 2013 along with the Jubilee celebrations.



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