

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

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EARTH SUNDAY

BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Our earth's environment is in greater peril than ever. The recent oil spills have disturbed the marine habitat and have adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of numerous people. The volcanic eruptions in Iceland have further polluted the earth's atmosphere and affected air traffic, thereby leaving its impact on the lives of millions of people. Our soil is being polluted by the use of large amounts of chemical fertilizers and other waste products such as plastics. The list of things that continue to destroy our earth and its environment seems endless. To continue to walk on the current path of ecological destruction is not only folly; it is sin.

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth day. It is important to remember that all of us, more than six (6) billion people, are sharing this beautiful planet and that everyone is responsible for properly utilizing its resources and caring for its welfare. We should remember that we are accountable to Lord and to the future generations for any environmental degradation that we cause and/or leave behind.

Over the past several decades, slowly but faithfully, the churches all over the world have attempted to address the issues of ecology and justice. Churches have also offered rich theological perspectives on these topics and considered the moral issues through the lens of long standing social teaching. However, churches have clearly failed to communicate the full measure and magnitude of the environmental crisis on our planet Earth.

The Diocese of North America and Europe of the Mar Thoma Church is observing Sunday, June 13, 2010 as Earth Sunday to create an increased awareness among our members that as God's stewards, we are called not only to enjoy the resources of our mother Earth, but also to care of them as a sacred gift from God. Each parish and congregation, and its members, should formulate all possible action plans for judiciously using our earth's resources and caring for it throughout the year; especially our food, water etc. For example, one of the ways to consider saving our soil is by encouraging organic farming.

Let us remember the words of Psalmist, "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Ps 24:1). As people of God, we are to maintain the bounties of this beautiful Earth. On Earth Sunday, we should encourage our youths and Sunday school students to conduct worship services and deliver sermons to celebrate God's gift of this planet Earth and everything in it. Other special activities to celebrate Earth Day should be considered at the local parishes and congregations.

I urge you all to join in protecting and preserving God's earth and its resources.

May God Bless you all!

Yours in His Ministry,


Dr. Geevarghese Theodosius
Diocesan Bishop