

The Mar Thoma  
**Besorah**

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

**MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPIA**

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

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

“Let little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these...” Luke 18:16

When Jesus sees His disciples rebuking those who were trying to bring children to be touched by Him, He asks His disciples to allow them to come to Him. Children are a gift from God. Therefore, as a community, we gather to thank God while rejoicing the birth of a child and when celebrating birthdays. Parents are generally keen about celebrating a child’s birthday, but tend to overlook the status of the child’s spiritual growth. Regular attendance of Sunday school classes and worship services is important for a child’s spiritual development. Regardless of the parents’ hectic schedules, it is their God-given responsibility to raise children in the fear of the Lord, and it is a matter that should not be neglected (read Deut. 6:4-7; 2 Tim. 1:5).

David Smith Daye, aged 8, living in the Bronx, NY, has a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in the brain. He undergoes chemotherapy which weakens his immune system. His mother Ms. Scott aged 27, attends to him. She says, “Every time I get work, my son has a doctor’s appointment... I know I need money, but my son comes first”. In an age where we hear that new born babies are thrown out of the window from apartments (several such incidents occurred in NY recently), and little children are left unattended by the wayside and in forested areas (several such children have been picked up by the police), the above-mentioned relationship between David and his mother draws our attention.

Jesus, during His public ministry (Matt. 18:2-3 and Luke 18:17) exhorts all to receive the Kingdom of God like a little child. Bringing up children is also a spiritual exercise and provides an opportunity to learn from them. Ms. Michelle Moon has a child Juliana Snow, aged 5, who suffers from an incurable disease. As Julianna was struggling with her tiring routine of making trips between the home and the hospital, she expressed her desire to remain at home and not go to the hospital. Her mother told her, “Juliana, you’ll go alone to heaven sooner if you don’t go to the hospital”. Julianna replied, “Don’t worry mom; God will take care of me”. Tears trickled down the mother’s cheeks. Controlling her emotions, Michelle said, “Then I will miss you so much”. The five year old replied, “That’s ok. God will take care of me. He’s in my heart”. This is the kind of faith that our children should develop from a very young age, irrespective of whether they face successes or adversities.

Let us not neglect children. They carry God-sent spiritual messages to us.

**Mar Theodosius+**

**Southern Regional Clergy Conference**



The Southern regional clergy conference was held on October 24, 2015, at the Christian Retreat Center in Florida. The Diocesan Episcopa, Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, presided over the meeting. Thirumeni expressed his gratitude to the clergy and appreciated the efforts taken to organize the Family Conference and the Choir Fest. Thirumeni emphasized the importance of the active involvement of the parish in regional, diocesan and sabha activities.

## Senior Fellowship Conference 2015

The second Diocesan Senior Fellowship Conference was held from October 14 to 17, 2015, at the Trinity Mar Thoma Church in Houston. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, inaugurated the conference and introduced the theme, "Renewing Strength". There were 206 participants from 15 Churches. The conference was a blessing to all who attended.



### Southwest Regional Clergy Conference



The Southwest Region Clergy Family meeting was held at the parsonage of Rev. Mathew Samuel, Assistant Vicar of MTC Dallas Farmers Branch on September 20, 2015. Rev. Johnson Unnithan led the bible study based on Is. 42:1-4. In his presidential address Theodosius Thirumeni spoke about the life and significance of John the Baptist that was a gift that guaranteed light to others. Thirumeni emphasized that every minister's challenge is to envision the present with an outlook of the future. The clergy and family experienced a blessed time with the Diocesan Episcopa.

### Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Mission Project



The Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam office bearers and members met Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos on August 14, 2015, at the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, NY, to discuss the various mission activities of the Mumbai Diocese. They also handed a check to Theethos Thirumeni for the mission work in the diocese. These funds were collected by requesting volunteers to contribute an hour's earnings into the Mission Box maintained for this purpose.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December 9**  
**Thanksgiving Holy Qurbana**  
Sinai Center, New York
- **January 7-10**  
**Leadership Conference**  
"Feed My Sheep"  
Dallas, Texas
- **February 14-21**  
**Maramon Convention**
- **March 6**  
**Diocesan Sunday**
- **April 1-2**  
**Diocesan Assembly**

### Diocesan Young Family Conference 2015

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Young Family Fellowship Conference of the Diocese of North America and Europe was hosted by the Young Family Fellowship of the Long Island MTC at



the Clarion Hotel, Ronkonkoma, NY, from October 30 to November 1, 2015. The Theme for the Conference was "Finding the Balance - Church, Family and Culture" based on Romans 12:1-2. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa emphasized, in his inaugural address, the importance of the family in the Church and for the culture, and reminded that a Christian family is a domestic church, where Christ should be at the center to be worshipped and glorified. This year 30 families attended the Conference and it was a blessing to all those who attended.

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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.*