

# DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

## The Mar Thoma Church

Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos  
*Diocesan Bishop*

Rev. George Abraham  
*Diocesan/Bishop's Secretary*

Mr. George P. Babu  
*Diocesan Treasurer*



Sinai Mar Thoma Center  
2320 S. Merrick Avenue  
Merrick, NY 11566  
Tel: (516) 377-3311  
Fax: (516) 377-3322

Email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com

DC/205/2024  
April 11, 2024

### ***BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH.***

**Dearly Beloved in Christ,**

As you may know, April is National Autism Awareness Month, and the aim during this month is to raise awareness regarding autism and Asperger's syndrome. Autism is a complex brain disorder that often inhibits a person's ability to communicate, to respond to surroundings, and to form relationships with others. As autism exists on a wide-ranging spectrum, it manifests itself in different ways in each individual and affects families in a variety of ways.

The Diocese, through the Hope for the Differently Abled subcommittee, is striving to bring awareness to the various challenges that many people are facing. As a church, we should be educated about autism and other associated disorders to be able to respond to such needs in loving and meaningful ways. Thus, it is our responsibility to provide necessary support to families who have children with autism and to enable them to feel welcomed and included in the life of the church. Parishes are encouraged to provide awareness regarding autism and to identify those affected by autism and other related challenges. Special prayer fellowships for such families can be arranged in order to provide spiritual nurturing and opportunities for sharing common experiences.

Let us ensure that our churches are indeed places where all people are included and are incorporated into the worship life and the witness of the church. May God enable all our churches to be caring communities that provide support for those with diverse needs. May God's blessings be with us all.

**Yours in His Ministry,**

**Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos**  
**Diocesan Episcopa**

