

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 EPISCOPA

“Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.” Psalms 51: 6

Dear friends in Christ,

Schools and colleges reopen in September after the summer holidays. During the latter half of August parents were bringing their children to the places where I visited, to initiate them for education and wanted me to pray for them. Parents are eager to give their children a better education than what they had and the best possible education that they can afford today. The students, when they join the Universities, select courses that are related to their carrier choices. As Christians, we strive to give them religious education as well. As the Bible says, “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”.

How do we understand and obtain knowledge, wisdom and insight? Knowledge is information we gain through facts and science helps us to explore and research such knowledge further. Certainly information empowers and liberates. Very recently an article asked the question, “is the right to information a right to do wrong things?” King Solomon asked God to bless him with wisdom to discern the right and wrong in guiding the people according to the will of God (1st Kings 3 and 4). Wisdom takes us to the realm of ethics and helps us to understand the available knowledge and use it correctly. For example, knowledge can help us to manage our income but wisdom gives us the understanding as to how the money impacts the quality of our life and guides our future. Let us not forget the parable of Jesus on the 'Rich Fool' who was not having insight about the future and that his riches have no meaning beyond its usefulness (Luke 12: 13). Insight is therefore an awareness of the underlying essence of truth.

Jesus is the true Guru (teacher). He said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 14: 6). He taught with authority and illuminated the lives of so many. He liberated so many and the people were astonished at his marvelous works. St. John says, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of truth and grace (1:14). Information technology and modern communication systems have widened our horizon of knowledge. We need the wisdom to understand the wonder of God's creation and the partnership God has given us to incarnate in life situations with a human touch and then to carry out the ministry of redemption with grace.

Psalms 139:6 “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.”

Mar Theodosius+

Birth Centenary Celebration of Dr. M. M. Thomas

The Mar Thoma Church organized a seminar honoring the birth centenary of Dr. M. M. Thomas at the SCS Church, Thiruvalla, on August 31st, 2015. The Associate General Secretary of the World Council



of Churches, Rev. Dr. Hielke Wolters, presented a detailed paper that dealt with the works of Dr. M. M. Thomas and ended with the question, “what would have been his role in WCC if he would have been alive?” Dr. Wolters suggested that, “M. M. Thomas would have offered the concept of cruciform humanity as a starting point for further reflection on practical spiritual engagement. He would have challenged us to deepen our understanding of justice and peace from a theological perspective.” The meeting was well attended. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius attended the seminar, representing the Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America and Europe.

Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam

The 2015 Mar Thoma Church Prathinidhi Sabha Mandalam met at the Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valia Metropolitan



Memorial Auditorium from September 1st – 3rd, 2015. The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan presided. All other bishops of the church and over 1000 delegates participated in the various sessions. The theme: *'Faith and Witness in the Public Space'* was taken up for study. The meeting was a source of blessing to the church to realize that the members are important and they have a role in the decision making body of the church. The church continues its spiritual journey with God and with its people, and revisits the mission and ministry of the church for the establishment of the Kingdom in the world.

UK Family Conference



The 33rd UK & Europe Family Conference started on Friday, August 21st to Sunday, August 23rd, 2015. Many lives were transformed and touched by God's Holy Spirit through this conference. Theodosius Thirumeni formally inaugurated the conference and challenged everyone to ask who 'our gods' were and examine if we do really worship the true & living God? Theethos Thirumeni gently reminded all to start with a death experience; a death experience of the 'gods' in our life and seek the transformation that will come from the one and only true God. Overall, the conference was an uplifting spiritual experience. Everyone felt the presence of our Lord and felt that their lives have been touched.

Diocesan Youth Conference



The 36th Diocesan Youth Conference was held at the West Chester University of Pennsylvania from July 30th to August 2nd, 2015. The theme for the conference was "Spiritual Struggle in Christ" (Rom 5:3-5). The conference was hosted by the Youth Fellowship of the St. Thomas MTC of Delaware Valley. The track sessions included: Christian Courtship, Christian Finances, Music & Worship, and Seasons of Life: Struggling with Change. A special torch was handed over to the Detroit MTC Youth Fellowship, who will be hosting the 37th Diocesan Youth Conference from July 28th to July 31st, 2016. Delegates from various parishes in the US & Canada attended the conference. The conference was a blessing for all who attended.

India Mission Trip 2015 to Maharashtra and Gujarat



Eight youths (seven from Canada and one from the US) and two council members participated in a mission trip to India that started on July 27th, 2015, starting from the Mumbai Diocesan Office. The youths visited Navodaya Movement Center at Kalyan, Navajeevan main office, Tamshad and Nandukav Mission Fields, Dolara Mission Field, Shanti Nekathan Boys Hostel, Chinchilli Village Mission Field, Mitranikendhan Hostel and Boichapada Mission Church. The mission team donated candy, clothes and stationaries to the children. In addition, the team had the opportunity to meet and greet the children and staff, visit homes, have praise & worship, play games, and share meals with the families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- > **October 2-4**
Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference
Silicon Valley, San Francisco
- > **October 8-11**
Diocesan Sevika Sanghom Conference
New Jersey
- > **October 14-17**
Diocesan Senior Fellowship Conference
Houston, Texas
- > **October 23-25**
Southern Regional Family Conference
Tampa, Florida
- > **October 30 – November 1**
Young Family Fellowship Conference
LIMTC, New York

The Diocesan Neighborhood Urban Mission Trip



The Diocesan Neighborhood Mission conducted its First Mar Thoma Urban Mission Trip 2015 at San Francisco, California, from August 16th to 21st, 2015. The Neighborhood Mission's "Mar Thoma Urban Missions 2015" project is an effort to bring

awareness to the members of our Diocese regarding the complex economic, political, and religious factors that influence poor urban communities that are devastated by crime, homelessness, and broken educational systems and how to respond to these challenges in Christ's love by developing best practices in serving the local neighborhoods of our churches. This year, Neighborhood Mission sub-committee partnered with an inner city Christian organization called San Francisco City Impact. This ecumenical ministry exists to intervene on behalf of the people in the inner city of San Francisco. Urban Mission Trip participants interacted, ministered, and were transformed by the power of the living gospel of Jesus Christ.

Midwest Regional Junior Camp



St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church, Lombard hosted the 2015 Midwest Regional Junior camp. The theme of the camp was "I'm David, What's My Goliath?" (1 Samuel: 17). The camp was held from Friday, July 17th to Sunday, July 19th, 2015 and was open to all students who completed 3rd grade through 10th grade. Approximately 80 students attended the camp.



Sinai Mar Thoma Center
2320 Merrick Avenue
Merrick, New York 11566
www.marthomanae.org

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

Editors:
Rev. Binoy J. Thomas
Ms. Reshma Ravikumar
Dr. Mathew T. Thomas

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