

Besorah

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

“The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life.” - Proverbs 15:4
“Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing.” - James 3:10

Dear Friends in Christ,

Conversations! We all engage in conversations almost every day. Speaking could encourage others to listen, and listening could encourage others to speak. Elkanah spoke to his wife Hannah, as we read in 1 Samuel 1:8, and that good conversation energized Hannah to gain courage and stop fasting. Rebecca spoke to her son Jacob, as we read in Genesis 27:6, and that conversation brought many struggles and difficulties to Jacob's life. Hence, conversations can either be good or bad and can produce either positive or negative outcomes.

We now enter into the Advent season. Christmas reminds us of two women - Elizabeth and Mary. We note that they met each other in Zachariah's house (St. Luke 1:39-45), when Mary went in search of Elizabeth who was in hiding for about 5 months. Mary then stayed with Elizabeth for 3 months. Both were pregnant, and both had experienced unusual pregnancies, hence they longed for privacy. Yet the conversation that happened when both met was amazing as it renewed their status. They overcame fear, anxiety, and shame, and moved to a state of wonder and excitement in what the Lord was doing in and through them.

How are our conversations at home, in the church, and in society?

Meaningful and dignified conversations at home make the life of each family member full of joy and hope. Home is a place where memories, stories, and relationships are made and cherished. Home is a place where one must be relaxed and at ease, rather than tense and anxious. Then it becomes a space of significance, meaning, and relevance. In modern society where people live in different life situations because of social, economic, political, and religious reasons, the major cause of hopelessness is the 'homelessness of the mind'.

In our churches (parishes and congregations), proper conversations help build healthy relationships that enrich humanity. Is our parish uplifting the members to feel at home through positive affirmations, sincere fellowship, and creative participation? How about our conversations with strangers and enemies? Acts 9: 10-18 speaks about Ananias meeting Saul and calling him, 'brother'. The conversation between Jacob and Esau (Gen.33:10) helps them to see 'the image of God' in each other.

This Christmas season let us make our home and parishes better and more hospitable places where our love is shared, lives are loved, and relationships are built through proper conversations. Our relationship with others reveals our faith in God.

WISHING YOU A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!

Mar Theodosius+

Southeast Regional Activity Committee



A meeting of the RAC Executive Committee of the Mar Thoma Southeast Regional Activity Committee took place on Tuesday, Nov 17th, 2015 at Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Philadelphia. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa did the opening prayer and presided over the meeting. Dennis Abraham informed members that RAC is registered as tax-exempt. Donations will be sent to Mexico Mission and Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission. Closing prayer was offered by Rev. Binoy J. Thomas and benediction by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa.

Southern Regional Family Conference and Choir Fest 2015

The Southern Regional Family Conference and 7th Southern Regional Choir Fest was held on October 23rd to the 25th at Christian Retreat Center, Florida. The theme of the conference was “Our Generation: Our Responsibility” based on Psalm 90:1. The conference was hosted by St. Mark’s Mar Thoma Church Tampa, FL. The conference was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Thirumeni introduced the theme. Rev. Fr. Bobby Jose Kattikkadu, the famous meditation guru and author, was the main speaker. His inspiring message was enriching experience to all and encouraged a time of rededication. There were 180 members participating in the conference and it was a blessed occasion for all who attended.



Northeast Regional Clergy Family Conference



A meeting of the Northeast Regional Clergy and Family was held at the Long Island Mar Thoma Church on November 3rd, 2015 at 10 am. Rev Denny Philip led the Bible study based on the book, “Death on a Friday Afternoon” written by Richard John Neuhaus. Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese presented the reflection based on the book “Vanishing Grace” written by Philip Yancy. Thirumeni reminded Achens about the importance of the Lenten season as we observe the Christ event. We should distinguish between the faith in Jesus and faith of Jesus.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 7-10**
Leadership Conference
“Feed My Sheep”
Dallas, Texas
- **February 14-21**
Maramon Convention
- **March 6**
Diocesan Sunday
- **March 31 – April 1**
Diocesan Clergy Conference
Philadelphia, PA
- **April 1-2**
Diocesan Assembly

Southeast Regional Clergy Family Conference

A meeting of the Southeast Regional Clergy Fellowship was held at The Bethel Mar Thoma Church, Philadelphia on November 17th, 2015. The devotion was led by Rev. Mathews Abraham on John 10:1-18. This was followed by a paper presentation on the topic “Journeying through Grief --Coping with the loss of parents” by Rev. Thomas Samuel. Thirumeni reminded Achens to address various issues. It was a blessed time for clergy with Thirumeni.



Midwest Regional Clergy Family Conference

The Midwest Regional Clergy Family Fellowship was held at the Chicago Mar Thoma Church parsonage on November 9th, 2015. Rev. Dr. K. Salomon led the bible study based on Matthew 5. 38-42. Thirumeni gave the presidential address where he stressed the importance of understanding the context of our ministry and doing our ministry seriously so that we are able to meet the needs of the immigrant community who are now the people of the land. Decision to meet via teleconference on the 3rd Wednesday of every month was made.



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