

Diocese of North America and Europe



The Mar Thoma *Besorah*



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

EVENTS

XV Diocesan Leadership Conference-Tampa, FL

January 5-8, 2012

mtcleadership2012@gmail.com

www.stmarksmtctampa.org/2012leadership/

Ecumenical Fellowship Dinner

Hosted by the

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese

Mar Theodosius Episcopa

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 6pm

Radisson Hotel Philadelphia Northeast

2400 Old Lincoln Hwy

Trevoze, PA 19053

Contact Rev. Roy Geevarghese at

roygeevarghese@ymail.com

for more information.

India Mission Trip 2012

May 12-28, 2012

Contact Mrs. Laila Anie Philip at

varampath23@msn.com for more

information.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

Dear friends in Christ,

We are in the Advent Season. This issue of *Besorah* comes to greet you all a merry Christmas and a happy and blessed New Year.

Christmas is all about God incarnating in human situation with the message that God is with us as Immanuel. St. Paul, when writing to the people in Philippi, says that God was not holding on to his position in the heavenly abode but came down to the earth in the form of human (Phil 2: 6-8). Therefore, Christmas is God's solidarity with humans. Today, as God's people like Joseph and Mary, our priority should not be for all sorts of entertainment but for journeying to incarnate in all vulnerable situations of human life. We also have a revelatory mission like that of angels to proclaim that God is near and we have a redemptive mission where everyone will find a place near God like the shepherds and the wise men.

Again, St. Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth says, 'Thanks be to God for his indescribable Gift' (2 Cor. 9:15). Jesus Christ is a gift to us from God. He is God's gift to the sinful world, because He is the savior who gives redemption to people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). This is the Gospel. This is the 'good news' to all who sin and all who are in this sinful world; that "God has given us a savior who redeems the world from Sin".

May the Christmas of 2011 reinforce this message and may we become bearers of this Gospel. May the New Year bring you joy, peace and happiness.

With prayerful regards,

Yours in Christ,

Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Bishop

*The Diocese of North America & Europe
wishes you and your family
a Blessed Christmas Season!*

ONLINE FELLOWSHIP FOR WORSHIP & DEVOTION

Thirusannidhiyil is a program organized by the Southern Region Mar Thoma Edavaka Mission for members and friends to join for worship and devotion through teleconference. The Diocesan Secretary inaugurated the first meeting on Monday December 5, 2011. The next session will be a Christmas Special on Monday, December 26, 2011 at 9:00 p. m. EST. Those who wish to attend can join by dialing 209-647-1600 from any telephone. The access code is 712137#. Please remember to mute your telephone to avoid all background noises during the session. *For more details, contact Rev. Thomas Mathew (South Florida) 954-510-7187, 954-415-1290 (cell). Email: revthomasmathew2003@yahoo.com*

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Consider attending/participating in the appropriate events listed above.
2. Support the 'Manna' Project & 'A Tree for a House Project' in Mexico (\$30 for each tree sponsored). Contact marthomadiocese@gmail.com
3. **Pray for:**
 - The Diocese of North America and Europe, all the individual members of our church, our vicars, and leaders.
 - Our nation as a whole and God's presence in this world.
 - The 22nd Anniversary of Episcopal Consecration of our Bishops Mar Theodosius, Mar Athanasius and Mar Coorilos on December 9.
 - Theodosius Thirumeni's service to this Diocese. On January 1, 2012, Mar Theodosius completes 3 years as the Diocesan Episcopa.
 - The 30th North American Family Conference in 2012 at Leesburg, Virginia, from July 5 to 8, 2012. Register at www.mtfc2012.org



Native American Mission: New Orleans, Louisiana

During the second week of November 2011, 27 Mar Thoma Youth travelled to Dulac, Louisiana for the Native American Mission Trip. This coalition of youths were represented from eight churches across the United States in Dulac, we renovated two houses, for people who would have otherwise had no assistance. In addition, we were able to set up a small clinic with a doctor, nurse practitioner, nurses, and pharmacists and helped approximately 50 members of the community. We connected with the families, served them on a personal level and had fellowship with them. May we always serve God in such a fashion, manifesting our faith by our deeds; praising Him by serving 'the least of our brothers.'



Neighborhood Ministry-Wildfire Clean up **Austin Mar Thoma Church Volunteer work in Bastrop, Texas**

On Sunday, September 4, 2011, a wildfire engulfed Bastrop, Texas, and by September 30, it had destroyed 1,645 homes, burned 34,068 acres, and killed two people. Bastrop is about 30 miles east of Austin, TX. This tragedy created a need for a massive effort to clean up the debris from the fire so that reconstruction and healing can begin. On November 19, 2011, fourteen Austin Mar Thoma Church members, under the leadership of Vicar Rev. John N. Abraham, along with three local volunteers assisted in the clean up, prayed with members who were affected, and spent time with those who suffered from the wildfire.



ECUMENICAL RELATIONS



The Young Family Fellowship of the Mar Thoma parish of Greater Seattle organized an Ecumenical Fellowship for all the Christian denominations of Indian origin at the Mar Thoma Church on Friday, December 2, 2011. Mar Theodosius Episcopa gave the message and spoke of God's incarnation ministry in Jesus Christ. Drawing the significance of ecumenical living and action, Mar Theodosius explained how the ministry of incarnation ought to be meaningfully carried out by all churches in their given context. Additional meetings, including those for planning and executing joint social action, are planned for 2012.

NEWS



The Annual Clergy Conference of the Mar Thoma Church was held at Charalkunnu from November 29 - December 1, 2011.

OUR CONDOLENCES



Rev. K. A. Thomas (age 82) was called to eternity on December 5, 2011. Achen was born in 1929 at Kankalil family, Kurathiadu, Mavellikara, Kerala. Rev. K.A. Thomas was ordained as a minister of Mar Thoma Church in 1953. He came to US in 1972 and earned a degree in theology in 1976. He served as a minister of St. Thomas Evangelical Church for some years and later rejoined the Mar Thoma Church and became a member of St. Thomas Mar Thoma Parish, Delaware Valley. Achen's wife Mrs. Mary Mathew passed away in 2003. He is survived by daughters, Mrs. Evangeline Philip, Mrs. Susan Koshy, Mrs. Elizabeth Pothen, and son Mr. Abraham Thomas and their families. Our prayers are with the bereaved members of the family and Church.



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