

Merry
CHRISTMAS

THANKS BE UNTO GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT.
2 COR 9:15



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma Besorah

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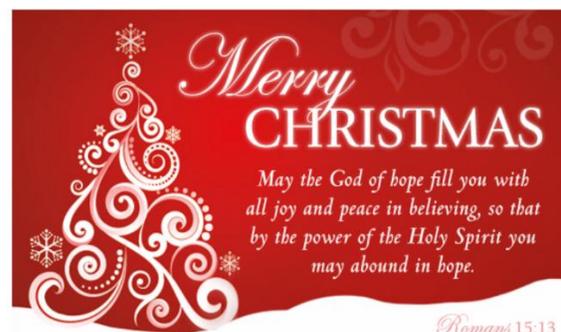
Message from the Diocesan Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ferguson is a place near St. Louis, Missouri, where an unarmed African American teenager, Michael Brown, was shot dead by a white police officer, Darren Wilson in August 2014. The National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States (NCCC-USA), met for two days in St. Louis to hear and see the cry of the people. I was there listening to a Christian pastor who expressed solidarity with the agonizing community of Ferguson. Another unarmed 43 year old African American, Eric Garner, had a fatal encounter with law enforcement authorities in July 2014 in Staten Island, NY. In both these cases, the Grand Jury verdicts were to not indict the law enforcement authorities involved. These events have re-ignited racial tensions all across the country.

These events happened when law enforcement authorities and unarmed individuals argued and lost their calm. Respect for life was overcome by emotions of anger, lack of respect for the law, and violence. We know that Michael Brown and Eric Garner have died, and that officer Darren Wilson has resigned from his job. However, many others are directly and indirectly affected by these tragedies. Are these worthy traits for our world? How can we de-construct our emotional acts and re-construct inter personal relationships? President Barack Obama said, "We need to recognize that this is not just an issue for Ferguson, this is an issue for America." He has also asked the country to find ways to rebuild confidence between law enforcement authorities and the community they serve.

Everyday more than 500 guns are sold in USA. A gun is meant to serve as a tool for personal protection, and not to take away the lives of others through violence. How many people, particularly teenagers, are killed every year in our country? 'DO NOT KILL' is God's commandment. Jesus said, "Do unto others what you expect others to do to you." When will we transform the gun culture in our society? A larger vision on life is necessary. Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King (Jr.) stood for non-violence in the midst of violence and agitations. These historical individuals still remain our role models.



Let us join with the communities of Ferguson and New York to seek justice and fairness for all people. Let us pray that all people will be led by the words of Jesus to love God and to love one's neighbor as oneself. Real peace can be found only where justice is present. It is not simply the absence of conflict, but the ability to dialogue to find justice, and where relationships become warm through transformation. NCCC in its statement says, "The bridge between justice and peace is mercy and grace, and as people of faith, we affirm this bridge, and that the church, its pastors and its members, must be those who proclaim it".



We are in the Advent season. We are celebrating Christmas where the incarnation of the Prince of peace is found and worshiped. Let us sing with the angels in proclaiming to the world, 'Peace on the earth and good will towards men' -Luke 2:14.

Wishing you all a Joyous and Blessed Christmas!

-Mar Theodosius +

Diocesan Clergy Conference – 2014



From November 19-21, 2014, the clergy of the Diocese of North America and Europe gathered together at the Trinity MTC, Houston, for the Diocesan Clergy Conference. The theme of the conference was “*Churching the Diaspora and Mission Empowerment.*” The conference was a time for Bible Studies, discussion, presentations, and reflections. The clergy were given a forum to share their views, concerns, and engage in thoughtful discussion. The Diocesan Bishop and Diocesan Secretary facilitated the conference. A short farewell was organized for our clergy who will be returning to India on transfer in May 2015. The Diocesan Secretary recognized the value and importance of their ministry for furthering the Diocese and mission of the church. Theodosius Thirumeni concluded the session with thankful appreciation to all the participants and the hosts.

Episcopal Silver Jubilee Felicitations – Dallas Area Mar Thoma Churches



The Mar Thoma Churches in the Dallas area arranged a felicitation program for the Episcopal Silver Jubilee of Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, at the Sehion MTC on November 22, 2014. The Bishop of the Anglican Church of North America, Rt. Rev. Ray R. Sutton inaugurated the program and delivered an inspirational address congratulating all three Thirumenis for completing 25 years of ministry as Bishops of the Mar Thoma Church.

Representatives of each church in the Dallas area congratulated the Thirumenis. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, spoke during the celebration. Their words of wisdom were thought-provoking; and they appreciated the initiative taken by the 4 parishes in Dallas for organizing the event.

Houston Property

In March 2014, the Diocese of North America and Europe purchased a 6 acre plot for its local mission activities in Houston. The members of the both churches in Houston and many well-wishers whole heartedly participated in this fund-raising effort for buying this property. On November 21, 2014, our Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Achens, Diocesan Council members, and members of the Trinity MTC and Immanuel MTC gathered together for prayer and a signboard was placed on the property.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1–4, 2015	National Leadership Conference, Boston Theme: Rooted in Christ	Carmel MTC, Boston
January 24, 2015	Ecumenical Luncheon – South Florida	South Florida, MTC
July 2-5, 2015	Diocesan Family Conference	Connecticut



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