



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,

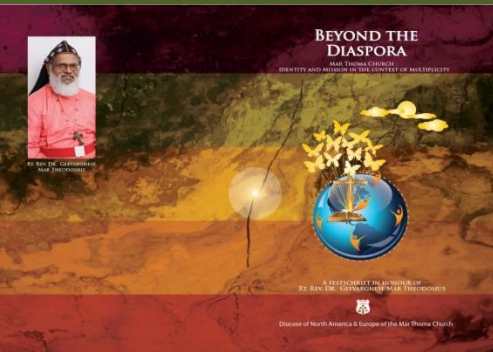
We are in the Great Lent that lasts for 50 days. One of the purposes of observing lent is to draw ourselves closer to God so that we will carry out God's will in our lives. Jesus Christ is our model. He intimately kept Himself closer to God to know His will on every occasion and at every place. Though He studied the scripture thoroughly, He re-read it during every worldly encounter to confirm that He carried out the purpose of God. This led Him to abandon Himself by emptying Himself on the cross for the redemption of the whole creation. During this lent can we learn to abandon ourselves for God's purposes?

Another purpose of lent is to develop the mind of Jesus. Phil 2:5. We see in Jesus that He did incarnate in the life situation of the people, especially those that were marginalized by reaching out to them. He was accessible to the beggar on the side of the road near Jericho, the Canaanite woman, the lepers who were cast out, the man living in the tomb, the Samaritan woman, the thief on the Cross and the like. How I wish that the lent teaches us to reach out with the Gospel in word and deed to the marginalized in our own neighborhood.

May the season of lent become meaningful and transform our lives. God bless us all!

Mar Theodosius+

## Episcopal Jubilee Celebration and Festschrift



The Episcopal Silver Jubilee celebration will be held at the Philadelphia Mar Thoma Church on Friday April 4, 2014 at 8 p. m. The Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian, a Presbyterian of the Church of South India, and currently Dean and H. George Anderson Professor of Mission and Culture, and Director of the Multicultural Mission Resource Center at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, will be the chief guest. The Festschrift, "**Beyond the Diaspora, Mar Thoma Church: Identity and Mission in the Context of Multiplicity**" will be released on that occasion in honor of Mar Theodosius Thirumeni. This book is a collection of essays and tributes written by a group of eminent people from different walks of life.

## Diocesan Annual Assembly 2014

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of North America and Europe of the MTC will be held at the Philadelphia MTC, 1085 Camphill Road, Fort Washington, PA 19034 on Friday, April 4, 2014, at 6:00 pm (U. S. EDT), and on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 9:00 am (U. S. EDT). The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius will preside over the meeting. During this meeting the Diocesan Assembly will elect a new Diocesan Council.

## Annual Clergy Conference 2014

The Diocesan Annual Clergy Conference will be held at the Philadelphia MTC, PA, on April 3 and 4, 2014. The theme of the Clergy Conference is 'Churching the Diaspora'. Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius and Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniel, Germany will be the main leaders of the conference. There will be separate sessions for main talks, Bible Study, singing, group discussion, intercession and sharing. A special orientation program for Video Conferencing and use of IT technology in ministry is also arranged. A farewell meeting for the Achens transferred from this diocese in 2014 will be held along with the Clergy Meeting.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Western Regional "MTVEA" One Day Conference Meeting 2014



The first Mar Thoma Voluntary Evangelists Association (MTVEA) Conference of the western region, hosted by the Phoenix MTC of Arizona, was held at Sun Valley Church, AZ, on Saturday, February 15, 2014. The theme of the conference was "Discipleship". 50 families from across the Western Region attended and made the conference a blessing. The main leaders of the conference included Rev. V. G. Varghese (Vicar, Phoenix- MTC), Rev. Thomas John (Vicar, LA-MTC), Rev. Larry Varghese (Vicar, Horeb, MTC-LA) and Rev. T. K. Viji (Vicar, SFO-MTC).

## Birthday Celebration of Mar Theodosius at Maramon

February 19, 2014 marked the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius. A celebration was arranged at Maramon Convention Stall on February 14, 2014 at 9 a.m. Mar Coorilos Thirumeni prayed on the occasion. Rev. Vinoy Daniel, former Diocesan Secretary, offered felicitations. Mar Theodosius Thirumeni cut a cake in the presence of a good number of aches and laity who were present at the occasion.



## Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Consecration – Celebration at Thiruvalla



The Diocese of North America and Europe arranged a get-together and fellowship dinner in connection with the Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal consecration of our three Bishops; Rt. Rev. Geevarghese Mar Athanasius, Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, and Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, at 6.30 pm on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Auditorium, SCS Campus, Thiruvalla. The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan presided over the meeting. The Bishops of our Church and main speakers of Maramon Convention blessed the occasion with their prayers and presence.

The Very Rev. P. T. Thomas, the senior Vicar General and Sabha Secretary welcomed all. The Kuttapuzha Jerusalem MTC choir sang melodious songs. The Suffragan Metropolitan, Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus, The Sabha Lay Trustee and Treasurer Adv. Varghese Mammen, Sabha Council Member Rev. Roy A. Thomas, USA, and the North America and Europe Diocesan Council Member Mr. Varghese P. Varghese gave felicitation messages. To mark the occasion there was a cake cutting. Diocesan Treasurer Mr. Chacko Mathew expressed vote of thanks. There was a fellowship dinner following the meeting. Around 300 people attended the program.

## South West Regional Conference of Sevika Sangham, Edavaka Mission, and Yuvajana Sakhyam

A two-day joint Regional Conference of the Mar Thoma Sevika Sangham, Edavaka Mission, and Yuvajana Sakhyam in the South West Region of the Diocese was held at the Trinity MTC, Houston, from Friday, February 21 to Saturday, February 22, 2014. About 300 people participated in the Conference. Rev. K. E. Geevarghese, Diocesan Secretary was the main leader of the Conference. He introduced the theme of the Conference, "Christian Destination" and presented two papers. The Conference was a blessing for the delegates.



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