



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 Episcopa

Dearly beloved in Christ,

This year's summer is ending and the fall is approaching. The landscape and people are preparing for the next season. That which withstood the summer will give way for a new-order. This is the rhythm of life and a process of growth.

Human life needs renewal day after day. The human tendency is to keep repeating the same things. Leaving the old and cleaving to newness is the divine process for the progress of life. Christian life is a journey with Christ. St. Paul says, the old is taken away and the new life has come. The result of that transformation was his life in Christ.

During this Diocesan Jubilee year, are we getting renewed in our Christian life? Many of the parishes in our diocese had their parish retreats last month. Did that retreat bring new life to the parish and renewal of the life to each member? Did we make an attempt to invite and persuade every family to attend the retreat with devotion, reflection, and prayer? Are we overcoming the sickness of our parish becoming self-centered? Do we contact the families that do not come to us? Are we reaching out to those who are drifting away or those who are passive or indifferent? Do we reach out to the periphery, bringing Christ to the people on the margins? Are our parishes towers of hope to those seeking help and acceptance in one way or the other?

The Church has ordained and un-ordained (lay) members. Together we carry out the mission and ministry. The laity can care for the needy, preach the good news, teach the Bible, pray for others and provide religious instructions. Let us have a holistic view of the church and the local parish, for as stated in 1 Peter 2: 9, "...you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

May this vision bring renewed life in our parishes! As a church, let us journey with Christ. The Holy Spirit renews us every day. The journey is onward, continuous and progressive until it finds the consummation in the Kingdom of God.

Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

UK - Europe Family Conference



The Mar Thoma Family Conference of UK and Europe took place at The Hayes High Leigh Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, from August 30 to September 1, 2013. This was the 31st session of the Family Conference and was hosted by the St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Bristol, UK. There were 440 delegates. Diocesan Episcopa, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius inaugurated the conference by lighting the lamp in the presence of the chief guest, the Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **APDM Annual Retreat** at the Sheraton in Mahwah, from September 27 - 29, 2013
- **Dialogue on the growth and development of the Diocese** (Jubilee Program in the North East Region) at St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, New York on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
- **Diocesan Council meeting through Video Conferencing** on October 1, 2013
- **The 14th National Sevika Sangham Conference** at the Holyday Inn, Lubbock from October 3-6, 2013 hosted by: Emmanuel Mar Thoma Church Sevika Sangham, Lubbock.
- **Dedication of Jubilee Chapel at Mexico Mission** on Saturday, October 12 at 10. a. m.- A Public Meeting Follows.



The Interfaith Seminar conducted by the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey is a part of the programs of the World Council of Churches. This year's program was held from Monday, August 12 to Thursday, August 29, 2013. Mr. Stan Mathew Samuel, member of St. Paul's MTC, Dallas and a pre-theological student of the Diocese was an official delegate of the Diocese in the 2013 Interfaith Seminar.



The Council of the Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) met at the St John's MTC, London on Saturday, August 24, 2013 at 10 am. This was the 4th Annual General Body Meeting of COMPE and was presided over by the Diocesan Episcopa, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius.

34th Mar Thoma National Youth Conference 2013

The St. Mathew's Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship hosted the 34th Mar Thoma National Youth Conference between August 1 and 4, 2013, at the University of Toronto at Mississauga, Canada. The theme of the conference was **"Move: Beyond Your Comfort Zone"** based on James 1: 22. About 180 delegates attended the conference, representing over 22 parishes from two countries (U.S.A. and Canada). Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the conference. Rev. Christian Benjamin, an esteemed family counselor, served as the Keynote speaker. The Youth Chaplains of our diocese also provided leadership at the conference.



Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration in Europe Region



The 31st Family Conference of UK & Europe was held from 30th August to September 1st, 2013, and was as an opportunity for the UK – Europe Region to celebrate the Diocesan Silver Jubilee. A meeting was arranged at the Conference Center on August 31, 2013 at 10 a. m. to thank God for the growth of the MTC and the Diocese of North America and Europe in the UK - Europe region. Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, the Rt. Rev. Gregorios Mar Stephanos, the Diocesan Episcopa of Kunnampulam - Malabar Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Mike Hill, the Bishop of Bristol and Dr. Zac Varghese addressed the gathering. Each of the speakers spoke of the need to remember the ways God has led us thus far and spoke on the Jubilee theme, "Church: Journeying with Christ," and various tools that are vital in this journey with the risen Lord Jesus.

Churches Gather to Wish 'Eid Mubarak' to All British Muslims

Representatives of several of the UK's largest Christian denominations symbolically delivered Eid greetings (marking the end of the Muslim month of Ramadan) to the entire British Muslim community. A "first" of its kind, the handover of the printed and framed "Eid Mubarak" message took place at the London Muslim Centre in Whitechapel, East London. It was witnessed by the director of the adjacent East London Mosque, Dilowar Khan, and was organized by the Christian Muslim Forum (the UK's largest network of Christians and Muslims), whose patron is the Archbishop of Canterbury. Representing the Mar Thoma Parishes in London, Dr. Zac Varghese, a member of Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE) also participated in the event.



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