

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

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BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As members of the Mar Thoma Church, we observe Environmental Sunday on June 11, 2023. The creation accounts in Genesis remind us that all that God has created is "very good." In creating the world, God's loving concern is extended to the whole of creation, not just to human beings. We must recognize that we cannot separate ourselves from the rest of the created order. We are to be dependent upon our Creator and to embrace our interdependent relationship with other creatures and the environment. Thus, we are called to a life of stewardship, to "till and keep" the earth, and to strive for harmony with all of creation.

As we commemorate Environmental Sunday, let us renew our commitment to be responsible stewards of the earth's resources. Let us take up healthy and effective practices that enable us to preserve the environment, allowing it to thrive and remain vibrant. The Diocese encourages everyone to adopt environmentally-friendly and 'green' initiatives in our parishes, communities, and homes as a sign of our stewardship towards creation.

Additionally, let us not forget the blessings that come with undertaking gardening and other agricultural endeavors. Such practices are not only beneficial for the earth but also positively affect the health of human beings in many valuable ways. This year, to motivate our members to engage in gardening, the Diocese will be recognizing those who best take up this initiative on the premises of the church or parsonage. A special memento will be presented to the best and most fruitful gardens in the Diocese. Further details regarding the selection process will be informed later.

In the spirit of stewardship, let us commit ourselves to building a better world for the glory of God Almighty and the preservation of the environment.

Yours in His Ministry,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Episcopa

