

Diocese of North America and Europe

# The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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


TO THOSE WHO  
COURAGEOUSLY  
GAVE THEIR LIVES...

AND THOSE WHO  
BRAVELY FIGHT  
TODAY...

THANK YOU

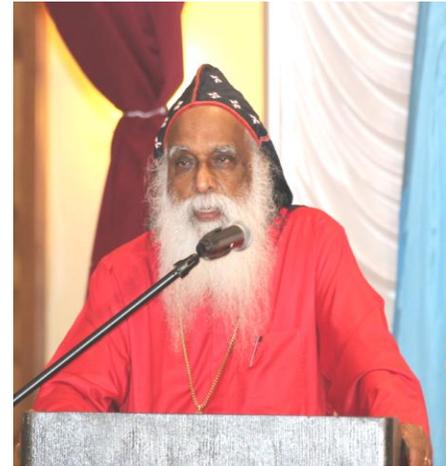
## MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN

Dearly Beloved,

It was indeed a pleasure for me to visit our Mexico Mission field at Matamoros on July 26, 2015. I am very impressed with the progress we have made there. It is gratifying to note that we were able to assist three girls there to earn their medical, engineering and nursing degrees, respectively. I am hoping that we will also be able to support and educate some of the boys there. The work the North American Diocese is doing in Mexico is very novel and different from our approach in other mission fields. Our goal should be to make the Mexico mission a self-sustaining operation so that the people there will be able to assist more of their own. To achieve that goal, we have to identify clergy who are willing to learn Spanish and serve the people there. I have authorized our clergy, with the permission of the Diocesan Episcopa, to conduct our sacraments for the people in Colonia Mar Thoma if they request our services. We can also offer the people temporary church membership so that they can function as a prayer group that strengthens its faith through prayer and study of the word of God.

Our church has become global. From a community that worships in Malayalam within Kerala, we have grown to become a community that worships in Kannada in Karnataka, Tamil in Tamil Nadu, Hindi in various parts of North India, German and Irish in Europe, French in some parts of Canada, English in all parts of the world, and now Spanish in Mexico. We thank God for enabling our church to grow in this manner, and pray that He will continue to lead us on in this journey to fulfill His mission and establish the Kingdom of God. We want you to join in His mission with enthusiasm.

In His service,  
Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan+



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

*Ps. 34:1. "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The latter half of June and early July was filled with activities. We visited the Mexico Mission field, held the Diocesan Council meeting in Brownsville, Texas, celebrated the Metropolitan's birthday at Houston, held the Diocesan Clergy Family Conference and the Diocesan Assembly at St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, New York, and hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Family Conference at the Hilton Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut. Let us praise God for blessing and guiding us all through.

We are thankful to so many people who labored day and night for organizing all these events. We are pleased that these meetings and conferences proved to be an enriching experience for all the participants. With the insights and visions, it is time for us to rededicate ourselves for the ministry and mission of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Speaking from the Book of Acts 3: 1-10, Rev. Dr. Sham P. Thomas exhorted us to do the ministry where the lame (like the crippled man from birth) will jump with joy while praising God, and energize the worshipping community to be filled with wonder and amazement. Like Peter and John, are we able to draw the attention of the people crying in the world by presenting Jesus to them and thereby enabling them to be a part of our parishes and congregations and praise God? 'Being the Church' is the need of our times. Let the afflicted hear and rejoice. *Ps.34:2 "Glorify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together."*

Mar Theodosius+

**ENERGIZE THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY – HELP THE LAME TO WALK AND LEAP  
WITH JOY IN PRAISE OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE - Dr. Sham P. Thomas**

# 2015 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

The Diocesan Assembly was held on July 2, 2015, at the St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY. The Metropolitan, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, presided. Rev. Binoy Thomas, Diocesan Secretary, welcomed the Assembly. Rev. Dr. Sham P. Thomas led the devotion. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius addressed the Assembly and highlighted the impact that migration has had on our Diocese in two areas; (1) Faith vs. Secularism, and (2) Consumerism vs. Sharing. The Metropolitan addressed the assembly, conveyed his greetings on behalf of the Church, and inaugurated the Clergy Scholarship Fund. The Annual Report and Accounts of 2014, Budget for 2015, and various resolutions were passed unanimously by the assembly.



