



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,

February witnessed the 120th Maramon Convention of our Church, organized by the Evangelistic Association on the banks of River Pampa. By the grace of God all the meetings went smoothly and I could see some of the members of our diocese at Maramon. Though it has become a very historic and unique event among the spiritual gatherings in the world, our Church is organizing it for all sorts of people. It is also a time for serious Bible Study. One of the new beginnings we had this year was the opening of a Hindi stall, where people from different language areas in India, outside Kerala, could gather together to get more information and also to feel at home in our church event. Let us look forward to the days when there will be some non-Malayalam songs and prayers incorporated into the main section of the meetings and non-Malayalam speaking communities can hear the summary of the messages in their own language.

We have two Theological Colleges in India, the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, in Kerala and the Dharma Jyoti Vidya Peeth, in Haryana near Delhi. Both are residential colleges which groom students, as they learn academic subjects, to become spiritual leaders and to witness the Lord through their lives. Both campuses have students from different language areas, men and women, doing their graduate and post-graduate studies. Right now we have four students studying there from our parishes in the US. When I visited these centers in the month of February, I could see the modern trends in our church to become more inclusive and welcoming. We are having more and more spiritual leaders coming up from different language areas. The Dharma Jyoti campus is 'going green' by having solar system for light and heat and promotes mission and ministry in the villages of India that give emphasis to overall sustainable development of the village communities. This year, the Theological Seminary, Kottayam organized a National Seminar on Diaspora/Migration Studies. This opened windows for serious discussion on these topics to understand the modern challenges the Church is facing and the forms of ministry that evolves out of it.

We have entered into the season of Great Lent when we focus our attention to the Cross of Christ. Let us embark on a spiritual journey into the mystery and wonder of a unique death on a Friday afternoon that leads us to astounding experiences of resurrection on Easter morning, which altogether continues to reveal to us the truth about everything. Let this Lent renew and refresh us to make us new and to understand the meaning of life that is worth-living. I wish everyone a blessed season.

Mar Theodosius+

India Mission Trip 2015

The Diocese of North America and Europe is pleased to announce the India mission trip to mission fields in Maharashtra and Gujarat of Mumbai Diocese from July 27, 2015 to August 12, 2015. The Mission trip is planned for 12 days and the places to visit are Navjeevan Centre, Navodaya Movement, Mokada Mission, Vapy and Ahwa Mission.

For more details, contact Mrs. Mariamma Abraham (215-917-2920) for USA Region or Mr. George Mathai (416-277-8756) for Canada and Europe Region.

Upcoming Events

Diocesan Family Conference

Date: July 2-5, 2015

Venue: Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, CT

Theme: *'Harvest in the Family of Families – Hope for Humanity'* Hosea 6:11

Hosted by the North East Regional Activity Committee (RAC)

Diocesan Clergy Family Conference

Date: June 30 - July 1, 2015

Theme: *Church - Hope for Humanity*

Diocesan Assembly-2015

Date: Thursday July 2, 2015

Venue: St. Thomas MTC, New York

2nd Western Regional MTVEA - Two Day Conference 2015



The 2nd MTVEA Western Regional Conference was held on February 14-15, 2015 at the St. Andrews MTC Los Angeles. The theme of the conference was “Lent – A Time for Cleansing”. About 75 families from across the Western Region actively participated in the conference and it was truly a blessed and spiritually enriching experience for everyone.

Southwest Region Edavaka Mission, Sevika Sanghom and Yuvajana Sakhyam Joint Conference

The Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association, Sevika Sanghom and Yuvajana Sakhyam of the Diocese South West Region conducted a combined two day conference on 20th & 21st of February at St. Paul's MTC, Dallas, Texas. The theme of the conference was “Pravasa Jeevithathile Christeeya Swadheenam” Acts: 8:4. Three hundred and thirty members from churches in the region attended the conference.



Southeast Regional Altar Boys & Covenant Girls Training (Parishes in VA and MD)



The training for the Altar Boys & Covenant Girls of the South East Region (parishes in Maryland & Virginia) took place on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at the MTC of Greater Washington, MD. The sessions (according to the first-year of the syllabus) were led by: Rev. Dennis Abraham, Rev. Alex Kolath, and Rev. Thomas Samuel. A total of 20 students attended from various parishes in the area.

