



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,

‘It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourself be burdened again by a yoke of slavery’ Galatians 5:1.

Canada Day was celebrated on July 1. American independence was commemorated on July 4. These holidays are for people in their respective countries to gather and enjoy various festivities honoring their independence. In a similar manner, the Holy Bible reminds the children of God of the freedom God has given to each one of us.

Galatians 5:1 tells us about the freedom Christ has given us through His death and resurrection: freedom from Sin, wrath of God, the Law, and the ‘desires of the flesh’. How do we experience that freedom in our daily life? We should experience that freedom through: (1) daily assurance that Christ is our Savior who is willing to forgive our sins. It is not a license to sin, but an expression of God’s grace; (2) understanding that difficulties, sickness, and pain are not because of the wrath of God, because Jesus tells us that God is love and calls us to abide in that love; (3) reading the Holy Scripture and recognizing that it is given to us not to enslave us with the do’s and don’ts in it, but to show us the divine light in our path for a righteous living; and (4) accepting that humans live in the world not by becoming a slave to the desires of the flesh and the desires of the world. We are reminded that we belong to God and are called to be holy.

Living free enables us to take up responsibilities for all that God has given us and for becoming a source of blessing for others. We can do so only if we are willing to care and serve others with a spirit of vicarious sacrifice. It reminds us of the love of God and the need to love others. Jesus gave us a new commandment: ‘Love as I have loved you’. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13 that, the greatest of all is love (v.13). God loves you. When God’s love grows in us through Christ, we feel free by the guidance of the Holy Spirit to let that love flow on to others.

Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

Canada Region MTC Family Conference 2014 & Canada Region Clergy Conference

The 2nd Canada Region Mar Thoma Family Conference hosted by St. Thomas MTC, Calgary, was held at the Rocky Mountain Resort, Banff, Canada, from June 27 to 29, 2014. The theme of the Conference was ‘Celebrating Life with Christ’ based on Luke 19: 9. The main leaders of the conference were Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos Episcopa. Rev. Dr. P. L. John Panicker, Rev. Mathew Baby, Rev. Biju K. George and Rev. Rajan Koshy led the bible studies and the youth sessions. Ms. Alison Koshy (Edmonton) led the session for Sunday school children. More than 180 delegates participated from different parishes and congregations across Canada and USA.

The Canada region Clergy Family Fellowship met along with the regional family conference. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Thirumeni appreciated all the clergy and their families for taking active participation in the regional family conference and expressed his gratitude to Rev. Biju K. George and members of the St. Thomas MTC for organizing the family conference. Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Mar Theethos Thirumeni shared his thoughts and blessings.



UK Mar Thoma Youth Conference 2014

The UK Mar Thoma youth conference was held from June 27 to 29, 2014 at Cefn Lea Conference Centre, Wales. The conference was hosted by the Carmel MTC Youth fellowship, Liverpool, and the theme was 'Lightened for Life' (based on the verse 'For you were once in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.' Ephesians 5:8). Over 85 delegates participated, and included youths from 7 Mar Thoma Churches across England. The speakers for the conference were Rev. Dr. Jacob Thomas and Dr. Sam George, and they provided



interactive and insightful messages for the young people. Twenty-seven people committed their life to the Lord and many others rededicated their lives for a closer walk with Christ. The conference allowed all who attended to have a deeper relationship with God and have a clear understanding of how to be shining lights within their church and the community.

Southeast Region Junior/Senior Conference 2014

The 3rd annual Junior/Senior Conference of the Southeast Region Sunday Schools was held at Ramapo College, NJ, from July 3 to 6, 2014. More than 290 delegates attended. The theme of the conference was 'Be Imitators of the Lord' (Ephesians 5:1). Our Metropolitan, the Most. Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma inaugurated the conference. This was the first time our Metropolitan inaugurated and participated in a Junior/Senior conference within our Diocese. Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius introduced the theme. Dr. Shaun Rajan, Ms. Betty Vattakunnel, Rev. Dennis Abraham, and Rev. V. M. Mathew were the leaders. The Conference was a blessed event for all those who attended. It is our prayer that our students continue to be imitators of Christ shining their lights in this darkened world.



Inauguration of the activities of Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam



The inauguration of the activities of Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam of the Diocese was held on June 14, 2014, at the Staten Island MTC, NY. His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius inaugurated the activities by lighting the lamp. In his remarkable key note address, Thirumeni highlighted the following needs: to know our time and read the signs; to recognize our responsibility to nurture the creative responses of the youth; to learn to communicate for building communities; and to understand that 'Churching the Diaspora' is our ministry.

Birthday Celebrations for the Metropolitan

On July 4, 2014, a celebration and thanksgiving prayer was offered at the Sinai Center in honor of our Metropolitan's birthday, which was on June 27. All the clergy from the northeast region, their families, Diocesan Council members Mr. Samuel K. Samuel and Dr. Ron Jacob, Mr. Thomas Oommen (office assistant), and Mr. Thomas Daniel attended the function. Theodosius Thirumeni addressed the gathering and highlighted the various contributions and leadership of our Metropolitan. The program included songs, felicitations, and cake cutting.



Upcoming Camps and Conferences

July 10-13	Junior/Senior Conference, Northeast Region	Ramapo College, NJ
July 11-13	Junior/Senior Conference Midwest Region	Detroit MTC
July 17-20	National Youth Conference, Chicago	St. Thomas MTC, Chicago
July 17-20	Southern Region Youth Fellowship Conference	North Carolina MTC
July 24-27	MTVEA National Conference	Chicago MTC
August 28-31	Regional Family Conference, Europe	Tabore MTC, UK



Sinai Mar Thoma Center
2320 Merrick Avenue
Merrick, New York 11566
www.marthomanae.org

Contact Information:
Phone # 516 377 3311
Fax # 516 377 3322
Email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com

Editors of the Besorah:
Rev. Binoy Thomas
Dr. Mathew T. Thomas
Ms. Betty Vattakunnel