



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

**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

**Diocesan Clergy Conference**  
Chicago  
April 11-12, 2013

**Diocesan Assembly Meeting**  
Chicago  
April 12-13, 2013

## INDIA MISSION



In commemoration of the Diocesan Silver Jubilee in 2013, five groups from this Diocese will be going on the India Mission Trip. The mission trips will provide our youngsters the opportunity to learn about the Indian mission fields, the people there, and the ongoing activities.

The Diocese is considering sending teams from USA, Canada and UK to various places in India, depending on the availability of candidates and also volunteers to lead them. Each visit will be for 15 days and will be during the months of June, July and August.

**If interested, contact  
Mrs. Laila Annie Philip  
([varampath23@msn.com](mailto:varampath23@msn.com)) or the  
Diocesan Office by 2/15/2013.**

## MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

**Dearly beloved in Christ,**

I wish the readers of *Besorah* a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The message of Christmas is Love. God's love is seen manifested in Jesus. God's creation, preservation, and redemption of this world are because of His love for the created order. St. John in his epistle says that God is love. Further he says that when we love, God is in us. Christmas reminds us that so many people love us and we greet them during Christmas. Can we make this Christmas meaningful by loving the strangers in our neighborhood and loving the unloved?

Christmas is about giving. John 3:16 tells us that God gave us His only Son. Virgin Mary gave herself for Christ's incarnation. Joseph yielded himself for the divine plan of God. The wise men gave valuable gifts to baby Jesus. This is a season where each parish goes caroling to collect the gifts for their parish. How do we communicate the message of giving in our neighborhood to care for the needy? That must be the joy that we can give to the people who are in the wilderness like the shepherds.

Christmas reveals the Mission of God to the world. Incarnation is about God becoming human and living like one of us. God in Christ incarnates for the redemption of the whole created order. The process goes on as Christ reveals himself through the life of each one of us. That is the reason why we pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Let us help a new person inherit eternal life this Christmas season by leading that person to meet Jesus. Let us have a blessed Christmas season and a bright New Year.

**-Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa**

## DIOCESAN BISHOP'S VISIT TO SANDY AFFECTED AREAS

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, the Achens of the North East region, and a few members of the Mar Thoma Churches in Staten Island visited the areas in Staten Island that were affected by hurricane Sandy. The church buildings of St. George Orthodox Church and St. John's Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church, sustained substantial damage due to the hurricane. The team also visited the houses of Mar Thoma members who suffered damages. The youth fellowship members from the North East Region participated in the relief work. The Diocese established a Sandy Relief Fund and requested all members to contribute generously for the recovery efforts being carried out by the Mar Thoma Church in the affected areas. The Diocese and the youth fellowships have registered with the Red Cross, FEMA, United Way, City Hall, NYC Cares, and other organizations working in the affected areas.



## BETHEL MTC, PHILADELPHIA - SILVER JUBILEE

## APDM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION - 2012



Bethel MTC celebrated its silver jubilee on November 10, 2012. Vicar Rev. Alexander Varghese chaired the meeting and Rev. Roy Geevarghese led the opening prayer. The program was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by the chief guest Rt. Rev. Dr. George Ninan, Bishop of the Church of North India and all other invited dignitaries. Mr. Nicholas A. Him Bach, representative of the Hon. State Rep. Mr. Brendan Boyle, Rev. Santhosh Mathew, Chairman of Ecumenical Fellowship of Indian Churches in Philadelphia, Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla, Youth Chaplain, Mr. Chacko Mathew, Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. George Mathew, President of FOMAA, Mr. Alex Alexander, President of MAP and Mr. John Kunchandy, Diocesan Assembly Member, offered felicitations on the occasion.

The Christmas celebration of the Association of Physicians and Dentist of the Mar Thoma Church in North America was held at the Courtillian Hall in Syosset, New York, on December 1, 2012. The APDM Choir sang melodious carols under the guidance of Dr. John Abraham. The celebration included an evening of carol singing and prayers. About 100 people attended this celebration. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship dinner and the collection made will be contributed for the rehabilitation and relief work in the areas affected by hurricane Sandy. The link for the APDM website is: [www.apdmonline.com](http://www.apdmonline.com)

## DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY AT DULAC, LOUISIANA



The recent disaster relief ministry at the Dulac, Louisiana mission project lasted two weeks from November 1 to 16, 2012. Twenty-five mission volunteers participated, which was the largest number of volunteers at a time in any mission project of this type undertaken by the Native American Mission of our Diocese. Twenty-two volunteers spent three days at the site. Two volunteers, Mr. Thomas Mathew and Mrs. Mary Mathew, members of the Seattle MTC, devoted two weeks at Dulac with the Houma Native Indians and helped to renovate their homes. The team arrived on October 31, 2012 and started working on November 1st at one of the homes. The remaining volunteers started to work there during the mission team's visit in April 2012.

## ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL IN DALLAS



Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa was the chief guest at the ecumenical Christmas carol service in Dallas. The 34<sup>th</sup> annual ecumenical Christmas carol service conducted by the Kerala Ecumenical Christian Fellowship (KECF) of Dallas was held on December 1, 2012 at M. G. M. Auditorium in Garland, Texas. About 20 choirs from different Kerala Christian denominations in Dallas – Fort Worth metroplex participated in this year's Christmas carol service.

## LAY INSTITUTE REPORT

A one-day seminar of the lay institute was held at the Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington on November 8, 2012, and was a joint effort of the Washington, Baltimore and Virginia parishes of the South-East Center. Rev. Sajeev Thomas, Vicar of St. James MTC, London led the study session. The theme for the meeting was "Relevance of Bible Study and its Methodology." Rev. Binoy Thomas, Vicar of Washington MTC, Rev. Benu John, Vicar, Baltimore MTC, and about 16 members from all the three parishes attended the seminar. The Washington MTC hosted the study program.



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