

GOD  
IS  
LOVE

1 John 4:16



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 Diocesan Secretary

Message to the Diocese:

I am pleased to announce the launch of the “Going Green” project throughout the Diocese of North America and Europe. This project is being launched in conjunction with Mar Theodosius Thirumeni’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Episcopal consecration to acknowledge his passion and dedication for protecting the environment. The key goals of the projects are to help educate and engage our church members in sustainable practices, and to provide information one can use to improve the health of our planet.

All parishes and parishioners are requested to consider the following matters for implementation in their respective parishes and in their homes: (1) Installing recycling bins to promote the recycling of reusable products; (2) Avoiding or eliminating the use of products that diminish the quality of the environment; (3) Minimizing the use of paper and paper products and considering greater use of electronic technology; (4) Minimizing or avoiding the wastage of food, water, gas, and electricity; and (5) Planting trees that are environmentally friendly.

In addition, parishes could consider celebrating Earth Day on April 22, 2014, with the following suggested programs: (1) Conducting a poster/painting/drawing competition on “Protecting the Environment” for Sunday School children up to the age of 12, and rewarding participants and winners with appropriate prizes; (2) Encouraging the youth (ages 12 to 20) to participate in an essay writing competition on “Christian Response to Climate Crises,” and rewarding participants and winners with appropriate prizes; (3) Encouraging the adults and youths to develop their own programs to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment; and (4) Encouraging parishioners to write articles in Malayalam and English, which if selected for publication by the editorial committees, could be published in the Sabha Tharaka, and the Mar Thoma Messenger.

Participation in the above mentioned programs should be entirely voluntary, and only involve individuals who wish to serve God by caring for the environment that He has provided for us.

Thank you for your support for the “Going Green” project where we make “Small Changes for a Big Difference.”

With prayerful regards,

*Small Changes for a Big Difference.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February 9-16, 2014** Maramon Convention
- **February 16, 2014** Get-together & Fellowship Dinner in honor of Bishops celebrating Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Consecration at Thiruvalla
- **February 17-18, 2014:** Orientation Program for Achens joining the North America and Europe Diocese at the TMAM Orientation Center, Kottayam
- **April 3-4, 2014** Annual Clergy Conference at the Philadelphia MTC
- **April 4-5, 2014** Diocesan Assembly Meeting at the Philadelphia MTC



The fifth Ecumenical luncheon Fellowship of the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church (since 2009) was held at the St. Mathew's MTC, Toronto, on January 11, 2014. This was an occasion to strengthen the ecumenical relationship between various church denominations in the neighborhood. The leadership of heads of ecumenical bodies, clergy and lay leaders from sister

churches gave an ecumenical flavor to the gathering. The presence of Diocesan Council members from various regions of the Diocese made this occasion more significant. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. The youth fellowship members of St. Mathews Mar Thoma Church led the praise and worship. The Diocesan Bishop gave the presidential address in which he emphasized the significance of local and wider ecumenism in the contemporary context. Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton, Secretary, Canadian Council of Churches, gave the key note address. Felicitations were presented by Archdeacon Bruce Myers from the Anglican Church, Rev. John Mathew from the United Church, and Rev. Dr. P. K. Mathew representing the Kerala Christian Ecumenical Group. Mr. Zachariah Mulamootil, the Diocesan Council member invited the dignitaries to receive the gifts arranged by the Diocese.

## Sinai Mar Thoma Church, UK-Prison Ministry



Sinai Mar Thoma Church, North London, has been involved in a 'Prison Ministry' for the last four years. A group of young people and the Vicar visited the local prison on Sunday, January 26, 2014. They shared gospel stories, sang hymns, prayed and gave them books. The prison inmates and prison chaplain highly value this ministry.

## Episcopal Jubilee Get-Together and Fellowship Dinner

The North America and Europe Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church has arranged a get-together & fellowship dinner in connection with the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of our three Bishops; Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos at 6.30 pm on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Auditorium, SCS Campus, Thiruvalla. The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan will preside over the meeting, and the Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan will give the Anugraha Prabashanam. The members of the Episcopal Synod, Sabha Council Members, Diocesan Council Members, Achens and invited guests will attend the meeting. A fellowship Dinner will follow the meeting.

## Regional Northeast Youth Meeting

Mar Thoma youth fellowship Northeast region hosted the 1st Regional Retreat from December 27 to 29, 2013 at the Vacationist Fathers Retreat Centre, NJ. Our Thirumeni, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, inaugurated the conference. The theme of the conference was 'Break Free'. 46 people attended the conference from the various parishes of the region. Rev. V. M. Mathew, Dr. Shawn Rajan, Dr. Betsy Mathew, Mr. Prijo Thomas, and Mr. John C. Thomas gave leadership to the conference.



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