

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Bishop

Rev. Aju Abraham
Diocesan/Bishop's Secretary

Mr. George P. Babu
Diocesan Treasurer



Sinai Mar Thoma Center
2320 S. Merrick Avenue
Merrick, NY 11566
Tel: (516) 377-3311
Fax: (516) 377-3322

Email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com

DC/319/2021
September 2, 2021

To: **The Members of the Parishes & Congregations in the
Diocese of North America and Europe**

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are all aware that many people throughout North America have been gravely affected by the recent hurricanes Henri and Ida. Particularly, the fierce winds and torrential rain caused by Hurricane Ida have produced devastating floods and damaged many homes, leaving many families displaced. The coastlines of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama were among the areas that were hit the hardest. The remnants of Hurricane Ida also impacted the northeastern portion of the United States where heavy rain and tornadoes caused immense destruction. As a result of these recent storms, several people have lost their lives and thousands of others are without basic necessities and are struggling.

In this time of great difficulty, let us remember and take to heart the words that God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you" (Isaiah 43:2a). Let us be assured of God's presence and continue to trust in His providence during these challenging times. Let us uphold our Christian responsibility to extend a helping hand to our brethren as well as to the larger community during this time of need. Parishes and individuals are encouraged to help support the ongoing relief and rehabilitation efforts that are taking place in the various communities that have been affected.

Let us stand in solidarity with all those who are hurting and distressed and uphold all such communities in our prayers. May God Almighty provide the comfort and healing that leads to renewal and restoration.

Yours in Christ's Service,

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Episcopa**

