

HER
CHILDREN RISE UP AND
CALL HER **BLESSED**
- PROVERBS 31:28



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,

“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy” Ps. 126: 5

It is that time of the year when we start vegetable gardens. At the Sinai Center in NY, we started early by planting some seeds indoors where we think the conditions are better for sprouting. When the soil gets warmer, we will transplant the seedlings outside. Once the plants take roots in the garden, we have the process of weeding, feeding, watering, and guarding against insects and harmful creatures. We want the plants to grow and yield results. Though this is now part of the ‘going green program,’ it is also teaching us great lessons as the Diocese is preparing for the Family Conference in July with the Theme: ‘Harvest 2015’ (Hosea 6: 11). Let us look at three of the lessons we can learn.

1. The earth and all the produce belong to God. Psalms 24: 1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.” God is the provider. We can only plant and water. God gives the growth that the plant needs. This is true about humans as well. St. Paul reminds the Christians in Corinth that they do not belong to Paul or Apollos, but they are God’s field (1 Cor.3: 6-9)
2. Humans are created to work in the garden and keep it beautiful (Gen. 2: 15). We are created to work with God. When the harvest is good, the Holy Bible warns us against all sorts of boasting, hoarding, or falling into the spirit of complacency that takes us away from God-consciousness (Luke 12: 13-21). We are called to be good stewards who are accountable to God and kind to the needy. Others have a share in our resources.
3. God controls the seasons. We depend on God for the morning dew, the sunlight, and the rains. Our God is a loving and caring God. He remains faithful to His promises. God’s love motivates us to care for others. The faithfulness of God prompts us to be faithful and obedient to His awesomeness.

There is joy in having a good garden (Ps.8: 1). In spite of all our hard work, we cannot but praise God for all His blessings. We experience the joy in God’s presence when He calls us “good and faithful.” As you join the ‘going green program’, I encourage all of you to set apart time for the study of the Word of God and reflect upon the themes that are presented through the Diocesan Family Conference and other conferences during the year. May God bless us all!

Mar Theodosius+

Upcoming Events

1. National Diocesan Family Conference

Date: Thursday, July 2-5, 2015. Venue: Hilton Stamford Hotel, Stamford, CT.

Theme: *‘Harvest in the Family of Families – Hope for Humanity’ Hosea 6:11.*

Hosted by Northeast Regional Activity Committee (RAC)

Please note that the cut-off date for Registration is Sunday, May 31, 2015.

For more Information Contact: Email: info@mtfc2015.org

Telephone Numbers: (516) 377-3311; (718) 612-1891; (914) 498-9990

Family conference website www.mtfc2015.org



2. **Diocesan Clergy Family Conference 2015:** June 30-July1, 2015. Venue: St. Thomas MTC, New York

3. **2015 Diocesan Assembly:** Thursday, July 2, 2015. Venue: St. Thomas MTC, New York.

4. **1st Mar Thoma Youth Conference of Europe:** June 26-28, 2015. Hosted by Carmel MTC, Liverpool.

5. **Toronto Regional Conference:** May 15-18, 2015. Hosted by St. Mathew's MTC, Toronto.

Clergy Get Together at Sinai Center, NY



On April 20, 2015, a get together was held at the Sinai Center, NY, for the clergies and families departing from the US on transfer. Mar Theodosius Episcopa, the outgoing clergies from the Northeast Region, their families, and the Sinai Center family members attended. Mr. Samuel K. Samuel (Diocesan Council Member) rendered the felicitation for the outgoing clergies and thanked them for their service in this Diocese. Rev. V. M. Mathew gave the reply. Thirumeni thanked the achenes and their families for their leadership and whole-hearted participation and support in the all programs of the Diocese. Thirumeni appreciated their hard work and offered his good wishes and prayers for their ministry in the days ahead.

Southeast Regional Clergy Conference

The Regional Clergy Conference of the Southeast Region was held on April 13, 2015, at the Philadelphia MTC. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius presided. Rev. Reji Thomas welcomed everyone. Mrs. Usha Elizabeth Abraham led the devotion. Rev. Alex Kolath presented a paper on "Balancing Career and Family." The organizational responsibilities of the clergy in the Southeast Region were discussed, and decided upon, during the meeting. A farewell was arranged for Rev. Shaji M.E. and family. Rev. Thomas Samuel rendered the vote of thanks.



Northeast Regional Clergy Conference



The Northeast Regional Clergy Family meeting was held at the St. James MTC on April 7, 2015. Rev. Dr. Philip Varghese presided and Rev. Shibu Mathew led the devotional talk based on 2 Chronicles 19: 4-7. Rev. Y. George led a book review on "The Alchemist" written by Paulo Coelho. Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Binoy J. Thomas, provided an update on various diocesan matters and upcoming programs. A farewell was arranged for the achenes leaving the US on transfer, and their families. Rev. Binoy J. Thomas and Rev. Shinoi Joseph offered felicitations on behalf of the diocese and region, respectively. Rev. V. M. Mathew responded on behalf of the transferred achenes. Rev. Y. George proposed the vote of thanks.

Mexico Mission Visit



On April 25-26th, members of the Horeb MTC, Mammen Thomas, Saji Baby, and Binoy Abraham, along with the Vicar, Rev. Larry Varghese, went to Mexico to spend time at Colonia Mar Thoma and to celebrate a Holy Qurbana service. They had a chance to interact with a few families there and hear the

good reports of how many of the children from Colonia Mar Thoma have graduated with professional and post-graduate level degrees. They also had the opportunity to conduct a Holy Qurbana service in Spanish and English. They conducted portions of the liturgy in Spanish such as the Kauma, the Nicene Creed, the Epistle and Gospel readings, the words of Institutions and the Rushmas (blessings). The sermon was in English and was interpreted in Spanish. Using the native language made the service more meaningful to the residents at Colonia Mar Thoma. Overall, it was a wonderful time for fellowship and worship. The team that visited Colonia Mar Thoma was able to see firsthand how the Mar Thoma Mexico Mission work has made quantitative and qualitative differences for the people there through the power of the Gospel and Christian love.



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