

The Mar Thoma Church

Diocese of North America and Europe

Besorah

The *Besorah* is an official publication of the Diocese of North America and Europe

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The New Year dawns with new hope and greater expectations. While we contain with a sense of accomplishment in moving forward with the vision for the future, we eagerly wait for God's blessings in fulfilling the new initiative, as the Diocese.

It was indeed a rewarding experience for us during the last week of 2018, while we witnessed the Divine guidance at the dedication of 'Carmel Mar Thoma Center' Atlanta. The Mar Thoma community feels proud of its achievement as well as feels confident in carrying out greater task for the progress of the church in the North American context. Yes, It was God's doing and marvelous in our sight. I appreciate all our members for your prayer and generous support to make it possible.

In this New Year, the challenge before us is to deepen the spiritual life keeping the interconnectedness as people of God. This challenge demands a genuine spiritual quest for meaning, purpose, and for what is sacred, requiring that we transcend the self – interest. Our life in relation to God makes it possible to relate to the 'other', that awakens our natural harmony. This helps the church to express through the unity and oneness in a fragmented world. Pray that God may continue to guide us in our journey forward.

With prayers and best wishes,

Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Bishop

Dedication and Inauguration of the Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta on December 29, 2018



By the grace of God Almighty the dedication of the Carmel Mar Thoma Center, Atlanta was held on December 29, 2018. Metropolitan along with Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos officiated the Dedication Service. This was followed by the public meeting attended by more than 1000 members from all over North America. We would like to thank all of you for your prayers and contribution for the fulfilment of this project.

**Episcopal Visit - Kansas Mar Thoma Church
November 3, 2018**

Kanas Mar Thoma Church was blessed by the visit of our Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa, from Friday, November 2nd to Saturday, November 3rd, 2018. This was our Thirumeni's first visit to Kansas MTC since his tenure began as the Diocesan Bishop. Thirumeni was warmly welcomed by the members of the parish Executive Committee at the Kansas City airport on Friday evening. Thirumeni celebrated Holy Qurbana on Saturday morning at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church (Olathe, KS). During the service, five youths took part in their First Holy Communion. Rev. Jacob Paul, Vicar of Redeemer CSI Parish (Kansas), was also present. Approximately 85 members of the parish and other guests attended and participated in the service. Kansas MTC is very appreciative of the prayerful presence of our beloved Thirumeni.

Vicar Rev. Christopher Phil Daniel



Episcopal Visit – North Carolina MTC Dec 25, 2018

It was indeed Blessing to have our Diocesan Bishop Rt.Rev Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa to visit the North Carolina Marthoma Church on Christmas day. It was indeed a double honor and privilege as Thirumeni led the first communicants to the Lord's Table and celebrate the birth of the Savior of all humankind. The parishioners enjoyed the fellowship and Christmas Lunch with Thirumeni.

Vicar Rev. Sam Oommen Mathews



2018 Fall One-Day Retreat

The Fall One Day Retreat was held on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at Camp Israel Folsom in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. There were five delegates from Broken Bow and ten Mar Thoma volunteers in attendance. Jojy Koshy of Cross Way Mar Thoma Congregation was our main speaker for the event. The retreat included icebreakers, praise and worship, two main talks, small group sessions, crafts and meals (lunch and heavy snacks). Our theme for the retreat was "Powered by the Holy Spirit" based on Titus 3:4-7. We studied and discussed the story of Paul's conversion found in Acts 9:1-19 and spent time with the youth through recreational activities and crafts. Prayer cubes were given out to participants as souvenirs in order to help nurture their prayer lives. We also split between men and women to dig deeper into the obstacles we face that would hinder us from having faith like Paul and how to overcome them. Our goal for these one-day retreats is to maintain the relationships we make with these youths at the VBS camp in June. The retreat was a blessed event and we hope to continue fostering these relationships and sparking an interest in Jesus within these youths.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 18 – 25 Prayer of Unity Week
Feb 10 – 17 124th Maramon Convention

EPISCOPAL VISIT

Jan 6 Canadian MTC, Toronto
Jan 13 Detroit MTC
Jan 20 Long Island MTC, NY
Jan 27 St. Thomas MTC, NYC

WISHING YOU ALL A BLESSED NEW YEAR



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