



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,

He said to the disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." (John 6: 12)

When the great crowd that followed Jesus felt hungry, Jesus fed the 5000 men, women, and children, who were seated on the grass through the miracle of multiplying the available food, five small barley loaves and two small fish. Then He said to the disciples, "Let nothing be wasted." This is a great lesson for all humans, in every place and at all times.

One of the things that we can learn during the season of the Great Lent is to take only what we need. When we take more than what we need we tend to waste the leftovers. Pope Francis recently said that when we waste food, we are taking away (plundering or robbing) the food of a hungry person. Think of the hungry people who spend days without food! Mahatma Gandhi reminded us that God (The earth) provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed.

The Cross of Christ symbolizes sacrifice. He emptied Himself for giving life for all. Giving food for the other should become everyone's spiritual challenge. It is there where one can find the meaning of the Cross - by denying oneself, taking up the cross, and following Jesus Christ. Is your walk a blessing to the other?

The Cross of Christ, His death, and His resurrection, is the answer to the problems of our world. Can we bring this Easter blessing to our world? Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Mar Theodosius+

## Diocesan Assembly Meeting 2014



The annual meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church was held at the Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church on Friday, April 4, 2014, and on Saturday, April 5, 2014. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. The annual report and audited accounts of the Diocese were passed. The elections for the Diocesan Council for the term 2014 to 2017 were also held. One hundred and thirty seven (137) assembly members from different regions of the Diocese participated in the meetings. The Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church made all the local arrangements and extended their hospitality for facilitating the Assembly meeting.

## Finale of the Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Consecration and Festschrift

The finale of the Silver Jubilee of Episcopal consecration of our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, was held at the Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church on Friday, April 4, 2014, at 8:00 pm. The Rev. Dr. Jayakiran Sebastian, a Presbyterian of the Church of South India, and currently Dean at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia was the chief guest. The Festschrift in honor of Mar Theodosius titled, "**Beyond the Diaspora, Mar Thoma Church: Identity and Mission in the Context of Multiplicity**" was released on that occasion. This book is a collection of essays and tributes written by people who share their reflections on the theme as well as their reflections and experiences with Mar Theodosius.



# Diocesan Clergy Conference 2014



The Diocesan Annual Clergy Conference was held at the Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church, PA, on April 3 & 4, 2014. The theme of the conference was 'Churching the Diaspora'. Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniel, Germany, were the main leaders of the conference. A special orientation program for Video Conferencing and use of IT technology in ministry was also arranged. A farewell meeting for the Achens who are transferred from this diocese in 2014 was held along with the Clergy Meeting.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Choctaw-Mar Thoma 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament



The Sixth Annual Choctaw - Mar Thoma 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was held on March 29 & 30, 2014, at the Old Rock Gym in Coalgate, OK. The MTC of Oklahoma co-hosted the event with Coal Creek CPC. The tournament was open to all Choctaw youths that live in southeastern Oklahoma and concluded with a worship service on Sunday.

## “Going Green” Project

As a part of the “Going Green” project of the Diocese to celebrate the Episcopal Jubilee, trees were planted at the Philadelphia MTC on Friday, April 4, 2014, in the presence of all the clergy of the Diocese, and on Saturday, April 5, 2014, in the presence of the Diocesan Assembly members for the new term 2014-2017. On both occasions the parishioners of Philadelphia MTC were present, and our Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius provided the leadership.



## 2014 Western Regional Sevika Sangham Conference

The Western Region Sevika Sangham Conference was hosted by Horeb MTC, LA on March 15, 2014. Rev. Mathew John, Vicar of Seattle MTC, delivered the presidential address. The main talk, based on the topic “Out there. The Lord is there. Yahweh Shammah” was led by Rev. V. G. Varghese, Vicar of Phoenix MTC. The motivational speech was led by Mrs. Jaya Thomas Kochamma based on 1 Samuel 25:35. Members from Los Angeles MTC, Horeb MTC, LA, St. Andrews MTC, LA, San Francisco MTC, Phoenix MTC, and Seattle MTC participated and it was a great blessing and new spiritual experience to all who participated.



Sinai Mar Thoma Center  
2320 Merrick Avenue  
Merrick, New York 11566  
[www.marthomanae.org](http://www.marthomanae.org)

Contact Information:  
Phone # 516 377 3311  
Fax # 516 377 3322  
Email: [marthomadiocese@gmail.com](mailto:marthomadiocese@gmail.com)

Editors of the Besorah:  
Rev. K.E. Geevarghese  
Dr. Mathew T. Thomas  
Ms. Betty Vattakunnel