

The Mar Thoma

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN EPISCOPA

Dearly beloved in Christ,

This is the time of observing Lent when the faithful members of the church devote time for prayer and fasting. It is a time to recollect the great act of God in transforming the world through His redemptive love. Prior to this observance, we had the Maramon Convention, which provided an occasion for the members of the church for renewal and transformation on the basis of the study of the Word of God. It all the more emphasizes that the words spoken by Jesus Christ have relevance to the contemporary life of the faith community, and this understanding will help in the proper manifestation of the Word in the local context.

The Lent meditations focus on the invitation of all to the Kingdom of God and the fullness of life offered by Christ to all sections of society. The wholeness of life through healing is the possibility that all can experience. It also reminds of the sufferings Jesus Christ had to undergo in fulfilling the will of God in the redemptive act. The faithful members of the church observe these days remembering the events on the way of the cross. It is a time to realize how one needs to endure suffering in order to keep the life blossoming. Cross is an experience that leads to ultimate victory, giving new life to carry on the mission of God.



Often, we will have the mind of Peter, rather than the mind of Christ. When Jesus began to ‘teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again’, Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. But in return, Jesus rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men”. (Mk.8:31-33).

The gospel is the power to become with one another the body of Christ, where the symbol of success is not a golden throne, but a wooden, rugged cross”.

Peter represents the world that invites us to climb the ladders; whereas Jesus and the gospel invite us to lift crosses. The choice one has to make is between the ladder and the cross. Yes, success matters, affluence matters, education matters and respect matters. Is it all that one need to achieve? When the artists want to portray Christ’s ‘Descent from the Cross’, a ladder is propped up against the cross. The ladder symbol shows the removal of Christ from the cross and from our discipleship.

The Gospel according to St. Paul shows “a more excellent way”, - a way not of health, wealth and happiness, but of servanthood. Leonard Sweet explains this by narrating the life experience of Mary, the mother of Jesus. “Mary knew that the crucifixion was not a fiction – it was the structuring symbol of her life... Mary was the first to realize that to accept the gospel is to enter a radically plausibility structure. The grace of God takes me “just as I am”, but the grace of God does not leave us just as we are. It turns our world upside down. The gospel is not the answer. The gospel is the power to become with one another the body of Christ, where the symbol of success is not a golden throne, but a wooden, rugged cross”. (p.153, Soul Café).

With Prayers and Regards,

Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos

Diocesan Episcopa



CLERGY ORIENTATION, MANGANAM



The Orientation program for the Achens transferred to the Diocese was held on February 9th and 10th, 2017 at the TMAM Research and Orientation Centre, Manganam. Eighteen Achens participated throughout the course. The program was inaugurated by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan. Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos Episcopa gave the introductory remark on the challenges in the new setting. Rev. Oommen Philip, the Sabha Secretary,

Rev. Mathew Skariah, Rev. Dr. Joe Joseph Kuruvila and Rev. Shibu Mathew led the various sessions. The seminary students from the Diocese participated and interacted with the achens in the conference.

FIRST WESTERN REGIONAL CHOIR FEST



The Western regional choir conducted the first Western regional Choir fest as a tribute to Sadhu Kochukunju Upadeshy, along with the Western Regional MTVEA conference held at Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles, Glendora, California. It was organized under the leadership of Rev. Biju P Simon, Western Regional Choir President and Mr. Kiran Koshy, Western Regional Choir Secretary. The Choirs from San Francisco M.T.C, Phoenix M.T.C, Silicon Valley M.T.C, St. Andrews M.T.C, Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles, Horeb M.T.C participated in the event.

MARAMON CONVENTION STALL



A booth was set up at the convention site and it was a window for the people of the church to know and learn more about the overall activities of the Diocese. Mr. Jason Varghese and Subin Mathew Parayil were in charge of the stall. Mr. Saji P. Abraham and Mr. C.V. Simonkutty helped to set up the stall. It helped to give an awareness about the Diocese and communicate the Mission activities to the visitors

Upcoming Events

April 21: Mar Chrysostom Birth Centenary Celebration

April 20-21: Diocesan Clergy Conference

April 22: Diocesan Assembly



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