



HE IS NOT HERE
HE IS RISEN

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 MAR PAULOS EPISCOPA

ACHENS GOING ON TRANSFER

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I also bring greetings from the Diocese of Delhi. I am so pleased to be visiting the Diocese of North America and Europe during the time of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. I can very well reflect my blessed time in this country during my studies in Princeton and in Boston from 1986 to 1992. What a tremendous growth our Diocese has achieved during and since those years! We increased the number of parishes and congregations, established a Diocesan head quarters, and gave greater emphasis to the youth ministry amongst the new generation. I also appreciate our mission initiatives in Mexico and among the Native Americans. I am so glad to hear that Theodosius Thirumeni is very particular about initiating the neighborhood ministry in every parish, which will translate our love and care towards the people in our neighborhood, particularly those who are in great need. I also note that new initiatives are coming up in the realm of the liturgical life of the people, without giving up our basic ethos.

It is always a challenge to live in a Diaspora context; particularly for a community like ours to keep traditional moorings and modern aspirations. Continuity and discontinuity are the need of the hour. We have to appreciate the hard work and contributions of the immigrant parents and at the same time cater to the expectations of new generation. We have to make the younger generation interested in taking up responsibilities and shoulder leadership along with the first generation Marthomites. All segments of our community require greater patience. To a certain extent we are vulnerable in this act of balancing traditions and modernity. Rapid changes are happening in all realms of life. We must carefully learn the art of accepting the positive and rejecting the negative, with a power of discernment.

The Jubilee theme, *Church: Journeying with Christ* is appropriate and thought provoking. We as a family, parish, and community need to journey with Christ joyfully and meaningfully. Then only can we bring transformation in the church and society. In this journey, we must also take care of the ecumenical perspectives. We should not become a ghetto community. We are here not to be only beneficial to ourselves, but also to contribute something unique for the greater good of the People and Nation. May the good Lord keep us going with the risen Christ for our transformation, the glory of God, and for the extension of His Kingdom!

**With Prayerful Regards,
Mar Paulos+, Diocese of Delhi**

1. Rev. Abraham Thomas, Detroit MTC
2. Rev. Baby John, Staten Island MTC
3. Rev. Benu John, Baltimore MTC
4. Rev. M. S. Daniel, St. Peter's MTC, New Jersey
5. Rev. Geevarghese Kochummen, St. Stephen's MTC, NJ
6. Rev. Jose Abraham P., South Florida MTC
7. Rev. Joseph Johny, St. Thomas MTC, New York
8. Rev. Oommen Varkey, Epiphany MTC, New York
9. Rev. A T Thomas, Immanuel MTC, Houston
10. Rev. K. P. Thomas, MTC of Dallas, Carrollton
11. Rev. Varghese George, Bethany MTC, NY., and Tabore MTC, Staten Island
12. Rev. Zachariah John, Trinity MTC, Houston
13. Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla, Youth Chaplain South East Region
14. Rev. Alex Peter, Chaplain, Mid West Region
15. Rev. Eapen Abraham, St. John's MTC, London, UK
16. Rev. Sajeev Thomas, St. James MTC, London, UK
17. Rev. V. G. Geevarghese, Sinai MTC, UK
18. Rev. Sabu C. Mathew, St. Peters & Hermon MTC, UK

Thank you Achens for the valuable ministry rendered to the Diocese. May God bless you and your family!

SUFFRAGAN METROPOLITAN VISITING THE DIOCESE

The Suffragan Metropolitan of our Church, Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Thirumeni is visiting the Diocese of North America and Europe in the Month of April. Thirumeni will be the chief guest on the occasion of Mid West Regional Jubilee Celebration at Chicago Mar Thoma Church on April 12 - 13, 2013. Thirumeni will attend various programs in Toronto, Chicago, Houston, and New York and will also bless the meetings of Diocesan Assembly and Clergy Conference with his presence and prayers. We extend a hearty welcome to the Suffragan Metropolitan.