## DIOCESAN CLERGY FAMILY CONFERENCE



The 2015 Diocesan Clergy Family Conference was held at the St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa delivered the Presidential Address, addressed the theme, and elaborated on the contemporary challenges faced by the Church. The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan delivered the inaugural message and inaugurated the conference. Rev. Dr. Sham P. Thomas led the main talks on the topic, *“Refocusing Pastoral Ministry in the Context of Contemporary Challenges.”* Achen highlighted the importance of the church being the “hope for humanity,” and emphasized that without hope, the church will suffer. Baskiomos’ sessions on *“Relevant Contextual Ministry: Role of Clergy*



*Family,”* were led by Rev. Abraham Scaria P. and Mrs. Bindu Abraham. Rev. Denny Philip led a session on *“Culture and Ministry.”* Mrs. Jiby Binoy and Mrs. Jubi Shibu led a practical session on *“Table setting, Bed-making, and use of Technology.”* The children’s sessions were led by the youth of the St. Thomas MTC. There was a birthday cake cutting and celebration on behalf of the Clergy for His Grace the Metropolitan. Theodosius Thirumeni thanked the Vicar and the St. Thomas MTC, New York, for all their work and effort. The meeting ended with a prayer and benediction by the Metropolitan.

## 2015 DIOCESAN FAMILY CONFERENCE

The 31<sup>st</sup> Diocesan Family Conference, hosted by the Northeast Regional Activities Committee (RAC), was held from July 2 to 5, 2015, at the Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, CT. The theme of the conference was *‘Harvest 2015: Harvest in the family of families and hope for humanity’*. The Metropolitan, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma presided over the opening session and inaugurated the conference. In his inaugural address the Metropolitan stated that the mission of the church is fulfilled only through the families and that we should strive for a new humanity. The Diocesan Episcopa presided over the Family Conference. The Metropolitan Thirumeni and Diocesan Episcopa led various sessions. Rev. Dr. Sham P. Thomas led the main talks based on the theme. His talks emphasized the challenges and possibilities of the Diaspora community. Rev. Binu C. Samuel, Rev. Mathew Baby, Rev. George Cherian and Rev. Dennis Abraham led the Bible studies for the various groups. Dr. Jesudas Athyal, Rev. Abraham Scaria P. and Dr. Shaun Rajan presented talks at various sessions. Special talks were also given by Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Eusebius, and Mr. Mathew George. In conjunction with the family conference a souvenir and the latest issue of Yuvadharma were published. The conference was instrumental in providing a renewed vision and commitment for the mission and ministry of the church. Approximately 550 participants from 250 families from all over the Diocese attended.



**NOTE:** The Diocesan Council thanks Ms. Betty Vattakunnel as she voluntarily leaves the Besorah’s editorial team in July 2015, after faithful service since its inception in 2011, and welcomes Ms. Reshma Ravikumar as she volunteers to serve on the editorial team.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATES	VENUE
Junior Senior Conference, Southeast Region	July 09 to 12, 2015	Ramapo College 505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, New Jersey
Diocesan MTVEA Conference	July 23 to 26, 2015	Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston, TX
Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference	July 30 to August 2, 2015	West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Southern Regional Youth Fellowship Conference	July 16 to July 19, 2015	St. Mark's Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship, Tampa, Florida

## VISIT TO COLONIA MAR THOMA AT MATAMOROS, MEXICO



On June 26, 2015, our Metropolitan The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, Diocesan Episcopa Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, along with Diocesan Council members, Achens and members from different parishes visited the Mexico Mission: Colonia Mar Thoma. During the meeting held at the Jubilee Chapel of Colonia Mar Thoma, Mrs. Sini George, Diocesan Council Convener, welcomed all. Theodosius Thirumeni addressed the gathering. Metropolitan Thirumeni blessed the meeting with his address and taught an action song. Thirumeni

congratulated and presented certificates of appreciation to the residents who earned professional degrees in medicine, nursing, and engineering. The Metropolitan planted a tree to mark his visit. Representatives of the Mayor of Matamoros offered felicitations and thanked the Mar Thoma church for all the good work done at Colonia Mar Thoma. A birthday cake was cut and shared to celebrate the Metropolitan's birthday. A lunch was served to all who attended the blessed event.

## METROPOLITAN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT HOUSTON

The Trinity MTC and the Immanuel MTC at Houston jointly arranged a birthday celebration for our Metropolitan, Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, on his birthday on June 27, 2015, at the Immanuel Center, Stafford, TX. The Diocesan Episcopa presided over the meeting and H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan of Malankara Orthodox South West America Diocese was the chief guest. Metropolitan Thirumeni in his reply speech recalled the leadership of the Metropolitan Abraham Mar Thoma in the life of the church, which made the church ecumenical and evangelical. He exhorted the gathering to be witnesses of the open Bible and to continue the ministry of reconciliation. In commemoration of the beginning of his 85<sup>th</sup> year, and the Going Green project of the Diocese, a tree was planted at the premises of Immanuel MTC.



## VISIT TO HOUSTON PROPERTY



The Metropolitan, Diocesan Episcopa, Achens and members of the Houston parishes visited the land purchased by the Diocese for future development at Houston. The Metropolitan encouraged the diocesan activities, prayed, and blessed the land. While attending the Diocesan Council and Assembly, the Metropolitan directed the Diocesan Council to propose a plan and estimate, in a timely manner, to develop the property as a southern hub (residential property) for the Diocese.



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