



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma Besorah

EVENTS

Maramon Convention
February 12-19, 2012

India Mission Trip
May 12-28, 2012

Reception to Mar Theethos in NY
July 1, 2012

**Diocesan Clergy Family
Conference**
Hosted at Washington MTC
July 3-4, 2012

Diocesan Assembly Meeting
Hosted at Washington MTC
July 4-5, 2012

**30th Mar Thoma Family
Conference**
July 5-8, 2012 in Virginia
www.mtfc2012.org

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

On January 20, 2012, we gathered for an ecumenical fellowship in Philadelphia. I was glad that bishops, clergy and leaders of various church denominations and many of our own members found time for this wonderful fellowship. It was a gathering of people from the East and the West, living in this land as God's people. Our guests who spoke on the occasion included Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania, Most Rev. Zachariah Mar Nicolovos, Metropolitan of the Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, Rev. Dr. Paul Rajashekar, Dean of Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, and Rev. Fr. Jose Daniel, Chairman, Ecumenical Fellowship, Philadelphia. Rev. Dr. Paul Rajashekar was the main speaker and he challenged the gathering to think about whether our goal is to continue to "sing the Lord's song in a foreign land" or whether we ought to "sing to the Lord a new song" in the new land that He has brought us to.

Ecumenism is a gift of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ecumenical gatherings help us to converse and learn from others about their administrative and institutional networks, and to tap into each other's resources to minister together. For instance, we are grateful to the Episcopal Church for being a great help to the Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church in the early stages when there was no resident Mar Thoma Bishop here in USA.

Our ecumenism has to be relevant, intelligible, understandable and credible, to enable us to grow and think about how to deepen our unity, and how to give more visibility to the gift of God – Jesus Christ. I believe in this gathering, because it provides a way for us to learn to live together and grow together as the Children of God. As the Psalmist says, "Let us exalt his name together" (Ps. 34:3).

I thank all those who helped organize the 2012 Ecumenical dinner at Philadelphia and look forward to the next such ecumenical gathering at Houston in 2013.

With prayerful regards,
Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE ECUMENICAL DINNER



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. Consider attending the India Mission Trip, from May 12-28, 2012. Please contact Mrs. Laila Philip at varampath23@msn.com.
4. **Pray for:**
 - a. The Diocese of North America and Europe, all the individual members of our church, our vicars, and leaders.
 - b. Our nation as a whole and God's presence in this world.
 - c. The 30th North American Family Conference in 2012 at Leesburg, Virginia, from July 5 to 8, 2012. Register at www.mtfc2012.org.

It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start.
—Mother Teresa



The Diocesan Council had its first meeting for 2012 on Saturday, January 21, 2012, at the Christos Mar Thoma Church, Philadelphia. The meeting considered the Annual Accounts of 2011, reviewed the activities of the Diocesan sub-committees, and evaluated the progress of the committees involved in the development of various Regional Centers in the Diocese. The council authorized the office bearers to organize reception meetings for the newly consecrated Bishops of the Church when they visit USA in 2012.

XV NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2012



St. Mark's Mar Thoma Youth Fellowship in Tampa, Florida, was blessed and privileged to host the 15th Annual Leadership Conference of the Diocese of North America & Europe from January 5 to 8, 2012. The Leadership Conference was mainly held at the Centerpointe Community Church, Tampa. The conference was attended by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius (Diocesan Episcopa), Rev. K. E. Geevarghese (Diocesan Secretary), Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla (chaplain of Southeast Region), Rev. Alex Peter (chaplain of Midwest Region), Rev. Shibi Abraham (chaplain of Southwest B Region), and Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas (chaplain of Southwest A region).

The theme for the conference was **"Deal or No Deal"** – Choices of Christian Leadership based on Joshua 24:15. The main thrust of the theme was geared towards the fundamental Biblical understanding that serving Christ is a direct decision on whether to serve or not. The Conference was inaugurated by Thirumeni at the St. Mark's Mar Thoma Church, Tampa, Florida. The main events consisted of praise & worship, Bible study (including small groups), sessions for discussions on liturgy, mission, etc., messages given by guest speakers, devotionals and reflections.

NEW YEAR REVIVAL 2012, DALLAS CENTRE

Throughout the past years, our Diocese has experienced significant demographical and generational growth representing a new dynamic for relevant contextual ministries. As such, the linguistic need of the younger generation to creatively discern the ministry of the Word is essential for spiritual sustenance and renewal of the community. Towards that end, under the guidance of the Youth Chaplain, Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas "New Year Revival 2012", a three-day English Convention and several workshops were conducted and coordinated by the youth and young families of the Dallas, Texas, area Mar Thoma Churches from December 30, 2011 – January 1, 2012. This 3rd Annual Convention effectively served to spiritually revitalize and equip the hundreds in attendance towards greater depth in their Christian walk throughout the coming year.



MIDWEST MAR THOMA REGIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 25th Mar Thoma Midwest Regional Conference was conducted in Gull Lake Ministries Conference Centre, MI, from Dec 26 –29 2011. The theme of the Conference was "Won by One" based on Ephesians 2:13. 172 youths of the different parishes of the Midwest Region participated in the conference. The Main speaker of the conference was Pastor Dwight Yoo of Presbyterian Church of America from Philadelphia.

The talks were centered on God's Love, and closed with the call to be the Missionaries of God's Kingdom. The whole experience was enriched by the participation of our Diocesan Episcopa, who spent time with our youths and led the Holy Communion service.



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