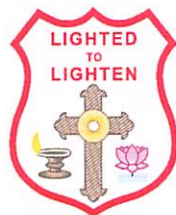


THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church



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DC/499/2023
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BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

As a Diocese, we are thankful to God Almighty for His faithfulness and guidance throughout the past several decades. Let us also praise God for strengthening us to be actively involved in our mission and outreach work in various capacities. Throughout the year, the Diocese of North America and Europe, through the Mar Thoma Mission Board, which is a registered tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, could engage meaningfully in various mission activities. The vision of the Mission Board is to reach out to those in need with the love of Christ with the aim of bringing about transformation in the lives of individuals and communities. The Mar Thoma Mission Board coordinates the five mission initiatives of the Diocese, namely Native American Mission, Mexico Mission, Neighborhood Mission, India Mission, and Light to Life.

This year, through our Native American Mission, five VBS camps were conducted in Oklahoma, Alabama, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Utah. Also, two "Love in Action" trips were arranged to repair a damaged chapel in Louisiana, and nineteen deserving Native American college students were awarded with academic scholarships. The Colonia Mar Thoma community in our Mexico Mission continued to receive spiritual and physical nourishment through various activities and programs. Many of our parishes were actively involved in Neighborhood Mission by identifying and supporting the needs of the local communities. An India Mission trip was organized in July to Mumbai and Karnataka, and the Light to Life mission program provided support for the education and holistic development of over 4,500 children in different parts of India. Our involvement through the various mission endeavors of the Diocese has made visible impacts in the lives of many people. It is with the committed vision and dedicated services of our laity and clergy that all our mission activities are progressing well.

The Diocese has set apart **Sunday, November 19, 2023** for prayer and participation in our mission programs through ***Suvishesha Nidhi Offering***. We urge all members to wholeheartedly contribute to the mission activities of the Diocese. The Vicars, Office Bearers, and Diocesan Assembly Members are requested to make necessary arrangements and are to encourage parishioners to donate generously for the mission activities through the Suvishesha Nidhi Offering. Special offertory envelopes will be distributed. I thank all of you for participating meaningfully in our mission activities and for helping in the growth of the Diocese through the sharing of your time, talents, resources, and prayers.

Let us recall the words of our Lord, Jesus Christ, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40). May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in all our mission endeavors as we strive for the glory of God and the wellbeing of humanity.

With prayers and blessings,

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
Diocesan Episcopa

