



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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

EVENTS

Sevika Sangham National Conference

Hosted by Los Angeles MTC
October 4-7, 2012

Reception for Mar Makarios Episcopa in Los Angeles

October 7, 2012

Yuvajana Sakhyam National Conference

Hosted by Ascension MTC, PA
October 12-14, 2012

APDM Annual Retreat

October 19-21, 2012

Young Family Fellowship

National Conference, NY
October 26-28, 2012

Leadership Conference

Staten Island, NY
January 3-6, 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

By now the new academic school year has begun after the summer vacation for most of the students in our diocese. This may be a good time to ask, "What is the objective and goal of all academic pursuits?"

If our education or career goal is to merely earn a pay check, or satisfy a CEO, or acquire power and authority, or satisfy our personal desires, we fall short of a higher motivation that education is intended to accomplish, that is to gain knowledge for serving and being a benefit to the world around us. Along with the intellectual knowledge that we gain through education, we should acquire wisdom. We gain wisdom by learning to apply our knowledge and by building our love, respect, and devotion to God and all His creation. As the Bible clearly states, the 'Fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom'. We know that King Solomon prayed for wisdom to govern the country in a just and proper manner, and by discerning what is right from wrong.

Recently, we learned that a group of Harvard University students cheated while taking their examinations. We also live amidst a culture of violence that has crept into schools and universities and resulted in the loss of a number of innocent lives. Proper education that fosters knowledge and wisdom will enable one to uphold the values of community living and to find one's life beyond all personal selfish desires. Selfless living will help enhance the lives of all living creatures.

May the Lord enable our students and each person in our community to understand that proper education is a lifelong process through which one gains and enhances knowledge and wisdom to respect every being. I wish and pray that God's blessings will abide with all our students.

-Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa

UNITED KINGDOM & EUROPE FAMILY CONFERENCE



The 30th UK and Europe Mar Thoma Family Conference was held at the High Leigh Conference Centre, London from August 31 to September 2, 2012. It was hosted by St. James Mar Thoma Church, London, UK. The theme selected for this year's Conference was "Ecclesia - Life, Identity and Challenges". There were separate sessions for youth and adults. Rev. A. T. Zachariah and Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas were the main leaders. The Conference committee released a resource book and souvenir. Rev. Sajeev Thomas served as the Conference president and Dr. K. John and Shiju Thomas as the Conference Conveners. All achen from UK and Europe attended this Conference. 264 Participants experienced God's blessings through this conference.

MAR THOMA MESSENGER – 30th ANNIVERSARY

The Mar Thoma Messenger, the official magazine of the Diocese of North America and Europe celebrates its 30th year of publication in 2012. The October issue will be published as a special issue for commemorating this historic milestone. Thank you and congratulations to all those who have assisted in the publication and all those who have subscribed and supported.

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Consider attending/participating in the appropriate events.
2. Support the 'Manna' Project & 'A Tree for a House Project' in Mexico (\$30 for each tree sponsored). Contact marthomadiocese@gmail.com if you wish to participate by providing food for the residents or by planting a tree.
3. **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.

2012 NATIONAL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE, HOUSTON, TX

The 33rd Diocesan Youth Conference was hosted by the Youth Fellowship of the Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston, at the South Shore Harbor Resort and Conference Center, from August 9 to 12, 2012. The theme for the Conference was "A Portrait of God" based on Romans 1:20. The Conference was attended by 265 delegates representing 28 parishes from our Diocese. The Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius inaugurated the Conference on Thursday and celebrated the Holy Qurbana on Sunday. Brad Cauley was the Main Speaker for this year's Conference. The youth chaplains of the Diocese led Bible studies and various track sessions. The conference was a blessing for all the delegates and leaders.



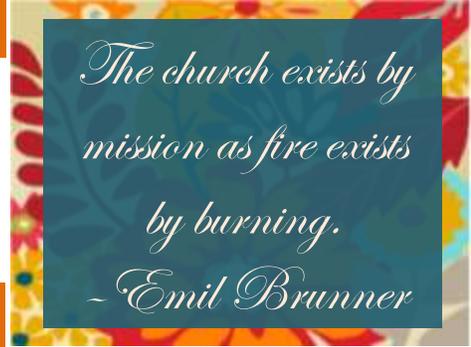
SUVISESHA NIDHI

Suvisesha Nidhi is a special collection of the Diocese of North America and Europe to support the Diocesan Mission activities. September 16, 2012 is set apart as the **Suvisesha Nidhi Day**. Each earning member of the Diocese is requested to set apart a minimum of one dollar a month (\$12 annually) to support the mission projects of our diocese. This year the Diocese has budgeted US \$ 70,000 as anticipated income through this collection. We request the whole hearted support of all the members. Let us prayerfully participate in the transforming mission of Jesus Christ by responding to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

2012 MAR THOMA SABHA PRADHINITHI MANDALAM



The Mar Thoma Sabha Pradhinithi Mandalam 2012 was held at Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan Smaraka Auditorium, Tiruvalla, from August 30 to September 1, 2012. Theme: **Life and Environment**.



THARANGAM - MISSION ACTION CENTER



Tharangam, the Mission Action Center, is the new initiative of the Chengannoor Diocese of the Mar Thoma Church, to co-ordinate the entire mission programs of the Diocese. The foundation stone for Tharangam project was blessed by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Zachariahs Mar Theophilus, Suffragan Metropolitan, at Arattupuzha in a special function organized by that Diocese. This was also an occasion to celebrate 75th birthday of Zachariahs Thirumeni. Our Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni attended the program and gave a message during the occasion and felicitated the Suffragan Metropolitan and the new project of the Diocese.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

The Diocesan Episcopa issued a press release denouncing the recent activities of terrorism in US and Canada. In it he offered heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and friends of the victims of these tragedies, appreciated the commitment and leadership of the law enforcement officials involved in these incidents, offered prayers for the repentance, remorse and restoration of the shooters themselves.

He stated, that "... All religious institutions should become a source for promoting greater harmony and peace amongst all peoples. Life is a gift of God. It is to be protected and promoted. It is the responsibility of every human being to protect life and to enhance the life of all living beings. Life negating activities of any kind is a crime.

Religion and religious organizations should not become a target for terrorism. People of all faiths should have the freedom to practice their beliefs without any fear of persecution. Freedom to practice one's faith and religion is one of the fundamental principles upon which our nations are founded. The Mar Thoma Diocese of North America and Europe joins me in paying that God will grant everyone the wisdom and grace to live a life of peace and communal harmony in the very land that we have made our home. May the peace of God prevail amongst us."