

# THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

## The Mar Thoma Church

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### **BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MAR THOMA PARISHES & CONGREGATIONS IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE.**

**Dearly Beloved in Christ,**

We celebrate November 27, 2022, the Sunday after Thanksgiving Day, as **Diaspora Sunday** for the Diocese of North America and Europe. It is a time to reflect upon the struggles faced in life and to thank God for the divine grace experienced as a faith community. We recollect God's providence in the faith journey of the people of God: "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous" (Deuteronomy 26:5).

The Mar Thoma Church, having its historical roots in India, is proud of the Diaspora Community spread far and wide living in different continents. Diaspora Sunday is an occasion to praise God for our members who, after immigrating to various continents, held on to their faith, expressing their loyalty to the Church and engaging in the ministry of community formation and community living. The dedication and sacrifice of the first-generation Mar Thoma immigrants to North America and Europe is commendable.

We now have 66 parishes and 12 congregations in seven regions spread throughout the United States and Canada. It is noteworthy that the second and third generation of Mar Thoma immigrants dwelling in various continents try their best to identify with the local cultures and contexts. Let us be grateful to all those who spent their lives, talents, time, and wealth for the formation of parishes and congregations and to nurture spiritual growth. The present generation has the responsibility to take care of and respect the older generations and continue the ministry by leading a meaningful Christian life with strong faith and hope.

All the parishes and congregations are encouraged to observe Diaspora Sunday meaningfully by using the special order of worship and praising God for the faith, life, and witness of the Diaspora Community.

May the blessings of God be with us all.

**Yours in Christ's Ministry,**

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

