

# GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:16 ESV



Diocese of North America and Europe

## The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

#### Dearly beloved in Christ,

The Mar Thoma Church is having a series of spiritual conventions in its various dioceses prior to the annual convention at Maramon, Kerala, in February 2013. The theme for this year's convention is: *You shall be my witnesses.*

More than 100,000 people will be attending the annual convention at Maramon. This meeting is drawing global attention and therefore the Church has invited guest speakers from the East, West, North, and South. It is customary that all the bishops, clergy and lay members find it a place to meet God and people, listen to the Word of God, and commit themselves to carrying out the mission and ministry of the Church with more vigor and enthusiasm.

In a legal context, a witness is a person called to openly narrate what that person knows about an incident for which a judicial procedure is going on. He/she can say what he/she has seen, heard or understood about the incident. Jesus after his resurrection and before his ascension told the disciples that they shall be witnesses of Jesus to the whole world. Such a witnessing is possible only with the help of the Holy Spirit. As St. John says in his first letter that they cannot but speak of Jesus whom they have seen, heard, touched and understood. This they carried out through their lives.

The Church today is called to bear witness to the Lord. The Mar Thoma Church is a witnessing Church. That is why we have the Ashram movement where a group of people can go and stay with the larger community, either to shed 'light into their lives' or 'become salt of the earth' for integration and empowerment of the people for a fruitful living. That is why we have so many institutions to take care of the victims, the wounded, the crushed or those who are less privileged, marginalized or cast out. That is why we have so many mission fields to preach to them the good news of Jesus Christ and to work towards the total sustained development of the community.

Whom do you witness today? The Silver Jubilee of our Diocese is reviving our members through the various programs to be true witnesses of the living Lord by journeying with Him all along.

-Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR BELOVED THEODOSIUS THIRUMENI



*On February 19<sup>th</sup>, our beloved Theodosius Thirumeni celebrates his birthday. As a Diocese we are grateful to God for blessing him with another year in his life and for his ministry in our Diocese. Thirumeni, we thank you for being a fervent witness of His love and His grace to each and every one of us. We pray that the Lord continues to bless you in the many more years to come! Happy Birthday Mar Theodosius Thirumeni!*

### MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> IS DIOCESAN SUNDAY

It is a day to remember God's blessings, and give thanks to Him for his grace on our Diocese over the past 25 years. We remind all members to make your family's Diocesan Sunday donations, in accordance with your parish's policy, in the envelopes provided. The Diocese will assign clergy for pulpit exchange.

### INDIA MISSION TRIPS

#### **KERALA/POLLACHI (Tamil Nadu) - Jul 15<sup>th</sup> to Jul 26<sup>th</sup>**

Includes visits to the HIV and de-addiction centers.

**Contact Mrs. Anita Sujit (San Francisco)**

**Email: [anitasujit@yahoo.com](mailto:anitasujit@yahoo.com) Phone: 650-759-1420**

**Deadline for registration: February 28, 2013**

#### **DELHI-SATNA-SIHORA-JABALPUR - Jul 10<sup>th</sup> to Jul 25<sup>th</sup>**

Includes visits to mission fields in the Delhi/Mumbai Diocese.

**Contact Dr. Varghese Manaloor, Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Edmonton, Canada**

**Email: [ushavar@hotmail.com](mailto:ushavar@hotmail.com)**



### EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

- March 9, 2013 - Study on Church History and Lay Leadership Training at St. Andrew's MTC, NY.
- March 16, 2013 - Seminar on Identity, Vision, and Mission of the Church at Trinity MTC, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.
- March 30, 2013 - SE Region Jubilee Celebrations and Common Holy Communion Service at Ascension MTC, Philadelphia.

# ECUMENICAL DINNER OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The fourth ecumenical dinner hosted by the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church was held at the Immanuel Mar Thoma Center, Houston, on Friday, January 18, 2013. This year, the event coincided with the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Diocese of North America and Europe. This was an occasion to strengthen the ecumenical relationship between various church denominations in the neighborhood. The leadership of Bishops, clergy and lay leaders from sister churches gave the ecumenical flavor to this gathering. The presence of Diocesan Council members from various regions of the Diocese, including Canada, made this occasion more significant. More than 500 people from different regions of the Diocese attended the dinner program.



## DIOCESAN JUBILEE INAUGURATION



On Saturday, January 19, 2013, Diocesan Episcopa Mar Theodosius inaugurated the Diocesan Silver Jubilee celebrations at the Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston, Texas. The program commenced with a Holy Qurbana service by the Diocesan Episcopa and continued with a public meeting. In his presidential address, Mar Theodosius remembered the significant mile stones in the history and growth of the Diocese. Thirumeni appreciated the lay leadership's role in forming congregations and parishes at the local level and in forming the Zonal and Diocesan structures. Thirumeni also acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of Bishops and clergy in nurturing the Diocese. The Diocesan Council has planned year-long Jubilee celebrations that are intended to thank God for His grace and blessings to the Diocese during the past 25 years, and to pray and plan for its future.

## NEW VICAR GENERALS

February 9, 2013



## COUNCIL OF MAR THOMA PARISHES IN EUROPE (COMPE)

On February 2, 2013, COMPE held a meeting at the St. John's Mar Thoma Church, London, UK. Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided. Thirty-three members representing various parishes attended the meeting. COMPE decided to hold the Jubilee celebration programmes on August 30, 2013, which would be the opening day of the Regional Family Conference in UK.



## CHURCH: JOURNEYING WITH CHRIST SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2013 – Schedule of Regional Programs

Region	Common Holy Communion	Dialogue on the Journey and Growth of the Diocese	Seminar on Identity, Vision and Mission of the Church	Study on Church History & Lay Leadership Training
North East	St. John's MTC, NY July 6, 2013	St. Thomas MTC, NY September 28	Epiphany MTC July 13	St. Andrew's MTC, NY March 9
South East	Ascension MTC, PA March 30	St. Peter's MTC, NJ	MTC, Greater Washington May 4	Christos MTC, PA June 8
Southern	Regional Family Conference Center (Tampa) November 3	MTC, Atlanta	Hermon MTC, Atlanta	St. Luke's MTC, FL
Mid West	Chicago MTC April 13	Bethel MTC, Frankfurt, IL	Detroit MTC - July 27 & St. Thomas MTC, Lombard	St. Thomas MTC, Lombard IL
South West	Immanuel MTC, Houston January 19	MTC of Dallas, FB August 7	Sehion MTC, Dallas June 8	St. Paul's MTC, Dallas October 2
Western	Los Angeles MTC June 1	Mar Thoma Church, LA	Seattle MTC & Phoenix Congregation	San Francisco MTC
Canada	Vancouver (Family Conf.) June 30	St. Mathews MTC, Toronto	Trinity MTC, Edmonton March 16	Canadian MTC, Toronto
Europe	Family Conference Center, Swanwick, UK August 30	St. James MTC, London	St. Thomas MTC, Bristol	St. John's MTC, London,



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