

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 NIV

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.



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 Bishop

Dear friends in Christ,

Our Diocese is organizing a conference for the senior members for the first time. The Mar Thoma Parish of Detroit has graciously volunteered to organize this Conference from October 15 to 18, 2014. We are expecting about 150 members from different parishes of North America to reflect on the Theme: Faith Development and Stewardship. Our senior members, including two of our former vicars, Rev. Dr. Ipe Joseph and Rev. John Mathew (Kuriannur) will lead the sessions.

Growing old does not mean that one is reaching the end of everything. Life is eternal. But there is a time to be born and a time to die. This is indicative of the mysterious seasons of life. There are lots of things to learn at every stage of life. With the longevity of life, many families are linked now with three generations, grand children to grandparents, if not more. Many grandparents admit that they can enjoy time with their grandchildren which they were not able to do when rearing their own children. In turn, the children learn from their grandparents merely by being with them. This relationship enriches and enhances the lives of both grandparents and grandchildren in mutually supportive ways. Therefore, it is a blessing, when a family keeps its grandparents close.

Pope Francis said recently, "Old age, in particular, is a time of grace, in which the Lord renews us in His call: He calls us to protect and transmit the faith, He calls us to pray, especially to intercede; He calls us to be close to those in need."

Mar Theodosius+

## Southeast Region Altar Boys & Covenant Girls' Training



The training for the Altar Boys & Covenant Girls of the Southeast Region took place on October 4, 2014 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the MTC of Philadelphia, Fort Washington, PA. The sessions (according to the training syllabus) were led by: Rev. M. E. Shaji, Rev. Dennis Abraham, Rev. Binu C. Samuel, and Mr. George Mathew (St. Thomas MTC, PA). A total of 47 students attended from various parishes in the Southeast Region.

## Northeast Region Altar Boys & Covenant Girls' Training

The training program of Northeast Region Altar Boys & Covenant Girls was held on September 27, 2014 from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Epiphany MTC, NY. Thirty-three participants from 6 parishes attended. The program began with opening worship and singing session led by the youths from Epiphany MTC. Rev. Dennis Abraham, Rev. V. M. Mathew, Rev. Joji K. Mathew, Rev. Shibu Mathew, and Dr. Betsy Mathew taught topics such as: Introduction to the Bible & Preparation of Sermon, Teenage Challenges and Leadership Role, Church History, Prayer Habits and Discipline for Daily Meditation, Sacraments, and Introduction to the Liturgy of Holy Qurbana & Meaning of Symbols. The program ended with prayer and benediction by Rev. Mathew George.



# 2014 Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam



The 2014 Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam met at the Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Auditorium in Thiruvalla from Tuesday, September 9 to Thursday, September 11, 2014. The Diocesan Episcopa and most of the Mandalam Representatives from the Diocese of North America and Europe attended the meetings. Along with the regular agenda for deliberations, there was a Holy Qurbana Service at the St. Thomas MTC, Thiruvalla. The Rt. Rev. Joseph Mar Barnabas celebrated the Holy Communion in conjunction with his birthday celebration. A special function was held to felicitate the Achens who retired in 2014 after many years of service to the Church. In the election that was held on the last day, Rev. Oommen Philip, Rev. Lal Cherian, and Adv. Prakash P. Thomas were elected as Sabha Secretary, Clergy Trustee, and Lay Trustee, respectively.

## Legal Affairs Committee

The term of the existing Legal Affairs Committee (2011-2014) of the Diocese came to an end on the date of the Sabha Mandalam meeting held from Tuesday, September 9 to Thursday, September 11, 2014. The Diocese of North America and Europe extends its sincere gratitude to all the outgoing members for their selfless ministry: Dr. Mathew M. Chacko, Mrs. Nirmala Abraham, Mr. John C. Thomas, Esq., and Mr. Abraham Mattackal.

We also welcome the new members to the Legal Affairs Committee: Mr. Lal Varghese, Esq., Mrs. Subi Mathew, Esq., Dr. George Abraham, Mrs. Anitha Elizabeth Sujit, Dr. Joe Mathew George and the Ex officio members.

## Vaideeka Selection Committee

Vaideeka Selection Sub Committee of our Diocese met and interviewed Mr. Mathew Samuel (St. Paul's MTC, Dallas) and forwarded the decision to the Sabha Office for processing.

## 2014-2017 Sevika Sanghom Diocesan Council with Bishops



The Diocesan Council of the Mar Thoma Sevika Sanghom (SS) met recently. The picture on the left shows Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Timotheos Episcopa, Rev. Binoy J. Thomas, Rev. Shinoi Joseph (Diocesan Sevika Sanghom Vice President), Mrs. Mariamma Abraham (SS Diocesan Secretary), Mrs. Lilly Simon (Treasurer), Mrs. Mariamma Abraham (Assembly member).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Yuvajana Sakhyam Diocesan Conference - Niagara, Canada

Hosted by the St. Mathews MTC, Toronto from October 10-12, 2014; Theme: Celebrating life with Christ (Philippians 4:4)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Fellowship Conference – Detroit

Hosted by the Detroit MTC on October 16-18, 2014  
Theme: Churching the Diaspora: Faith Development & Stewardship; Contacts: Rev. C. K. Kochumon, Tel: 248-477-6139, Cell: 248-792-1134; or Mr. George Thomas, Tel: 248-207-5065; Email- [GTH501@yahoo.com](mailto:GTH501@yahoo.com)

### Diocesan Clergy Conference

Hosted by the Trinity MTC, Houston on November 19-21, 2014; Theme: Churching the Diaspora and Mission Empowerment; Contact: Rev. Kochu Koshy Abraham, Tel: 281-261-4603; Cell: 713-408-7394.

### 2015 Diocesan Leadership Conference – Boston

Hosted by the Carmel MTC, Boston on January 1-4, 2015; Theme: Rooted in Christ; Contacts: Rev. Sam T. Panicker, Tel. 978-567-1015, Jensen Varghese, Tel: 978-846-5891; Shaina Varghese, Tel: 781-910-2768; Email: [mtcleadership2015@gmail.com](mailto:mtcleadership2015@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.marthomaleadershipconference2015.com](http://www.marthomaleadershipconference2015.com)



Sinai Mar Thoma Center  
2320 Merrick Avenue  
Merrick, New York 11566  
[www.marthomanae.org](http://www.marthomanae.org)

Contact Information:  
Phone # 516 377 3311  
Fax # 516 377 3322  
Email: [marthomadiocese@gmail.com](mailto:marthomadiocese@gmail.com)

Editors of the Besorah:  
Rev. Binoy Thomas  
Dr. Mathew T. Thomas  
Ms. Betty Vattakunnel