

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 EPISCOPA

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.” Isaiah 60: 1

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Prophet Isaiah is asking the people in exile to rise up and shine. This call is being made to the Jewish people who are disappointed and disheartened with their life in a foreign land. The prophet is instilling courage and faith to the people to trust God. This message of hope assures people that God will remain their source of strength and hence they can expect a better future. They are reassured that their faithful God will not only enable them to rebuild Jerusalem but will also enable them to experience a new heaven and a new earth.

Some of us are also disappointed and disheartened with some of the things that happen around us. The United States of America witnessed yet another shocking shooting event when a gunman killed 10 people at the Umpqua Community College in Oregon. Hearing gunshots have become a routine in several places of our world. People need to ask themselves a serious question - What is more important - guns or people? The recent refugee migration from Syria and Afghanistan to various parts of the world, particularly to the European countries, because of perennial regional conflicts is tossing the life of so many families and taking away the lives of sojourners en route. We are witnessing some of the worst military conflicts after World War II.

The late Dr. M. M. Thomas, whose birth centenary our church and the ecumenical world celebrated this year, speaks about ‘Cruciform Humanity’ where innocent people are killed. So, where is Justice and Peace? Pope Francis is asking people to welcome strangers and adopt the refugees. I am happy that the European nations are helping the refugees to settle down in their countries and that our parishes in Europe are expressing their solidarity with the countries that welcome refugees.

Hurricane Joaquin has taken away the lives of a few people who lived along the Atlantic coast, and it has wreaked devastation upon parts of the State of South Carolina in U.S.A. All the world forums are now speaking about the ecological crisis and the human responsibility to take measures to overcome the situation. We can battle a good number of these calamities when the world nations and the people at the grass-roots level become eco-friendly. The ‘Going Green’ program, promoted by our diocese, has to become our lifestyle. Let us not forget that we have a God-given responsibility to protect the inhabited earth while we continue to live off its resources.

The mission and ministry of the church are not to be confined to just the church-going people but to the entire humanity. While understanding that this call is futuristic, our ministry towards all will become meaningful when we conceptualize, innovate and strive to achieve a proper mind set and commitment to serve everyone. Our mindset will assist us to envision the future, discover unique approaches to solve problems, and ward off possible dilutions that divide our communities and destroy our peace. We are ‘lighted to lighten’!

Mar Theodosius+



Theodosius Thirumeni and Angelin actively engaged in the Diocese’s “Going Green” Program

2015 Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference



The 2015 Diocesan Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference was held at Domain Hotel, Silicon Valley, California from October 2-4th, 2015. The conference, hosted by Silicon Valley Mar Thoma Church Yuvajana Sakhyam, was themed “Bloom Where You Are Planted” based on Psalm 1:3. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa, inaugurated the conference in the presence of MTYS president, Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas Episcopa. Over 100 delegates attended this conference from various parts of the Diocese. There were five unique and faith-enriching main talks, followed by open discussions. Mar Thoma Church of Silicon Valley Yuvajana Sakhyam handed over a gift to the MTYS Gramam Project, Andhra Pradesh, India. Overall, the conference was a blessing to all who attended.

Installation of a New Suffragan Metropolitan

October 2nd marks a very auspicious day in our church's history, when Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius Thirumeni was elevated and accepted as the new Suffragan Metropolitan. Let us praise God for his life and ministry and make use of the opportunity to congratulate him on behalf of the Diocese of North America and Europe. This date coincides with the Episcopal consecration date of three of our Bishops: Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas, Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos who have completed 22 years of episcopal ministry. Let us uphold all of the leaders of our church in our prayers, including Our Valiya Metropolitan, Metropolitan, and the Suffragan Metropolitans. This is a time for our commitment and expression of loyalty.



2015 Ecumenical Gathering



A meeting of the Indian Christian Theologians & Scholars of Indian Christianity, organized by the Christian Institute of South Asia-American Concerns (CISAC) & Princeton Forum, was held on August 12th at the Asian Indian Christian Church in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Scholarly papers were presented throughout the day. It also commemorated the

Birth Centenary of Dr. M.M. Thomas. Mar Theodosius Thirumeni presented a paper on "The Indian Presence in American Christianity in the 21st Century". The meeting was a great opportunity for many Indian churches to come together and discuss relevant topics. Five delegates, along with Mar Theodosius Thirumeni, participated in the seminar from the Mar Thoma Church.

2015 Sevika Sangham Conference

The 16th Diocesan Sevika Sangham Conference was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius on October 8th at the Renaissance Hotel in Woodbridge, NJ. The conference was hosted by St. Stephens Mar Thoma Church New Jersey. The theme of the conference was "Women: Uniquely Designed and Divinely Commissioned".



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 14-17**
Diocesan Senior Fellowship Conference
"Renew My Strength"
Houston, Texas
- **October 23-25**
Southern Regional Family Conference
"Our Generation, Our Responsibility"
Tampa, Florida
- **October 30 – November 1**
Young Family Fellowship Conference
"Finding the Balance: Church, Family, and Culture"
LIMTC, New York
- **January 7-10**
Leadership Conference
"Feed My Sheep"
Dallas, Texas



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The Besorah is a brief overview of some of the Diocesan news and activities. For more information, please refer to the Diocesan website and/or The Messenger.