



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 Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

In a couple of weeks we will be having the Diocesan Family Conference of 2015. “Harvest” is the theme chosen for study and reflection. Harvest is possible only through the process of sowing and nurturing. A good farmer, at the time of harvest will also preserve some good, dry seed for the following season for sowing. Down the centuries, people have been toiling all the years in the exercise of sowing the Word of God in the lives of the people. In our changing times, we are challenged to carry out the task in a new way - new wine in new skins (Mark 2: 21-22). Sowing is done by spending one’s possession, energy and time. Hence, it is said that sowing is done in tears whereas harvest is done with joy.

The text for our reflection reminds us that the person sowing need not be the same person engaged in harvesting. In the case of human community, harvesting of what we sow in our life time is possible generally through the next generation. In the case of our Church in North America and Europe, the ethnic immigrant community has spent their resources, their energy and time to plant the church units in various geographical spaces. It is meant for building up the people of God. They expect the harvest through the new generation. What are we sowing? What harvest are we expecting?

The seed for sowing is prepared through the seasons while the plants grow and yield in the new time and space. Is the church moving and becoming relevant through the changes that take place in our time? In the twenty-first century, we live in the context of pluralism, diversified cultures, growing individualism, moral permissiveness, religious, economic and political fundamentalism and globalization. How can the church preserve the timeless, while becoming contextually meaningful?

Let us answer this through our study of the ‘Word of God’ guided by the Holy Spirit and community reflections. One sows...another harvests!

-Mar Theodosius+

Upcoming Events

1. National Diocesan Family Conference:

July 2 to 5, 2015. Venue: Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, CT

Family conference website: www.mtfc2015.org

2. Diocesan Clergy Family Conference 2015:

June 30 to July 1, 2015. Venue: St. Thomas MTC, NY

3. 2015 Diocesan Assembly:

July 2, 2015. Venue: St. Thomas MTC, NY

4. Junior Senior Conference, Northeast Region:

July 9 to 12, 2015. Venue: Ramapo College 505 Ramapo Valley Rd. Mahwah, NJ

5. Junior Senior Conference, Southeast Region

July 16 to 19, 2015. Venue: Ramapo College 505 Ramapo Valley Rd. Mahwah, NJ

6. Diocesan MTVEA Conference

July 23 to 26, 2015. Venue: Immanuel Mar Thoma Church, Houston, TX

7. Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference

July 30 to August 2, 2015. Venue: West Chester University of Pennsylvania, PA

Episcopal Consecration



Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa represented the Mar Thoma Church in celebrating the Episcopal consecration of the new Bishop Peter Eaton of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South East Florida along with the presiding Bishop The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori and other bishops at the Trinity Cathedral, Miami, Florida, USA on May 9, 2015.

National Council of Churches Meeting: May 7-9, 2015

The National Council of Churches held its second annual Christian Unity Gathering, May 7-9, in Washington, DC with over 200 Christian leaders, scholars, activists, and ecumenists present from across the United States to focus on the NCC's priority of interfaith peacemaking. The Mar Thoma Church was represented by the Diocesan Bishop Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Rev. Jaisen Thomas and Dr. Jesudas Athyal. The Liberian Nobel Peace Prize winner, Ms. Leymah Gbowee, delivered the keynote address. Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches addressed the gathering. Discussions at the meeting focused on the two current priorities of NCC: Mass Incarceration and Interreligious Relations with a Focus on Peace. *Convening Tables*: Central to the NCC meeting was the work of the Council's four Convening Tables that focus attention on Christian unity, advocacy for justice, interfaith relations and collaboration, and Christian education and ecumenical formation



New Clergy Orientation-New York



An Orientation Program for the new Achens who have taken charge in the Northern Region of the Diocese was held from May 25-26, 2015, at the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, Merrick, NY. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa introduced the program by speaking on 'Relevant Contextual Ministry'. Thirumeni was present throughout the program giving leadership and guidance. Other leaders also led the various sessions. There was time for discussion and reflection. All the new clergy from the Region attended the program.

New Clergy Orientation-Texas

An orientation program for the new Achens who joined the Diocese in the Southwest Region was held at the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch, on May 28 & 29, 2015. All the new clergy from the region attended the program under the leadership of the Diocesan Episcopa. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius spoke on 'Relevant Contextual Ministry.' Several other leaders spoke during the orientation program. Special thanks were rendered to the Farmers Branch parish for hosting the new clergy orientation program.



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