Maramon Convention 2015



The 120th Maramon Convention was held on the sand-bed of River Pampa at Maramon from February 8 to 15, 2015. The convention started on February 8 with the opening prayer led by Valiya Metropolitan Philipose Mar Chrisostom and the inaugural message by Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Thomas Mar Timotheos Episcopa, the MTEA president presided over the session. Philipose Mar Chrisostom Valiya Metropolitan, Zacharias Mar Theophilus

Suffragan Metropolitan and the Episcopas Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Joseph Mar Barnabas, Mathews Mar Makarios, Gregorios Mar Stephanos and Thomas Mar Theethos gave powerful messages during the different sessions of the convention. In addition to our bishops, Bishop Siphon De Siva of South Africa, Rev. Samuel T. Kamalesan of the United States and Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo of Sri Lanka were speakers. The Patriarch of Antioch Iganthios Mor Aprem II in his first visit to India after his consecration as Patriarch attended and blessed the Maramon Convention by his message on Friday, February 13th. Our Diocesan Episcopa gave the message on Wednesday February 11, 2015 evening based on Philippians 2:1-8. Thirumeni through his message exhorted that the local parishes should reveal Christ more and more and do the ministry of the Kingdom of God. The messages, songs and photos are available online at <http://www.mtconvention.com>.

Dharma Jyoti was blessed by the visit of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Bishop of North America and Europe on 23rd February 2015. The entire community was enriched when Thirumeni reached the campus in the morning and spent the whole day along with the Diocesan Episcopa and Chairman of Dharma Jyoti, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa. Thirumeni participated in the various programs on campus like Switching on ceremony of the newly installed Solar Plant, Planting of Saplings, Speech on "Being Relevant in the Mission" and Theodosius Thirumeni along with Paulos Thirumeni interacted with the faculty members. The Dharma Jyoti community celebrated Theodosius Thirumeni's birthday by presenting him a shawl, as is the custom in Northern India and felicitated Thirumeni who also celebrates the silver jubilee of his Episcopal Consecration.

The National Seminar on Diaspora/ Migration Studies

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius visited the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam from February 17th to 19th, 2015 to participate and lead the national seminar on Diaspora/Migration studies on the theme: Interrogating borders – Migration and Transnationalism. The inaugural address was given by Mar Theodosius at the opening ceremony at the seminary chapel on the evening of Tuesday February 17, 2015. Thirumeni presented a paper on 'Shifting Meanings in Public, Religious and Domestic spaces: Theological, Ministerial and Missional challenge'. There were 50 delegates from different parts of the country apart from the students and faculty members of the Seminary. Dr. Sebastian Irudaya Rajan (CDS, Trivandrum), Dr. P.P. Ravendran (M.G. University), Rev. Sunny George, Dr. Biju Lal, (M.G. University), Mr. George K. Alex, Mr. Sunny Kapikkadu,



Dr. Kochurani Abraham and Mr. Maisangdibou, Dr. Praveena Kodoth, etc. participated. The national Seminar concluded with the responses given by the Very Rev. Dr. K.G. Pothen, Principal of the Seminary and Rev. Dr. P.G. George, Dean of Studies, SATHRI, Serampore University. This seminar has brought awareness to the Church and Seminary community on the significance of studies on migration. It will certainly help the Church to recognize the evolving trends on Church's ministry and mission.

Birthday of our Diocesan Episcopa

The Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius was in Kottayam on February 19. Rev. Dr. M. V. Abraham graced the morning with his message and prayers when the family members gathered together for a breakfast fellowship. Later the Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, Kottayam organized a felicitation meeting with the leadership of the Principal the Very Rev. Dr. K.G. Pothen. The day was significant as Mar Theodosius was attending a 3-day national seminar at the seminary on Diaspora/Migration studies. In the evening the staff and members of the Trivandrum – Kollam diocese at Mannanthala gathered together to cut the cake and spent time for prayer with the leadership of Rev. Dr. George Mathew and Rev. Jose Abraham.T. Let us praise God for all the blessings God is showering upon our Diocesan Episcopa in his life and ministry.



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