

DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Mar Thoma Church

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

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The church is called to be a responsible steward of the earth, recognizing that all creation is declared "very good" by God in Genesis. Christians are called to live in dependence on God and in interdependence with the natural world, fulfilling the biblical mandate to "till and keep" the earth (Genesis 2:15) and to seek harmony with creation. In this regard, let us renew our commitment to be responsible stewards of the earth's resources. Let us take up healthy and effective practices that enable us to preserve the environment, allowing it to thrive and remain vibrant.

The Diocese encourages everyone to adopt environment friendly and 'green' initiatives in our parishes, communities, and homes as a sign of our stewardship towards creation. Additionally, let us not forget the blessings that come with undertaking gardening and other agricultural endeavors. Such practices are not only beneficial for the earth but also positively affect the health of human beings in many valuable ways.

To encourage greater participation in gardening, the Diocese will recognize those who exemplify commitment to this initiative. Each parish is invited to submit one nomination per category for the **2025 Kitchen Garden Environmental Stewardship Award**, as follows: **Best Kitchen Garden in the premises of a church and Best Kitchen Garden in the premises of a parsonage**. Awardees will receive a special memento presented by the Ecological Commission of the Diocese in acknowledgment of their contribution to environmental stewardship. Further details regarding the selection criteria will be informed.

In the spirit of stewardship, let us commit ourselves to building a better world for the glory of God Almighty and the preservation of the environment.

Yours in His Ministry,

Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos
Diocesan Episcopa

