



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,

The New York Times on Saturday, May 31, 2014, published a feature on Father Emil J. Kapaun, a Roman Catholic priest who lived in Wichita, Kansas, in the 1940s. As a 24 year-old youth, Father Kapaun reflected on his ordained ministry by saying, "Maybe you do not realize fully what it means to be a priest, but I tell you - after I have studied all these years, I am more convinced that a man must be a living saint in order to take that step. And that is where my worries come in." He was pointing to his unworthiness. Father Kapaun served in both World War II and the Korean War as an Army Chaplain. He died in a communist prison camp in 1951. He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2013 by President Obama in recognition of his willingness to commit, willingness to be selfless, and willingness to serve. He is also considered a saint among his friends and believers of the church.

In June our Church receives applications from students willing to go for theological studies and live in a seminary. Our Diocese will have two candidates this year. The Sabha Tharaka, our Church's official magazine, also carries the names of those individuals who after seminary training are awaiting ordination. Father E. J. Kapaun, who in both spiritual and secular fields revealed heroic virtue and led a saintly life, is a model to emulate.

Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

Mar Theodosius+, Diocesan Episcopa

The Mar Thoma Delegation at the NCCC-USA Meeting



Dr. Jim Winkler, the President and General Secretary of National Council of Christian Churches in the United States of America (NCCC-USA) convened a national meeting at Washington D.C. on May 18, 19 and 20, 2014, and welcomed the delegates. The delegates representing 45 million people from more than 100,000 local congregations participated in an event filled with worship, music, Bible Study and discussion of crucial national issues. The Mar Thoma Church was represented at the meetings by four delegates - Rev. Jaisen A. Thomas (Virginia), Dr. Jesudas Athyal (Boston), Ms. Arlene Mathew (Houston) and Dr. Shaun Rajan (Connecticut). The General Secretary met the delegates and expressed his appreciation of the contributions of Mar Thoma Church to the Council.

Clergy Meeting North East Center-A



A clergy meeting of the North East Center A was held at the Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, NY, on June 3, 2014. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. Rev. Shibu Mathew, Vicar, Epiphany Mar Thoma Church, welcomed all. The meeting included discussions on Diocesan and Parish matters.

Tree Planting at Diocesan Center - Going Green

The Sinai family consisting of outgoing and incoming Diocesan Secretaries and their families, along with Mr. Thomas Oommen and Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese planted trees to celebrate the occasion of the transition of the Diocesan Secretaries. Rev. K. E. Geevarghese and Dr. Reena Geevarghese left the Diocese on April 28, 2014, to take charge as Vicar of MTC, Anaprampal, Edathua. Rev. Binoy Joseph Thomas and family joined at the Diocese on the same day. Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa wished both Achens all the best in their new assignments.



Diocesan Council 2014 – 2017



The first meeting of the Diocesan Council for the term 2014 to 2017 was held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, at the Dallas Mar Thoma Church, Farmers Branch, Texas. Our Diocesan Episcopa presided over the meeting and led a retreat. The Council transacted various items on the agenda and constituted all the sub committees for the term 2014 to 2017.

Seated (From left to right): Rev. Biju P. Simon, Mr. Philip Thomas (Diocesan Treasurer), Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, Rev. Binoy J. Thomas (Diocesan Secretary), and Rev. Dennis Abraham.

Standing 1st Row (From left to right): Mr. George Mathai, Ms. Sini Jacob, Mrs. Susan Koshy, Mrs. Mariamma Abraham, Mrs. Kusumam Titus, Dr. Mathew T. Thomas, and Mr. Baby M. Samuel.

Standing 2nd Row (From left to right): Mr. Samuel K. Samuel, Mr. Jaffey Chacko, Mr. Zachariah Koshy, Dr. Ronny Jacob, Mr. Jason Varghese, Mr. Jorge V. Wilson, and Mr. Zachariah Mathew.

Metropolitan's Visit



Our Metropolitan the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma visited the Sinai center on May, 2014. Thirumeni attended various programs in the Diocese. Theodosius Thirumeni, Diocesan Secretary, Program Manager, and other members of our church received the Metropolitan on May 7, 2014. The Metropolitan left USA on May 21, 2014, and the Metropolitan Thirumeni's visit was a blessing to this Diocese.

Northeast Regional Activity Committee

The Regional Activity Committee (RAC) of the Northeast Region met at Long Island Mar Thoma Church on June 6, 2014. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided over the meeting. The RAC of the Northeast Region is made up of the Vicars, Youth Chaplains, Parish Office Bearers, Council Members, Assembly Members and Mandalam Members of the region. The Diocesan Bishop, Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Treasurer serve as ex-officio members.

The RAC agreed to organize the 31st National Family Conference of the Diocese of North America & Europe for 2015. The RAC also created a Core Committee for planning its activities, constituted various committees for the Family Conference, and also appointed new members to the Christian Education Forum (CEF). Rev. Shinoi Joseph, Vicar Long Island MTC welcomed everyone and Rev. Shibu Mathew the RAC convener thanked everyone in attendance.



"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." –C.S. Lewis

Camps and Conferences in June & July

Date	Program	Venue / Host
June 19-22	Mar Thoma West Coast Regional Youth Conference	Cal Baptist University
June 27 – 29	Regional Family Conference, Canada Theme: Celebrating Life with Christ	Resort at Banff
July 03 – 06	Junior/Senior Conference, Southeast Region Theme: Be imitators of the Lord	Ramapo College
July 4- 6	Southwest Regional Sunday School Conference	Immanuel MTC, Houston
July 10 - 13	Junior/Senior Conference, Northeast Region Theme: Be an Example (1 Timothy 4: 12)	Ramapo College
July 12-15	Junior/Senior Conference: Midwest Region	Host Parish: Detroit MTC
July 17 – 20	Youth Fellowship Conference, Chicago Theme: Facing the Giants	Host Parish: St. Thomas MTC Chicago
July 24 – 27	MTVEA National Conference Theme: Share the Word; Save the World.	Host Parish: Chicago MTC



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The Besorah is a brief overview of some of the Diocesan news and activities. For more information, please refer to the Diocesan website and/or the Messenger.