



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 Suffragan Metropolitan

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I am glad that the Diocese of North America and Europe is publishing *Besorah*, the e-newsletter, every month. Electronic media has captured the means and methods of communication and the importance of print media have dwindled quite a bit. Global intermission and connectivity are magnified tremendously with the onset of e-media. It is gratifying to note that the Diocese is making use of e-media to propagate the life and witness of the Diocese, especially to the younger generation. As the wise saying goes, 'Anything well begun is half done'. The *Besorah* serves a large section of our community through communicating the news and views regarding the life and witness of the Mar Thoma Church and the Diocese of North America and Europe. I think those who have serious concerns especially youngsters will be able to receive this communication and utilize it to connect their hopes and themes with one another in a meaningful way. It is much appreciated that the *Besorah* serves a timely need of the Mar Thoma community especially in the Diaspora.

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Diocese conducted regionally are highly commendable since many from the local community could participate in the programs and commit themselves through the projects visualized as memorial to the Jubilee. The various programs that have been planned throughout the year 2013, by the Diocesan Bishop are radical and revolutionary as the thrust is on the mission of the Church. The four wings of the Diocesan Mission namely, Mexico Mission, Native American Mission, Neighborhood Mission, and India Mission, are very relevant and true to the nature and purpose of the Mar Thoma Church. The more people get involved in it, the more lives will be blessed. This has an effect on the local community and the locality in turn will have an impact on a global scale. So, what you do here through the Jubilee Celebrations has a wonderful bearing not only on the Mar Thoma Church in this Diocese alone but on the entire universal Church. So we have to be extra vigilant.

I was very happy to watch and witness the steady progress of the Diocese under the positive and constructive leadership of the Diocesan Bishop and the hard work of the members of the Diocese. I hope and believe the whole Mar Thoma Church will benefit highly through the publication of *Besorah*.

With sincere prayers and best wishes,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus
Suffragan Metropolitan

Celebration of 33rd Episcopal Consecration Anniversary



The Suffragan Metropolitan Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus celebrated the 33rd Anniversary of his Episcopal Consecration at the Sinai Center on May 1, 2013, with Mar Theodosius, the Diocesan Episcopa of NAE Diocese, Achens of the North East Region and Diocesan Council representatives. We wish him well and pray for his ministry in the Lord's service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminar for the Readers and Writers of Christian Education Forum at Ebenezer MTC, NY **May 18, 2013**

A Seminar on the Identity Vision and Mission of the Diocese at the Hermon MTC, Atlanta **May 26, 2013**

Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration in Western Region at Los Angeles MTC, LA **June 1, 2013**

Diocesan Jubilee Celebrations-Mid-West Region, Chicago

The Mid-West Region Silver Jubilee celebration was held at the Chicago MTC on April 12, 2013. This was a time of celebration and rejuvenation not only for the Marthomites in the region but also for the entire Diocese. More than 1000 people participated in the celebration which included believers and leaders from sister churches and local ecumenical bodies. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius gave presidential address in which his Lordship highlighted the history of the Diocese and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the laity who helped to strengthen the Mar Thoma community in America. Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus began the Jubilee message by acknowledging the vision and direction of the Diocese for its continued growth.

Diocesan Assembly

The Assembly meeting of the Diocese was held at the Chicago MTC on April 12-13, 2013. The Annual Report and Accounts of the Diocese for the year 2012 and budget for the year 2013 were passed by the Assembly. In order to strengthen the mission engagements of the Diocese in the local level, a resolution was passed to start Regional Projects in all the 8 regions of the Diocese. The Assembly decided to start a Disaster Relief Fund to initiate immediate action in times of natural calamities. The participation of the younger generation in the worship and administration of the church was another area of discussion in the assembly and it was proposed to have English service every Sunday, either Divine Worship or Holy Qurbana in all the parishes. His Lordship also highlighted the communication efforts of the Diocese (i.e. the publication of the Mar Thoma Messenger, Besorah, and Diocesan Website). It was a time to evaluate the activities of the Diocese as well as to give a focused vision for a brighter future.

Diocesan Council Meeting

The Diocesan Council met at the Chicago MTC on April 12. The Council discussed the details of Jubilee publications; Festschrift volume, Diocesan Directory and Souvenir Volume with Compliments. The Ecumenical Dinner-2014 will be held at Toronto, Canada. It was also decided to install Video Conferencing facility at the Diocesan head quarters, Sinai Mar Thoma Center, NY. Special words of appreciation were rendered to the Chicago MTC for hosting all the events of the weekend and for making arrangements and extending hospitality for the leaders and delegates.

Diocesan Clergy Conference

The Diocesan Clergy conference of the North America and Europe Diocese was held at the Chicago MTC from April 11-12. **Pastor: Journeying with Christ** was the theme of the Conference. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Achen in the Diocese were the main leaders. There was a total Attendance of 55 Achens. The Suffragan Metropolitan and the first resident Bishop in the North American Diocese, Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus blessed the Clergy Conference with his leadership. There were separate sessions to discuss parish and Diocesan matters and to learn about the use of IT in the ministry of the Church. There was also a farewell session for the Achens transferred from USA in 2013.



NATIVE AMERICAN MISSION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OKLAHOMA MISSION, Broken Bow, OK - Bible Camp and Vacation Bible School, Dates: June 3 - to June 7, 2013

ALABAMA MISSION, VBS, Mount Vernon, Alabama. Dates: Saturday, June 8- to Saturday, June 15, 2013.

Deadline for Registration is May 15, 2013 - For more details, contact: O.C. Abraham, Native American Mission Coordinator, Tel: 302.239.7119 or email: ocnirmala@aol.com

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxinos Visiting the Diocese

The Diocesan Bishop of the Chennai-Bangalore Diocese of our Church, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxinos Thirumeni is visiting the Diocese of North America and Europe in June. Thirumeni will be the chief guest on the occasion of Western Regional Jubilee Celebration at Los Angeles MTC on June 1, 2013. Thirumeni will attend various programs in Phoenix, North Carolina, Dallas, South Florida and New York. We extend a hearty welcome to Mar Philoxinos Thirumeni.



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