



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 Bishop

*".....The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people..." 1 Samuel 13: 14*

Our diocese started the New Year with the Leadership Conference which was attended by about 100 delegates representing various parishes from North America. The youth Fellowship members of the Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston, organized the conference very well with the help of the Youth Chaplains in the Diocese and the Diocesan Council Members. The conference was a blessing to all who attended.

The theme was *Rooted in Christ*, based on Col 2: 6-7, which says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." St. Paul is talking about "Life in Christ" and the need to grow with deep roots. A plant with deep roots will stand strong and will have leaves and fruit in its branches. It reminds us of Psalms 1: 3 "He (the blessed man) is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." (Reflect on St. Jn. 15 as well). St. Paul is telling his audience to grow in the Christian doctrines and to find the meaning and relevance of a Christian life.

The conference in Boston was the 18<sup>th</sup> Leadership Conference and was meant for training youth members who are above the age of 21 years to become spiritual leaders in the diocese. Hence the delegates are selected from each parish by the respective Vicars. The Conference has a curriculum that extends over 3 years. Spiritual leaders are identified from among those who (1) are regular communicant members of the Diocese, (2) have completed both courses of the LEAD program, (3) have attended 3 leadership Conferences, (4) have expressed commitment to the ministry in the Mar Thoma Church through a written statement and (5) are above the age of 24 years.

St. Paul said to Timothy, in 1 Tim.3:1 that to aspire to leadership is an honorable ambition. In the first century, while St. Paul was ministering, every Christian leader was going through hardship, contempt, rejection and even death. Hence, Christian Leadership is not a position of prestige and respect but the quality of one giving his/her self in service to others, bringing glory to God. God makes leaders. The personal relationship with God makes a leader humble. When God calls, we cannot refuse due to a sense of inadequacy. The spiritual leader will approach the ministry of leadership willingly and with commitment. Jesus is our model (Mk 10: 38-43). His commandment is to "love as Jesus has loved us."

I wish you all a very blessed and fruitful New Year!

-Mar Theodosius+

## 18<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Leadership Conference, Carmel MTC, Boston, MA

The 18<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Leadership Conference was held from January 1 to 4, 2015 at the Carmel MTC, Boston, MA. The theme of the conference was "Rooted in Christ," taken from Colossians 2: 6-7. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided and the sessions were led by the Youth Chaplains of the diocese and the second generation youth. Ninety-one delegates representing twenty-five parishes participated. The delegates discussed various topics and were able to participate in a service project that benefitted underprivileged youth living in the Worcester area.



There was also an increased focus on understanding the various leadership positions that an individual can take on in the Mar Thoma Church. The Holy Qurbana on Sunday marked the first time a woman participated in the service alongside men in the altar during a Youth Leadership Conference. Ms. Anitha Sara Oommen was recognized as a pioneer in the movement of equalization among genders in the Diocese. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and the Carmel MTC were specially recognized and thanked for encouraging and supporting this movement. The next Leadership conference will take place at St. Paul's MTC (Dallas) from January 7-10, 2016. The theme for that conference will be "Feed the Sheep."

# 28<sup>th</sup> Midwest Regional Youth Conference

The 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Youth conference of the Midwest region was held from December 26 to 29, 2014, at the Miracle Camp Centre in Michigan. The Theme of the Conference was “SEMPER FI” meaning ‘always faithful’ taken from 2 Timothy 2: 11-13. Dr. Shaun Rajan was the main Speaker and the other sessions were led by the Achens of the Midwest region and Ms. Nisha Philip. 176 delegates from the parishes in the region attended the Conference. Dr. Shaun Rajan emphasized that faithfulness of God and to each one of His creation is needed to model our lives on the faithfulness of the one who called us and who strengthens us each moment. He also exhorted the youths to be faithful in all walks of life and thus bring glory to God. A farewell meeting was arranged for Rev. Daniel Thomas (Vicar, Chicago MTC) and Rev. Shaji Thomas (Vicar, St. Thomas MTC), the Achens on transfer from the Midwest region. This was the first time that the conference was arranged by the Midwest regional committee. All the parishes were delegated responsibilities for arranging the various conference events. The Conference was a blessing for all the delegates who attended.



## Silver Jubilee Felicitation

On December 9, 1989, the Mar Thoma Church was gifted with three more leaders in Mar Athanasius, Mar Theodosius and Mar Coorilos. They completed the Silver Jubilee year of their Episcopal Ministry on December 9, 2014, and it was a time for the church to praise and thank God for our leaders. On November 23, 2013, the Diocese inaugurated the Episcopal Silver Jubilee celebration with the blessings of our Metropolitan Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma and in conjunction with the finale of Diocesan Silver Jubilee celebrations.

A Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana and felicitation meeting was arranged on December 9, 2014, at the Epiphany MTC, NY, to mark the finale of the Episcopal Silver Jubilee celebrations. About 25 clergy and many lay people attended the service from the various parts of the Diocese. The Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Binoy J. Thomas, presided over the felicitation meeting. Thirumeni cut the cake and responded graciously to the felicitations. His words of wisdom were thought-provoking. He shared his thoughts about the people who influenced his life and about the need for all to express loyalty to the church. During this occasion he encouraged the audience to consider rededicating themselves to God. He also highlighted that the mission of the church is to realize its challenges and to offer creative responses to real-life situations.



2014 was a memorable and significant year for Theodosius Thirumeni. Not only was he celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal consecration, Thirumeni also reached a significant milestone in his life on February 19, 2014, by celebrating his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also completed 6 years as the Diocesan Bishop in North America and Europe Diocese.



A person is known by the life he lives and by the contributions he makes to society. In 65 years Thirumeni has served the church and society for 25 years as a Bishop and for 40 years as an ordained minister. Through his life and ministry he has made history.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



January 24, 2015	Ecumenical Luncheon – South Florida	South Florida, MTC
July 2 to 5, 2015	Diocesan Family Conference	Connecticut
July 27 to August 12, 2015 India Mission Trip 2015 – Registration Deadline February 28, 2015.		
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