



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,

We are planning to dedicate the Jubilee Chapel in Mexico on October 12, 2013. This is a symbol of the Mission and Evangelism which is vital in the life of the Church. God is always Good News. We want to communicate this Gospel to the children and parents in the 'Mar Thoma Colonia' in Matamoros. Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby recently said that 'Evangelism should not be squeezed from our agenda in modern times'.

God communicated the Good News to the whole world through the life and work of Jesus Christ. In the modern electronic era and digital world, we are discarding the postal department, the age old system of sending hard copies and telegrams. It's now replaced by email and text messages. Our world is seeing a 'paperless revolution'. Can we move from the e-lab in communicating the good news of Jesus Christ through our own lives?

What the world wants even today is the WORD becoming FLESH. Communication by human touch is the best mode of evangelism. The risen Jesus before His ascension said to the disciples, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mk. 16: 15). He wants us to reach out by the life-giving, life enhancing, power of the Holy Spirit by our constant engagement with our living context. To whom will you reach out to? We are called to be people of influence, pointing people to God who can touch and transform their lives. Let the Holy Spirit, the great communicator enable us to be the spirit-filled individuals to bring many in our neighborhood to the divine experience God grants in His Kingdom to all who believe in the Gospel.

### Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

#### Publications in the Jubilee Year

1. Jubilee Volume entitled **Church: Journeying with Christ** (\$10)
2. A book written by the Diocesan Episcopa, **Churching the Diaspora, Discipling the Families** (\$10)
3. Diocesan Directory (\$10)
4. Jubilee Memoir
5. Bible Study Book (\$10)

These books will be released at the Jubilee Finale meeting in NY on November 23, 2013. Confirm your copy by sending the price of the book(s) in advance to the Diocesan office.

### Priestly Ordination of Rev. Sonu Skariah Varghese



Rev. Dn. Sonu Skariah Varghese, a member of the Epiphany MTC, NY, was ordained as a Kassissa (Priest) of the Mar Thoma Church at the Epiphany MTC, NY on Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2013. He is the first Mar Thoma priest ordained from and at the Epiphany MTC, NY, and the 10<sup>th</sup> from the second generation of Marthomites who are citizens of USA.

### Program Manager



Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese joined as the Program Manager of the Diocese of North America and Europe from July 2013. Achen will work at the Diocesan office from Monday to Friday in order to co-ordinate various events. His stay is at 2000 Carman Court, Merrick, New York. His email address is: revpv12@yahoo.co.uk.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| ○ National Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference at Sea (Cruise)                | August 15- 18, 2013      |
| ○ COMPE Meeting at St. John's Mar Thoma Church, UK                    | August 24, 2013          |
| ○ Europe Regional Jubilee Celebration                                 | August 30, 2013          |
| ○ Europe Regional Family Conference hosted by St. Thomas MTC, Bristol | August 30 - Sept 1, 2013 |

## Seminar on Identity, Vision and Mission of the Church in the Northeast Region

A Seminar on 'Identity, Vision and Mission of the Church', organized by the North East Region of the Diocese, in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebrations, was held on Saturday July 13, 2013 at the Epiphany MTC, NY. The Diocesan Episcopa presided over the meeting. The Rev. Sam T. Panicker (Vicar, Boston MTC) presented a paper on the Identity of the Mar Thoma Church. Then, Mr. Toby Mathew and his team (representing the Youths) from the Long Island MTC presented with visual aids their views about the Vision and Mission of the church. About 50 people attended from the parishes nearby.



## 10<sup>th</sup> MTVEA National Conference at Dallas



The 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association of the Diocese of North America and Europe was held at the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch from July 19-21, 2013. Theme of the Conference was "Journey With Christ". The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Rev. Dr. Martin Alphonse, Dr. Vino John Daniel, and Rev. K. E. Geevarghese were the leaders of the Conference.

## Lay Leadership Training in Southern Region

The Southern Region MTVEA of the Diocese of North America and Europe arranged a lay leadership program at the St. Luke's MTC, South Florida on Saturday, July 27, 2013. Rev. K. E. Geevarghese, Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Binu Thomas, Vicar of St. Luke's Mar MTC and Rev. John Mathew, Vicar of South Florida MTC were the leaders. "Empowering the Church for a Holistic Mission" was the main theme of the Conference. 80 people attended the program. There was representation from both the parishes in Florida and St. Mark's MTC, Tampa.



## Junior/Senior Conference for the Northeast and Southeast Regions



The Senior Junior Conference of the North East Region was held at the Ramapo College New Jersey from July 11 - 14, 2013. (Left) Senior Junior Conference of the South East Region was held at the Ramapo College, New Jersey from July 25 to 28, 2013. (Right)

## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Youth Conference



The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southern Regional Youth Conference was held from Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at the Day Spring Episcopal Conference Center, Tampa, Florida hosted by the South Florida MTC. The theme of the conference was "The Amazing Love of God". About 113 delegates from the Region attended the conference.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Regional Family Conference

The first Canada Regional Family Conference of the Diocese was held from 28<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. The theme of the conference was "The Kingdom Experience in family and Church". 173 delegates from all parishes in Canada and Seattle church participated. The St. Thomas MTC, Vancouver hosted the conference.



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