

Autumn Blessings



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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

Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up. GALATIANS 6:9

Message from the Diocesan Episcopa

Dearly beloved in Christ,

The Silver Jubilee programs of the diocese included a dialogue between the senior citizens and young families. A paper was presented in New York on September 28, 2013 during this dialogue and it raised two questions: How is the church supporting the senior citizens to age gracefully? What activities are being planned by the diocese for the senior citizens?

The Mar Thoma Church observed September 15, 2013, as the Senior Citizen Sunday. Our Metropolitan through his Circular No. 170 stated that there are two sections of people who are above the age of 60. One section consists of those who are healthy enough to be engaged in various activities, and the other section who are aged and either completely bed ridden or dependent to varying degrees. The church intends to have a Senior Citizen's Fellowship in all our parishes. The parishioners should visit the aged people who are confined to their homes or nursing homes for offering them friendship and fellowship. Let us remember that the practical wisdom of the aged is a wealth to the community. Those who are healthy enough among the senior citizens should take initiatives to give spiritual and social fellowship to those who need assistance for living. The various organizations of the parish can strengthen this ministry and also help the Vicar to organize communion services regularly in the parish on a weekday or at times when pastoral attention is requested.

Our parishes can organize half a day program either in the morning or in the afternoon and can include recreation and health activities along with spiritual nourishment. Our regions of the Diocese where there are number of parishes, can attempt adult day care centers, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

Let us live the Word of God which says; "honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20: 12)

Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

Book Release

The new book titled "**Churching the Diaspora, Discipling the Families**" written by Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa was released by the Metropolitan Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 (the first day of Mar Thoma Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam Meeting) at Thiruvalla by handing over a copy of the book to the Valiya Metropolitan Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Thirumeni. The author of the book Mar Theodosius spoke on the significance of the book to the Mandalam members. Congratulations to Theodosius Thirumeni on behalf of the Diocese.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dedication of Jubilee Chapel at Mexico Mission October 12
- 4th National Young Family Fellowship Conference in NY October 25- 27
- Southern Regional Family Conference at Tampa November 1- 3
- Visit of Mar Stephanos September 27-October 22
- Visit of Mar Coorilos October 14-November 4
- Visit of Metropolitan Dr. Joseph Mar Thomas November 18-24
- Diocesan Silver Jubilee Finale in New York November 23



Dialogue on the Growth and Development of the Diocese

On Saturday, September 28, 2013, the North East Region conducted a dialogue between the seniors and young families in the region. They gathered together at St. Thomas MTC under the guidance of the Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius. Rev. Joji K. Mathew was the convener. The presentations were conducted by Mr. Mathew



P. George who represented the seniors and Dr. Ron Jacob who represented the young families and youth fellowship. The dialogue provided an outlet for both groups to provide their vision for the MTC in the North America and Europe Diocese as well as share their input as to what they desire to have implemented in the Diocese in the coming years.

Midwest Region Silver Jubilee Seminar: Identity, Mission & Liturgy of the Church



A Seminar on "Identity, Mission and Liturgy of the Church", organized by the Midwest Region, in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations, was hosted by the Vicar Rev. Shaji Thomas and members of the St. Thomas MTC, Lombard, IL, on Monday September 2, 2013. The Regional president Rev. Daniel Thomas presided over the meeting. Rev. George Cherian (Youth Chaplain, Midwest Region)

presented a paper on the Identity and Mission of the MTC and Rev. Biju P. Simon (Youth Chaplain & Asst. Vicar, Chicago MTC) presented a paper on the Liturgy of the Church.

APDM Annual Retreat



The 22nd Annual Retreat of the Association of Physicians and Dentists of the Mar Thoma Church (APDM) was held at Sheraton, Mahwah, New Jersey, from September 27 to 29, 2013. The theme of the retreat was "Let your light shine before others" (Mathew 5:16). Dr. Mathew Chacko, the President of APDM welcomed all. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese, the Diocesan Episcopa gave the inaugural address. Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese led the Bible Study and conducted the Holy Qurbana

on Sunday. Dr. Thomas Abraham gave a brief history of the Association. Dr. Alex Thomas spoke on 'communication and Stress'. Dr. John Abraham on 'Myths and Pearls' - What is new in Medical Field' and Dr. Thampy Samuel on 'Interventional Pain Medicine Update'. The Mission Night and Witnessing was led by Dr. John Abraham.

14th National Conference of Diocesan Sevika Sangham



The 14th National Conference of the Diocesan Sevika Sangham was hosted by the Emmanuel MTC in Lubbock, TX from October 3 to 6, 2013. The Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa presided over the inaugural session and gave presidential address. The chief guest of the conference, Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos Episcopa, inaugurated the function and gave the main talks. The Conference started on Thursday and was led by the host parish under the leadership of the Vicar, Rev. John N Abraham.

Mrs. Suma Cherian led Bible Studies. There were special sessions on medical concerns and mission awareness along with a dedication session at the end of the conference. The conference ended on Sunday, October 6, 2013 with a Holy Qurbana and closing message by Mar Stephanos.



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