

The Diocese of North America and Europe

The Mar Thoma

Besorah

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Christian community, these days observes the events of the Ascension of our Lord and the Pentecost experience of the early church. The presence of the risen Christ and the hope given during the commissioning were very much an encouraging experience to the disciples and the faithful early Christian community. The promise given at the time of Jesus' ascension into heaven was a comforting one giving new vision to move on as witnesses of our Lord. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the power received were occasions of renewed strength.

It reminds us of the fact that, God never fails and that He always keeps His promises. I am sure this is the experience for many of us in our lives. The disciples who were renewed and reinstated went around and proclaimed the Gospel, and they were known as 'people who turned the world upside down'. They received the power of the Holy Spirit, who was with them as their Counselor, who made their life journey more fruitful and rewarding. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us to carry on God's mission with renewed power. God who created the heaven and the earth is the Giver of life and He is involved in the life-promoting act in history. Jesus Christ is the expression of God the Father, in giving life in its fullness. He gave His life for the sake of all humanity and the world, so that all will have life in abundance.

There are occasions when we feel that life is in danger. The systems and structures of the world often destroy life. The need is to commit oneself to protect life by all means. Life with peace and justice is very much evident in the biblical understanding of the created order. The emergence of structures that promote violence and injustice become a threat to life and to a just society. Religious groups and civil society together need to address the issue of right living by overcoming economic and social injustice, by creating a political will to keep peace and justice in our communities.

Thank God for the good things that we receive and the wonderful ways of divine guidance. The North America and Europe Diocese is blessed with its commitment to uphold the Gospel values and the life-affirming mission initiatives. We continue the process of revitalizing the existing systems in operation and start new ventures as our response to the needs of the people and as our commitment to the word of God. It is our wish and prayer that the spirit and enthusiasm of 'Pentecost' will keep the church as a movement, that keeps our journey forward moving with courage and conviction. We value very much the participation of the faithful members and achens. I am happy to welcome the new achens who have joined the Diocese this year. May God continue to guide us in our task of building the community, and in serving the people, looking towards Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of life.

With prayers and regards,

*And they
were filled
with the
Holy Spirit*
Acts 2:4



Visit of the Mar Thoma Metropolitan



The Diocese was blessed by the presence of Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan from April 29 to May 18. He consecrated the phase II project of the Mar Thoma Church of Dallas and visited and conducted services in Immanuel M T Church, Houston, Emmanuel M T Church Lubbock, St Paul's M T Church Dallas, The Canadian M T Church Toronto and St.



Mathews M T Church Toronto. He was received at the Sinai Centre by the diocesan Episcopa.

Release of the Brochure for the Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Scholarship



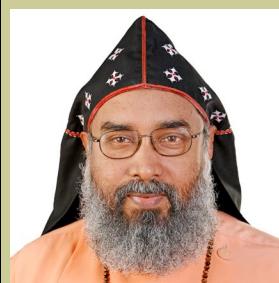
A brochure, for the scholarship to support the Clergy who are citizens of the countries within the Diocese who pursue higher studies, was released during the Diocesan assembly. The fund was named Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Scholarship Fund in memory of his ministry in the diocese. The assembly has resolved to set apart second Sunday of June every year for the collection towards the fund

Launch of Website for Online Messenger Subscription



With an intention to make the messenger available online, a website for online subscription of the messenger was launched during the diocesan assembly.

Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos: The Fourth Resident Bishop



Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos took his responsibility as the Diocesan Episcopa on April 1 2016. After his consecration as the Episcopa in 1993, he led Bombay- Delhi Diocese (1993 to 2001), Kottayam - Kochi Diocese (2001 – 2008) and Chennai- Bangalore Diocese (2009 - 2016). His visionary and social outlook and determination became instrumental in the starting of many projects like Navjeevan Centre in Mumbai, Gram Jyoti Schools in different parts of North India, Dharma Jyothi Vidhya Peeth, Faridabad and the constructions of the Mar Thoma Guidance Centre, Vytila, Ernakulam, Retreat Home, Munnar and the New Building for Hospital and Guidance Home at Vellore. Along with the responsibility of the Diocese he serves as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, the President of the Senate of Serampore College and Chairperson of Ecumenical Christian Centre, Bangalore.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 12 Sunday

Rt. Rev. Dr. Zacharias Mar Theophilus Scholarship Fund Collection

June 30-July 3

Junior/ Senior Conference
South-East Region

July 1-3

Canada Regional Family Conference

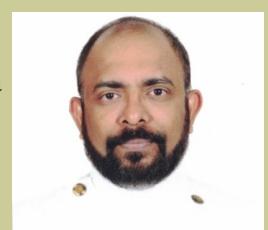
July 7-10

Junior/ Senior Conference
North-East Region

Diocesan and Bishop Secretary



After two years of dedicated and exemplary service as the Diocesan and Bishop Secretary, **Rev. Binoy J. Thomas** was transferred to Mar Thoma Church, Kalyan, Mumbai. The Diocese expresses sincere gratitude to Binoy achen, Jibi Kochamma, Aiden and Angeline for their tireless efforts and hard work in keeping the momentum of the Diocese.



Rev. Denny Philip took charge as the Diocesan and Bishop Secretary on 2016 May 1. He was the Vicar of the Carmel Mar Thoma Church, Boston.



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