

# THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

## The Mar Thoma Church

Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos  
*Diocesan Bishop*

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

Mr. George P. Babu  
*Diocesan Treasurer*



Sinai Mar Thoma Center  
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DC/228/2023  
April 5, 2023

### ***BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE.***

#### **Dearly Beloved in Christ,**

As per the Sabha Constitution, the tenure of the current Diocesan Council shall end on June 3, 2023 with the conclusion of the first session of the new Diocesan Assembly, which will be held at the Carmel Mar Thoma Center, 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087. The election to the new Diocesan Council for the term 2023 - 2026 shall take place during this session. Besides the Diocesan Secretary and the Diocesan Treasurer, the Diocesan Assembly shall elect no more than 24 non-official members from among its members, which shall include a minimum of one representative from each center in the Diocese. The elected members shall include a minimum of four women and a maximum of six clergy. A minimum of one-half of the members elected to the Council shall be new members. Persons who have been members of the Council for three consecutive terms shall not be eligible to seek further election in the forth-coming election to the Council (See Sabha Constitution clauses 293, 294 and 295).

Accordingly, in consultation with the present Diocesan Council that met on March 24–25, 2023, at the Sinai Mar Thoma Center, 2320 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566, the elections for the new Diocesan Council are scheduled during the Diocesan Assembly meeting to be held on June 2–3, 2023.

Election to the Diocesan Council is an important responsibility and must be done with utmost care and much prayer. Those who are elected shall be God-fearing people with good conduct and shall be willing to participate in the mission and the ministry of the Church through the Diocese.

The election procedures are given below:

1. There will be election for the following posts.
  - a. **Diocesan Secretary** 1
  - b. **Diocesan Treasurer** 1
  - c. **Diocesan Council Members** 17
2. If necessary, the elections for the above positions will be conducted by secret ballot under the supervision and responsibility of the Diocesan Episcopa, who is also the Returning Officer.
3. **Rev. Skariah Varghese** is appointed to assist the returning officer. Polling officers will also be appointed.
4. Any complaints regarding elections must be submitted in writing to the Diocesan Episcopa. The Diocesan Episcopa's decision shall be final.
5. The Voter's List will include the names of the Diocesan Assembly Members whether elected, nominated, or appointed, who shall assume office by signing the oath and submit the same to the Diocesan Secretary under Rule 253 of the Sabha Constitution. They shall also take the oath at the meeting of the Diocesan Assembly. Only those individuals whose names appear in the Voter's List and who have submitted their signed oath and have taken the oath at the Diocesan Assembly shall be eligible to cast their vote in the election.
6. The Voter's List will be finalized as per the following schedule: The times stated are **US EST**.
  - a. The Preliminary Voter's List will be published at **5:00 PM on April 5, 2023**, as per the election results received from the parishes and organizations of the Diocese that have been communicated to the Diocesan Office in the prescribed form.

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- b. Any complaint regarding the Preliminary Voter's List must be communicated in writing to the Diocesan Episcopa at the Diocesan Office before **5:00 PM on April 20, 2023**. The decision of the Diocesan Episcopa shall be final.
- c. The Final Voter's List will be published at the Diocesan Office at **6:00 PM on April 20, 2023**.
- d. The copies of the Preliminary and Final Voter's List will be made available through the Vicars of all the parishes in the Diocese.
7. Candidates for election must submit their completed nomination papers to the Diocesan Secretary at the Diocesan Office in the prescribed form before **5:00 PM on May 3, 2023**.
8. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held at the Diocesan Office at **6:00 PM on May 3, 2023**, and all valid nominations will be published at the Diocesan Office at **8:00 PM** on the same day.
9. Withdrawal of nominations must be done in writing before **4:00 PM on May 8, 2023**.
10. The final list of the candidates for election will be published at **5:00 PM on May 8, 2023**.
11. If voting becomes necessary, the elections for the above positions will be conducted by secret ballot on **June 3, 2023 from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM** at the **Carmel Mar Thoma Center, 6015 Old Stone Mountain Road, Stone Mountain, Georgia 30087**. Counting of votes will begin at the Carmel Mar Thoma Center on **June 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM**, and the election results will be declared after counting all the votes.
12. Only those members whose names appear in the Voter's List will be eligible to become candidates, propose and second names, and to cast their votes. The serial number in the Voter's List must be included against their names in the nomination paper.
13. Canvassing for election is not permitted on the premises of the Carmel Mar Thoma Center on the day of the election.
14. The copy of the Voter's List will be available from the Diocesan Office.
15. If the number of valid nominations received is less than the required number of positions or is exactly the number required, the names of those candidates on valid nomination papers will be declared as elected after scrutiny, and the same will not be included on the ballot papers.
16. If the number of valid nominations received does not meet the required numbers mentioned above, steps will be taken to fill the vacancies in consultation with the Diocesan Council and as per the Sabha Constitution.

May the election of the Diocesan Council enable us to glorify God and carry out the mission God has given to the church. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Yours in His Ministry,**

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos**  
**Diocesan Episcopa**

