

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

PSALM 139:17 NIV



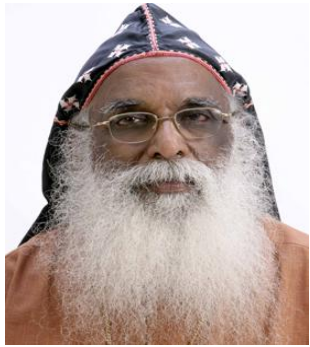
Diocese of North America and Europe

# The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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

## Message from the Metropolitan

Dearly beloved in Christ,



I am very happy to greet you through the *Besorah*, the monthly electronic newsletter, published by the Diocese of North America and Europe under the initiative of the Planning Board. We are living in a world where technology is fast developing and e-magazines have superseded the conventional understanding of communications. The promptness and easy accessibility of e-magazines make it very distinct, particularly in a big geographical area like that of the North America and Europe Diocese. It gives me pleasure to understand that the *Besorah* is distributed by email to all the Achen and Assembly members in the Diocese and includes a brief message from the Diocesan Episcopa, highlights the upcoming Diocesan events, provides suggestions on how the readers might get involved in the events and activities of the Diocese and provides a brief overview of the Diocesan sub-committee's activities. Let us thank God for the

enormous blessings that we have received as a faith community for the last forty years in this part of the world. I wish and pray that the Jubilee celebrations and the publications of this *Besorah* will be a blessing particularly to the young generation of this Diocese. "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing, fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" Philippians 4:8. I assure my prayers.

With Blessings, Joseph Mar Thoma, Metropolitan

### Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan Visiting the Diocese

The Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, is visiting the Diocese of North America and Europe in the Month of June. Thirumeni will visit the parishes and attend various programs in New York, Washington, Houston, Lubbock and Canada. Rev. Abraham C Pulinhitta is accompanying Thirumeni. Hearty Welcome to Metropolitan and Achen.

### Video Conference Facility at the Sinai Mar Thoma Diocesan Center

The Diocese of North America and Europe installed the Video Conference facility at the Diocesan Center, NY. This will enable the Diocese to conduct various online meetings. The Diocesan Episcopa inaugurated this by presiding over the first Video Conference on May 28 for the Regional Clergy Conveners. The IT fellowship of the Diocese gave all technical support. This new initiative will strengthen the Diocese in gathering together for fellowship and various decision makings.

## In Loving Memory of Patrick Maruthmmotil



The Diocese of North America and Europe expresses its sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Maruthmmotil family and to the St. Paul's MTC, Dallas, as they grieve the death of Mr. Patrick Maruthmmotil who passed away on June 4, 2013. Patrick was 26 years and an active member of the St. Paul's MTC, Dallas. He was part of a team of volunteers that were on a Native American Mission Trip of the Diocese to Oklahoma. During the mission trip, Patrick and three other volunteers were involved in a car accident, and he succumbed to his injuries. Patrick was a young man who embodied Christ in everything that he did and in the way he served others and the church. His genuine smile and sincere love towards everyone he met has impacted our church community in a way that left an imprint of Christ on our hearts. He will be greatly missed, but may his legacy of Christ-like living inspire us to follow Christ wholeheartedly. Patrick's funeral service will be held at Venmony, Kerala. Let us together continue to pray and uplift the bereaving family. May God bless and comfort us all and may His name be glorified.

## UPCOMING EVENTS JUNE 2013

1. Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebration in North East Region at St. John's MTC, NY, on July 6, 2013
2. A Seminar on the Identity Vision and Mission of the Diocese at the Epiphany MTC, NY, on July 13, 2013
3. Lay Leadership Training - at St. Luke's MTC, FL, on July 27, 2013

## Seminar on Identity, Vision and Mission of the MTC, Hermon MTC, Atlanta

Hermon MTC Atlanta hosted a Seminar in connection with the Silver Jubilee celebration of North America & Europe Diocese. The Seminar was held on May 26, 2013. The theme was **Identity, Vision, and Mission of the MTC**. The Diocesan Bishop presided over the seminar. The first presentation was by Rev. Scaria Varghese whose talk focused on the Identity of the Mar Thoma Church. The second presentation was by Mr. Shiboo Varghese who focused on the Mission of the church, and the third presentation was by Mr. Sean George on the Vision of the MTC. After the presentations, Rev. P. S. Thomas moderated a question and answer session with the guidance of the Diocesan Bishop. The discussions were focused on the various ways the MTC could grow in the coming years and how the church should become part of the global community.

### Reception to Cardinal Moran Mor Cleemis

During the second week of May 2013, His beatitude Moran Mor Besaluis Cardinal Cleemis, Major Archbishop - Catholicos of the Syro Malankara Catholic Church made his first visit to North America after his elevation to the College of Cardinals of the Catholic Church. A reception in his honor was organized by His Excellency The Most Rev. Thomas Mar Eusebius, Bishop of the Exarchate at St. Vincent De Paul Church, Elmont, NY, on Friday, May 10, 2013. Diocesan Episcopa, Mar Theodosius, participated in the function, felicitated the new Cardinal on behalf of the MTC and the Diocese, and wished him God's blessings on his faith journey as a leader of the global Christian



### Mar Theodosius meets Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley



During the Episcopal visit to Boston (May 17-19, 2013), the Diocesan Episcopa Theodosius Thirumeni took time to meet with His Eminence, Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston (member of the Papal Advisory Council) of the Roman Catholic Church. Thirumeni spent time talking about global issues confronting the church, exploring the church structures, as well as other areas of mutual interest. His Eminence spent time to personally escort Mar Theodosius and guests on a tour of the Cathedral of The Holy Cross.

### Diocesan Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Los Angeles

The Western Region Silver Jubilee Celebration was hosted by the MTC of Los Angeles, Glendora, on June 1, 2013 at St. John Coptic Church, Covina, California. The Western Region Mar Thoma parishes including San Francisco MTC, Phoenix MTC, Horeb, MTC LA, St. Andrews MTC LA and Los Angeles MTC participated in the celebration. The celebrations included a Holy Communion service by the Diocesan Bishop and Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa. During the public meeting that followed, the Diocesan Episcopa delivered the presidential address, and the chief guest, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, offered a special Silver Jubilee message.



### Christian Education Forum - "Readers and Writers" Seminar



The Christian Education Forum Seminar "Journeying with Christ through Meditation" was held on May 18, 2013, at the Ebenezer MTC, NY. The Seminar was on three topics: Meditation through the Word, Meditation through Prayer, and Meditation through Community Fellowship. The Seminar started with praise and worship. Rev. V. M. Mathew, the President of the Christian Education Forum offered the introductory remarks. Rev. Mathew George presented a paper on Meditation through the Word, Mr. Prijo Thomas presented the paper on Meditation through prayer, and Dr. Jesudas Athiyal presented the paper on Meditation through community fellowship.

### Diocese of North of America & Europe Mar Thoma Merit Award 2013

The Diocese of North America & Europe is inviting nominations for the 2013 Mar Thoma Merit Awards. Students who graduate as high school class valedictorians or have exceptional scholastic achievements and qualifications (see appropriate forms for criteria from your Vicar), who are members of Mar Thoma parishes or congregations, and who attend worship services and participate in parish activities are eligible for this award. The completed form along with attachments should be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to Mrs. Checha John, 25 Gladwin Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10309 on or before July 31, 2013. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Checha John at (718) 227-6684 or email: [cj0405@aol.com](mailto:cj0405@aol.com)



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