

The Mar Thoma

Besorah

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

Dearly beloved in Christ,

We have entered into a new year with mixed feelings. While it has started with much hope, the changes in the world create anxieties in nations all over the world. It is most essential that we, as a Church, always need to reflect upon the meaning of our existence as people of God in order to make our existence meaningful and relevant. The high priestly prayer in John 17 reflects Jesus' expectation about his disciples and the Church.

We are to be in the world: The prayer 'I am not asking you to take them out of the world' (v. 15) indicates that the Church is called to be in the world. Being in the world is not merely to exist but to make the world feel the presence of Christ. The solid proof of grace and salvation of the world through Christ is to be the life and witness of the Church. Every parish through the Eucharistic experience needs to be equipped to bear witness to the Grace. The presence of Christ needs to be felt not primarily through doctrinal arguments but through expression of love manifested in our action.

We are not to be of the World: The Church is expected to be a sanctified community always having a self-understanding that we are set apart. The sanctified experience is not to be secluded from the world to be in the comfortable zone, but to be involved with a difference. When Jesus asks 'to protect them from the evil one', the protection is needed not only from those opposing us but the potential danger of being of the world, which may make our presence irrelevant.

We are for the World: Jesus is sanctified not from the world but for the world. "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth" (v. 19). The people of God in the Old Testament are called through Abraham to be the light to the nations. We as a Church are sanctified so that the Christian presence in the world should sanctify the entire creation.

It's good to always reflect on our actions and decisions as a Church, Parish and Family to see if we are of the world or for the world. May God help us to rededicate and make our presence meaningful.

With Prayers and Regards,

Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos

Diocesan Episcopa



Releasing of Yuvadhara Special Edition



A special edition of 'Yuvadhara', a publication of Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam, commemorating the life and legacy of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan was released on Feb 13th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at Maramon. This remarkable edition cherishing the long life of our Valiya Metropolitan Thirumeni is rich with articles highlighting his great legacy. Our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, and Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Council member, Mr. Lagi Thomas, were at Maramon to lead and coordinate the function. This wonderful artistic treasure titled, "A Hundred Years of Divine Clemency" is available through the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B69Z4c800cRUcFFSQIF6UmtSd00/view?usp=sharing>

Reji Joseph

Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Secretary

Diocesan Leadership Conference

The 2017 Diocesan Leadership Conference was hosted by the Christos MTC Youth Fellowship, Philadelphia from January 5 to 8, 2017. The theme of the conference was "Emergence", based on Esther 4:14. The Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa along with the Youth Chaplains, clergy, and lay leaders led various sessions in the conference. Approximately 115 delegates from parishes & congregations across the diocese attended the conference.



This year was special as it marks the 20th session of the Leadership Conference. Special thanks to the Diocesan Youth Fellowship Council, Diocesan Leadership Conference Subcommittee of the Diocesan Council and Vicar Rev. Varghese K. Thomas, Youth Fellowship conveners Shobitha Shaji & Swana Thomas, and families of the Christos MTC, for jointly coordinating a successful conference.

Annual Southeast Regional Men's Retreat



The 1st Annual Southeast Regional Men's Retreat was hosted jointly by the Southeast RAC and the Christos MTC Youth Fellowship on December 30, 2016. The theme of the retreat was "Act Like Men," based on 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, and took place at the Christos MTC, Philadelphia. The main speaker was Rev. Fr. Timothy (Tenny) Thomas. Around 40 individuals from parishes within the region attended the retreat. Special thanks to the Southeast RAC Executive Committee, Christos MTC YF, and the vicar Rev. Varghese K. Thomas, for jointly coordinating a blessed retreat.
- **Rev. Dennis Abraham** (Youth Chaplain, SE Region)

Upcoming Events

- March 5th Diocesan Sunday
- April 21st Mar Chrysostom Birth Centenary Celebration
- April 20-21st Diocesan Clergy Conference
- April 22nd Diocesan Assembly



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