

Give
thanks
to the
LORD
for He is good
His love endures
forever



Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma *Besorah*

The *Besorah* is an Official Publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe.

EVENTS

Leadership Conference
Staten Island, NY
January 3-6, 2013

Ecumenical Dinner
Houston Immanuel Hall
January 18, 2013

**Inauguration of Diocesan
Silver Jubilee Celebration**
January 19, 2013

Diocesan Clergy Conference
Chicago
April 11-12, 2013

Diocesan Assembly Meeting
Chicago
April 12-13, 2013

INDIA MISSION



Since 2013 is the Jubilee year of the Diocese, the India Mission Trip will be for five different groups which will give more rooms for the younger generation in the Diocese to know about the Indian mission fields, the people in the fields and the activities that are going on in the mission areas.

The Diocese is considering sending different teams from USA, Canada and UK to different places in India, depending on the availability of candidates and also volunteers to lead them. The visit will be for 15 days in the months of June to August, 2013.

**If interested, contact
Mrs. Laila Annie Philip
(varampathu23@msn.com) or
the Diocesan Office by
2/15/2013.**

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Since late October and early November many church members in the North East and South East regions in USA of our Diocese have been recovering from the impact of the super-storm Sandy and the snow storm that followed. It is comforting to know that all our members were safe and that our parish buildings and properties withstood Mother Nature's forces. Through the media we learned of the adverse effects of these natural disasters on the lives of millions of fellow Americans. About 175 lives were lost, and many lost their homes and belongings. When any one of us suffers, all of humanity suffers. Hence, we need to remember the affected people in our prayers and identify ways by which we could assist in their recovery.

The parishes in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia should consider sending volunteers for relief work, participate in blood donations, and if possible partner with the Federal, State and/or Local governments to bring normalcy. We should get involved in rescue operations and in restorative and rehabilitation efforts. Our solidarity to the suffering can also be expressed through our voluntary and generous financial contributions for the relief work channeled through the respective parishes and congregations and the diocese.

America has elected President Obama for a second term. While congratulating the President, I hope and pray that God will grant him the grace to set his priority for serving humanity in a manner that is pleasing to God and peaceful to all peoples.

Let us pray that God will enable us to stand along with the suffering people with a mission to improve lives. We are called to be Ambassadors of Jesus Christ who died vicariously and said: 'I have come so that you may have life and have it abundantly'.

-Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa

DIOCESAN SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS-2013

The Diocese of North America and Europe will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of its existence in 2013. This is a time to thank God for His bountiful blessings and pray for His perpetual guidance as we plan for the future. The Diocesan Council has proposed the following:-

1. The Theme for the year-round celebrations will be **Jubilee: Church Journeying with Christ**.
2. Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee celebrations will be held in Houston, on Saturday, January 19, 2013.
3. The first Sunday in July will be celebrated as 'Diocesan Thanksgiving Sunday'.
4. To commemorate the Jubilee year a Jubilee Volume/Directory will be published.
5. Encouraging five batches, each with at least 10 members, of second and third generation youths to go on mission trips to different places in Northern and Southern India to understand their roots and witness Christianity to others.
6. Strengthening the Native American Mission, Mexico Mission and Neighborhood Mission of the Diocese.
7. Organizing Regional Family Conferences in UK and Europe, Canada and USA.
8. Forming a 'Regional Activities Committee' (RAC) in all eight regions of the Diocese to plan, prioritize and implement various regional programs and projects.
9. Conducting Unity Celebrations and Jubilee Feast in each region.
10. Hosting the closing ceremony in New York by the end of November 2013.

THIRD YFF NATIONAL CONFERENCE



The Third National Young Families Conference of the Diocese of North America and Europe was hosted by the New Jersey St Peter's Young Family Fellowship at Somerset, NJ from October 26 to 28, 2012. The theme of the conference was "**Christian family: Rediscovering and Restoring its Influence**" in a multicultural and multiracial society. The leaders of the conference were the Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, Rev. K. E. Geevarghese, Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvilla and Rev. V. M. Mathew. The conference was attended by forty families. Each session led to a clearer understanding of the theme and was a blessing to all who attended.



The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius congratulated the new Cardinal - Bava Moran Mor Baselios Cleemis Catholicos and the Malankara Catholic Church and Apostolic Exarchate in the USA. Mar Theodosius visited the Malankara Catholic Bishops House in Hicksville and conveyed his felicitations to the Most. Rev. Thomas Mar Eusabius of North American Exarchate and spoke to the Cardinal on the phone. We offer our prayers and felicitations. We look forward to the visit of the new Cardinal to bless all of us in North America.

XIII NATIONAL SEVIKA SANGHOM CONFERENCE



The thirteenth National Sevika Sanghom Conference of the Diocese of North America and Europe was held at the Westin Hotel of Los Angeles from October 4 to 7 2012. The Sevika Sanghom of the Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles had the honor of hosting the conference with the support of the Diocesan Sevika Sangham. The theme selected was "Abide in me and be fruitful" based on John 15:4. A total of 228 registrants from 26 parishes attended the conference. Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathews Mar Makarios Episcopa, the President of the Suvishsha Sevika Sanghom and Mrs. Anita Daniel were the main leaders. The next conference will be hosted by the Sevika Sanghom of Emmanuel MTC. Lubbock.

XIV YUVAJANA SAKHYAM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 14th Yuvajana Sakhyam National Conference was held from October 12 to 14, 2012 at Embassy Suites, Philadelphia, and hosted by the Ascension Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, Philadelphia. The Theme for the conference was "*Empowering the Family: Enriching the Generations.*" 344 delegates from 19 parishes from all over North America and Canada participated. The Diocesan Episcopa Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius inaugurated the conference. Rt. Rev. Dr. Mathews Mar Makarios Episcopa (Kottayam-Kochi Diocese) led the Theme Exposition and the Bible Study. The 15th National Conference will be hosted by the St. Mark's Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam, Tampa, Florida.



APDM ANNUAL RETREAT



The 21st Annual Retreat of the Association of Physicians and Dentists of the Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America and Europe, was held at the Kaatskill Mountain Club, Hunter, NY, from October 19- to 21, 2012. The main speakers were Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, the Diocesan Bishop and Rev. Saju Cherukara, a student at Princeton University. The theme was "Establish the work of our hands" (Psalm 90:17b). The conference was attended by 30 participants. It was a real blessing and everyone praised God and felt renewed and strengthened after the retreat.



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