

Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

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



HE IS
RISEN
CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR

Message from the Diocesan Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

We just celebrated Easter. A good number of people may have wanted Good Friday to go by quickly and Easter to arrive sooner, because Easter Sunday is a day of celebration, a time for joyful worship, and a time to feast after fasting. After observing 50 days of Lent many may have kept the Holy-Week and Lent-Prayer-Books away until the season returns next year. Good Friday and Easter should not be viewed as two days for observance once each year, but as two sides of the same coin to be appropriated in our lives every day (read Colossians 3:1-4). In the liturgy of the Holy Qurbana we say, “Lord we remember your death, we celebrate your resurrection.”

Did the mission of Jesus Christ fail on Good Friday? No. That is the day Jesus reigned from the cross. He carried a thief with Him to paradise. The Roman centurion (non-Jew) watching the death of Jesus said, “This man is truly the Son of God!” The veil of the temple was torn, symbolizing that the door of salvation was open for all who turn to God.

The resurrection of Jesus is for the resurrection of His people - the Church. The book of the ‘Acts of the Apostles’ is an evidence of that resurrection experience whereby the Apostles with the power of risen Jesus turned the world ‘upside down.’ Easter is not a one day event, it is the zero-point from which, ignited by the power of Jesus’ resurrection, one can go to greater heights (in meeting the risen Jesus at Galilee) from the foot of the cross to the day of consummation where we will meet Jesus again and rejoice with the fellow beings in the Kingdom of God.

He is risen! He will come again! Halleluiah!

-Mar Theodosius+

Clergy Transfers



The Achens who joined this Diocese in May 2012 are transferring to serve in other locations this year. They rendered dedicated service in various capacities, and their leadership, love, and care have helped our parishes and the Diocese. On behalf of the Diocese, we express sincere thanks and offer our very best wishes for the success of their ongoing ministry.

Young Family Northeast Regional One-Day Retreat

The Young Family Northeast Regional One-Day Retreat was held at the St. Thomas MTC on March 28, 2015. The theme was “Home Improvement Plans.” Rev. Jerome Tailor spoke on the theme during the morning session and Rev. V. M. Mathew led the session on “Parenting” in the afternoon. The St. Thomas Young Family fellowship hosted the event.



Youth Fellowship Northeast Regional Spring One-Day Conference



The Youth Fellowship Northeast Regional Spring One-Day Conference was held at the Long Island MTC on April 4, 2015. The theme was "Holy Cow." Rev. V. M. Mathew, Dr. Ron Jacob, Mr. Prijo Thomas, Mrs. Jocin Thomas, and Mrs. Susan Thomas led different sessions on Addictions, Material Possessions, Church, etc. The Long Island MTC Youth fellowship hosted the event and offered a farewell to the Achens who are transferred.

Southwest Region Clergy Family Conference

A meeting of the clergy family of the Southwest region was held on April 4, 2015, at the Sehion MTC, Dallas. The meeting was presided by his Grace The most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese led the opening prayer. Rev. Sam Mathew welcomed the Metropolitan and all the clergy and their families. In his presidential address, the Metropolitan spoke of the significance of Easter and also briefed on the responsibilities of the clergy and families in the present day scenario. A farewell meeting was also held for the clergy being transferred from this Diocese, at which time Rev. Kochukoshy and Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese delivered felicitation speeches and Rev. O.C. Kurien responded on behalf of the clergy on transfer and their families. The Metropolitan presented mementos to the Achens and their families.



Southeast Regional Youth Fellowship Spring Conference



The Southeast Regional Youth Fellowship One-Day Spring Conference was held on April 4, 2015 and was hosted by the Mar Thoma Church of Greater Washington Youth Fellowship. It was a fulfilling experience with about 150 registrants. The theme for the conference was "Are We There Yet?" The theme verse was John 14:3, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." The main speaker for the conference was Dr. Shaun Rajan.

2015 Western Region Sevika Sanghom Conference

The Western Region Sevika Sanghom Conference was held at MTC of Los Angeles on March 14, 2015. Rev. Biju. P. Simon led the devotional talk based on Luke 1: 26-38. He talked about Mary - the blessed woman. After the Presidential address by Rev. Mathew John, Rev. Larry P. Varghese presented the main talk based on the theme "Women in Ministry". He mentioned the role of women and its necessity in Church ministry. A post-lunch session started with Roshen kochamma (Rev. Larry P. Varghese's wife), explaining the various situations facing the women in Bahamas. Mrs. Annieamma Philip (Rev. Mathew John's wife) delivered a motivational speech based on Philippians 4. The conference was a blessing to all who attended.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 30- July 1, 2015 – Diocesan Clergy Family Conference

July 2, 2015 – Diocesan Assembly

July 2-5, 2015 – Diocesan Family Conference



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