



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 BISHOP

**Dearly beloved in Christ,**

I wish you all a very blessed Happy New Year. The New Year is a special time when people look up to God for His blessings. This God-consciousness at important occasions of human life is good for all people. God has promised His presence with us, and His presence has been reaffirmed to us through Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We live in a time when a number of natural calamities are affecting us repeatedly, always threatening our life and throwing our life into chaos, anxiety and despair. But God is the one who promises that He is there with us at all times. As we enter into the New Year, let us trust God that He will be faithful in His promise. God expects from each one of us that we will also remain faithful to Him.

The New Year is also an occasion to make new resolutions. People make new resolutions to improve the quality of their life and to discipline and correct themselves. We live at a time where we see people killing each other and violence is reaching new heights. When people annihilate life in order to safe guard personal interests, they are inciting greater disharmony and unrest. God has created us to be in a community where we respect all people. Our life is enriched and meaningful only when we learn to live in harmony amongst other people and all of God's creations. For the children of God, life affirmation is the ministry that God has given us. So in a world of violence, caused in part by the abundance of guns on the streets and in homes, God's people are challenged to lead a life where we affirm life and find ways to enhance it. Imparting life is the way that we find meaning and relevance for our own life.

In 2013, the Diocese of NAE is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, with plans for celebrations in all its regions throughout the year. The theme for the celebrations is, ***Church: Journeying with Christ***. As a community we are called to have our journey with Jesus Christ, who is the Lord and Savior. As we carry out this spiritual journey, let us follow the foot prints of Jesus Christ who walked on the surface of the earth, and place our hands in the hands of the one who calmed the sea. Journeying with Christ is our mission and ministry as we worship him regularly.

May the New Year 2013 bring all these wishes into reality in our lives and the lives of the people among whom God has placed us.

**-Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa**

## SILVER JUBILEE OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE



On January 1, 2013, Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius celebrated Holy Qurbana at the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, Merrick, Long Island, along with several clergy and lay members to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the existence of the Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America and Europe. Representatives of various parishes in Boston, New York, New Jersey and Washington DC attended the worship service. The Diocesan Secretary, Rev. K. E. Geevarghese, welcomed the gathering, spoke about the importance of the occasion, and also congratulated Theodosius Thirumeni for successfully completing four years of service as the Diocesan Episcopa. Diocesan Council member Dr. Mathew T.



Thomas offered felicitations and recalled the growth of the diocese and the services of its resident Bishops, clergy and lay members. Diocesan Treasurer Mr. Chacko Mathew requested Thirumeni to unfurl the Silver Jubilee Banner and thanked all the attendees. The Diocesan Bishop cut the New Year cake, and the event marked the commencement of year long Jubilee celebrations in the Diocese.

## EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

**Ecumenical Dinner:** Houston Immanuel Hall January 18, 2013

**Inauguration of Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration:** January 19, 2013

**Diocesan Clergy Conference in Chicago:** April 11-12, 2013

**Diocesan Assembly Meeting in Chicago:** April 12-13, 2013

# MEXICO MISSION - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT COLONIA MAR THOMA



The residents of Colonia Mar Thoma in Mexico celebrated Christmas at the Mission Chapel on Saturday, December 23, 2012, along with 7 youth members from Houston Mar Thoma parishes. About 90 children and their family members participated in the carol singing. The participants along with the help of residents in Colonia Mar Thoma created a gift package for each family. Videos from this trip are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=21RVomOZ458>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpRc9HF8fCQ>, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UX4dA\\_XC8Sk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UX4dA_XC8Sk)

## RELEASE OF A DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOK - *WORD FOR THE DAY*



On Sunday, December 30, 2012, the Diocese of North America and Europe released a daily devotional book, **WORD FOR THE DAY**, at the Salem Mar Thoma Church, Eastern Long Island. The Christian Education Forum of the North East Region of the Diocese prepared this book, which contains 365 devotional notes written by 179 church members worldwide. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius chaired the function, released the book and addressed the gathering with words of blessings. The book is being distributed through the Literature Society of the Diocese.

Orders for the book can be made with a contribution of US \$ 10 per copy.

For copies please contact [marthomadiocese@gmail.com](mailto:marthomadiocese@gmail.com) or [simonkutty@gmail.com](mailto:simonkutty@gmail.com)

## LONDON VIGIL FOR NEW DELHI RAPE VICTIM

On Saturday, December 29, 2012, about 10 members of St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Hounslow, UK, participated in the candlelight vigil and prayers in memory of the 23 year old Indian girl, who was brutally beaten up, gang raped and thrown off a moving bus in New Delhi, India. The gruesome incident happened on December 16, 2012, and the victim subsequently died on December 29, 2012. The vigil was held outside the Indian High Commission office in London.



## CLERGY GET-TOGETHER IN NEW YORK



Clergy from the South East and North East Regions of the Diocese met for Christmas on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at the residence of Rev. V. M. Mathew. The Diocesan Episcopa gave the Christmas message, and the Achens, Kochammas and their children sang Christmas Carols and enjoyed a pot-luck dinner.

## INDIA MISSION TRIP 2013

The Diocesan Council has decided to arrange Mission Trips in 2013 to the various mission fields in India. Since 2013 is the Jubilee year of the Diocese, the India Mission Trip will be for five different groups, and will give more opportunities for the younger generation in this Diocese to know about the Indian mission fields, and the ongoing mission programs at various centers. The Diocese is considering sending different teams from USA, Canada and UK to Mumbai, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka - Andhra Pradesh, and Tamilnadu - Kerala. Each group's visit will be for a span of 10 to 15 days during the months of June through August, 2013.

### Mumbai Mission Trip

**June 1 to 15, 2013 (15 days)**

The team will visit the following Mission Centers in the Mumbai Diocese: Ahwa and Dang, tribal belt of Gujrat, Boichipada and Vidharbha Region (10 Mission fields).

Contact: Mrs. Laila Annie Philip, Boston  
[varampath23@msn.com](mailto:varampath23@msn.com) / 978-663-3203

**Deadline: February 15, 2013**

### Karnataka - Andhra Mission Tour

**August 8 to 20, 2013 (12 days)**

The team will visit the mission centers of Chennai - Bangalore Diocese in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The team will be visiting and experiencing life in the rural mission fields of Devenahalli, Vijayapura, Siddlaghatta, Sivanapuram in Karnataka and Madanapally and Chaglamari mission fields in Andhra Pradesh.

Contact: Mr. George Thomas, New Jersey  
[georgie4christ@gmail.com](mailto:georgie4christ@gmail.com) / 201-214-6000

**Deadline: February 15, 2013.**



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