EVENTS IN THE DIOCESE

- Diocesan Clergy Conference in Chicago April 11-12, 2013
- Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration in Mid West Region at Chicago MTC, Chicago April 12, 2013
- Diocesan Assembly Meeting in Chicago April 12-13, 2013
- A Seminar on the Identity, Vision, and Mission of the Diocese at the MTC of Greater Washington May 4, 2013

ECUMENICAL INVOLVEMENT INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION OF STATELESS

An international consultation on, "Towards an Ecumenical Advocacy on the Rights of Stateless People" organized by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) in Washington D.C. was held on 26 February to 1 March 2013. The delegates gathered together to assess the situation of stateless people including those that are stranded and confined to refugee camps for several generations, and to explore ways to bring the issue of statelessness to the WCC 10th Assembly in Bussan, Korea. The delegates also sought to influence policy at the global, regional and national levels by projecting a Christian perspective to



address the concerns of stateless people worldwide. This consultation was represented by the MTC and the Diocese of North America by Arlene Mathew, an official delegate at the WCC representing the youth and women of the MTMC, who will attend the 10th General Assembly in Bussan, Korea in 2013.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL JUBILEE CELEBRATION

The Diocesan Silver Jubilee celebration in the South East region of the Diocese was held at the Ascension MTC, Philadelphia, on Saturday March 30, 2013. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius celebrated Holy Qurbana in English and presided over the meetings. More than 1500 people participated in the Jubilee celebration. The Diocesan Bishop of the Delhi Diocese of the MTC, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni was the chief guest for the day. Mar Paulos gave a profound speech on the Jubilee theme, "Church: Journeying with Christ". A power point presentation was displayed showing the growth of the parishes in South East region during the last 25 years. During the afternoon session, separate study classes were arranged for seniors and youth fellowship members. There was a common session to discuss potential action plans for the growth of the Diocese based on input from various study groups.

SEMINAR ON THE IDENTITY VISION & MISSION OF THE DIOCESE

The Silver Jubilee year of the Diocese of North America and Europe is marked with various programs including Seminars, Dialogue and Training programs. A seminar on the '**Identity, Vision and Mission of the Mar Thoma Church**' was held in the Western Canada center at the Trinity MTC, Edmonton, on Saturday, March 16, 2013. Parishioners from the sister church St. Thomas MTC, Calgary were also able to attend the seminar. Dr. Varghese Manaloor of Trinity MTC, Edmonton, led the Talk - I with the **Identity of the Mar Thoma church** and Dr. Titus Mathews from St Thomas MTC, Calgary, led Talk-II with the **Visions and Mission of the Church**. The attendees of the seminar were divided in groups for discussion sessions and their thoughts were brought back to seminar. Theodosius Thirumeni moderated discussions, and Dr. Varghese Manaloor and Dr. Titus Mathews answered questions from the participants.

WORKSHOP ON LITURGY AND TRAINING FOR LAY LEADERS AND ALTAR BOYS

A workshop on Liturgy and Lay leadership Training was organized by the Northeast region of the Diocese. The program was held at the St. Andrew's MTC, NY, on Saturday, March 9, 2013. This program was a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Diocese. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting and inaugurated the workshop. Rev. A. B. Binu, Vicar of Long Island Mar Thoma Church and Dr. Ron Jacob of LIMTC lead the study sessions. The program included training for liturgical chants, led by Rev. Joji K. Mathew (Vicar, St. John's Mar Thoma Church, New York) and Rev. Abraham Oommen (Vicar, St. Andrews and Ebenezer MTCs, New York).

Rev. K. E. Geevarghese introduced various study materials and publications of the diocese which would be helpful for the delegates for further study. There was an interactive session after the main talks. During this time the delegates actively participated in discussions and raised various relevant questions for which the Diocesan Episcopa responded. Vicars from various parishes of Northeast region attended the program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY JUSTIN PORTAL WELBY



The Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church congratulates Justin Portal Welby on the enthronement as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury for the 77 billion Anglicans around the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO POPE FRANCIS

Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church prayerfully congratulates the newly elected Pope Francis. May the Lord abundantly shower His blessings upon the supreme pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church!



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