



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

EVENTS

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

National Youth Conference
Hosted by Trinity MTC, Houston
August 9-12, 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The March issue of the *Besorah* will be reaching you while I am still out of the United States. I will be returning on March 12, after attending the Maramon Convention, the Sabha Council, the Episcopal Synod, and after visiting some of our parishes and missions in India and in Europe.

The 117th Maramon Convention was from February 12-19, 2012. The main speakers for the convention included Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana from South Africa, Rev. Martin Alphonse from the U.S. and Rev. Kang-San-Tan from Malaysia. The theme of the Convention was “Arise, let us be going” Mt. 26:46. You can view and listen to the convention speeches at <http://video.mtconvention.com>.

The convention theme challenges us to ponder critically about where we should arise from, and where we should go to. The answer, I believe, is to arise from our inertia and go into action. What kind of action should we spring into? First, we should arise to pray and intercede for others, while also carefully listening to what God has to say to us. Secondly, we should arise to fight the desires of the flesh. Thirdly, we should arise to bear the pain of others. This is what Jesus exemplified to His disciples when He invited them to, “Arise” and go along with Him. Please also read Mt. 16:24.

We see how Jesus studied the scriptures, quoted from it and applied it in His life. If we desire to be faithful followers of Jesus, we should also have a special place for the scripture to enhance our spiritual life. During this Lenten season, let us arise and spring into action while firmly rooted in the Word of God.

**With prayerful regards,
Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa**

The Christian Education Forum in the Northeast Region, under the leadership of Joseph Johnny Achen of St. Thomas MTC, Yonkers, NY, has been publishing meditations for the 50 days of Lent. The purpose of this project is to nurture the spiritual life of our members through meditation and study of the word of God during the Lent season. Rev. Joseph Johnny is sending the daily reflections by email to all the Vicars in the Diocese. Our hope and prayer is that all our members are receiving these meditations. You may contact your Vicar for the Lenten Meditations, if you are not receiving them already.

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.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL CENTERS WITHIN THE DIOCESE



Through the initiative of Mar Theodosius, the advice of the Council and its Planning Board, and the leadership of the clergy and lay people in various regions within the diocese, progress is being made towards the development of regional centers within the diocese. The proposed eight centers will include a Christian Education Forum in the Northeast Region, a Center for Family Ministry in the Southeast Region, a Family Assisted Living Center in the Southern Region, a Counseling Center in the Southwest Region, a Development Center in the Western Region, a Legal Cell in the Midwest Region, a Counseling Center in the Canada Region, and a Mission Center in the Europe Region.

Currently, discussions are going on within the respective regions to develop specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and timely goals for each of the proposed centers. Members with expertise and interest for developing such centers may contact the Diocesan Office by email at marthomadiocese@gmail.com.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY



The annual meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church will be held at the Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington, 320 Ethan Allan Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 on Wednesday, July 4, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. & on Thursday July 5, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

EPISCOPAL VISITS



The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius visited the **St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Chicago** from Jan 28th to 29th 2012. During his visit he met with the youths, young adults and first communicants and their families. Thirumeni also celebrated the Holy Communion Service and gave the message on the topic of “Gospel of Repentance” based on Mark 1:15. Thirumeni said “*Call to Repentance is a Call to Absolute Surrender to the purpose of God and to live in that Awareness*”.



The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius visited the **St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Hounslow**, from February 1-5, 2012. Thirumeni had meetings and discussions with the Council of Mar Thoma Parishes in Europe (COMPE), Rev. Canon Melvyn Barnsley (Rector of St. Andrews & St. George Church, Stevenage), and Rev. Duncan Campbell (Rural Dean of Stevenage). On Sunday, February 5, 2012, Mar Theodosius celebrated the Holy Communion service, which included a dedication service for sixteen First Communicants.



2012 Native American Mission

A mission of the Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America and Europe

"...trully I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these you also did for me..."
—Matthew 25:40

Live The Gospel...

Spring Break Mission Trip, Oklahoma: March 21–23
Deadline: February 21st

VBS Mission Camp, Oklahoma June 4–8
Deadline: May 31st

VBS Mission Camp, Alabama June 10–16
Deadline: May 10

Community Leadership Training Conference, Alabama Sept 29–30
Deadline: August 29

Disaster Relief and Medical Mission Louisiana: Nov 14–18
Deadline: October 14

Get Involved!
For more information about registration or donations, please send an email to nativeamericanmission@gmail.com

The Besorah is a brief overview of some of the Diocesan news and activities. For more information, please reference the Diocesan website and/or the Messenger.