



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

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life” (Phil. 2: 14-16).

The Maramon convention is held in February. It is the feast of the Word, preached continuously for eight days. God’s Word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path (Ps. 119: 105). The convention helps people to revisit the Holy Bible and study it. It enables people to examine themselves. The divine truth that God reveals through the Holy Spirit helps us to find the true light that illumines us to live a righteous life in a crooked and depraved generation. St. Paul reminds us that we are called to lead a blameless and pure life without fault.

Jesus is the true light of the world. St. John says in the Gospel that, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1: 14). “The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world” (Jn. 1: 9). The Maramon convention promotes the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He came to open the way of salvation for all of us, and this good news is to be preached everywhere and by everyone who has received the divine light. He said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” (Jn. 14: 6).

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world..... Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and praise your Father in heaven” Mt 5: 14 and 16. The United Nations has declared 2015 as the “International year of Light.” You can speak ceaselessly of the darkness of evil that fills our world. Single handedly one person may not overcome all the power of darkness. But remember that the little light that is lit in you cannot be extinguished by the darkness if it keeps on burning and emitting light. Can you be that light? Remember, we are lighted to lighten! A single candle light can light many more candles, and yet never lose the glow with which it started burning.

May the Word of God light your way and bring the glory of God to your life and enable you to carry out His work.

Mar Theodosius+

## Great Days of Service

During the Great Lent (*Valiya Nombu*), the Mar Thoma Neighborhood Mission is expecting that each parish within the Diocese will get involved with a new initiative called *Great Days of Service*. This is an effort to encourage neighborhood mission projects in the local communities for at least the 50 days of lent. The goal is that each Parish will collectively accumulate a minimum of 100 hours of voluntary service. As we enter the season of fasting and repenting, we hope and pray that each parish will identify at least one suitable neighborhood mission activity and work towards sharing the love of Christ amidst the community that we live in. For more details contact: Rev. Biju P. Simon ([bsimonachen@gmail.com](mailto:bsimonachen@gmail.com)) and Mr. Shibu John ([shibujohn@bell.net](mailto:shibujohn@bell.net)).



# Europe Region Clergy Family Conference 2015



The UK Region Clergy Family Conference was held on January 30 and 31, 2015, at Cefn Lea Park, Dolfor, and Newtown. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. Worship was led by Rev. K. P. Johnson of the St. Thomas MTC, Bristol, and Rev. P. Mathew of the St. James MTC, Central London. Bible Study was conducted by Rev. Roney Cherian of Liverpool parish and Rev. Jose Punammadam of St John's parish.

Theodosius Thirumeni gave the Presidential address

and challenged everyone to set wise goals for their spiritual journey. He urged the clergy to be the tower of hope for the people they serve when everything seems hopeless. He emphasized that the Church is called to be the light, salt and leaven of the world in the midst of all evil forces and when darkness prevails.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Philips conducted a class on 'Understanding of Self and Communication'. Three forums on (1) The Church Today, (2) The Church of the Future, and (3) The Ideal Church in UK, were led by Rev. Vinoj Varghese. Rev. Alexander Tharakan of Tabore MTC, Manchester, led the intercession. The children's session was led by Miss. Tabitha Johnson. Smitha Kochamma led the singing. Rev. Jose Punammadam rendered the vote of thanks.

The conference was an enriching and uplifting experience with opportunity for worship, study, sharing, praying, fellowship, and living together as a family with our beloved Diocesan Bishop.

## Ecumenical Luncheon 2015



The 6th Annual Ecumenical Fellowship (one of the ecumenical programs of the Diocese) was held on January 24, 2015, at the Tamarac Community Center, Florida. The event was hosted by the Mar Thoma Church of South Florida. Fourteen churches in the Florida area participated in this ecumenical fellowship. This fellowship luncheon was hosted under Mar Theodosius' leadership, and he presided over the meeting. The Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Binoy J. Thomas, welcomed the gathering. Bishop George Ninan, retired Bishop of the Church of North India, was the keynote speaker. Rev. Andrew Sherman, Rector of the St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, was the chief guest of the event. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Kumthakeel, Rev. Fr. George John, Rev. Fr. Jose Adoppall, and Deacon Josh Thomas offered felicitations. The Ecumenical choir led by Dr. Sheela Varughese and Children's Choir led by Mrs. Sharon Abraham sang melodious songs. The Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. Philip Thomas, presented a brief outlook of the ecumenical activities of the diocese. Dr. Mammen C. Jacob gave vote of thanks. This fellowship received the attention, participation, and support



of a majority of the Malayalee Christian community in South Florida. The meeting was well attended by representatives from all the 14 churches. The members of the Diocesan Council also attended this meeting. The Diocese is thankful to the Ecumenical Luncheon committee, especially the conveners Mr. Georgy Varghese and Mrs. Kusumam Titus.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, 2015	Diocesan Sunday
March 6, 2015	World Day of Prayer
July 2-5, 2015	Diocesan Family Conference-Connecticut



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