

DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

The Mar Thoma Church

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BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

We are pleased to announce the establishment of ***Lighthouse: Illuminating The Way***, a newly formed ministry of the Diocese of North America, approved by the Diocesan Assembly.

Every generation presents the church with new opportunities and responsibilities in the work of faith formation. Educational needs, modes of learning, methods of communication, and the questions faced by children and young people continue to change. The church must therefore remain attentive and creative in communicating the unchanging truths of the Gospel in ways that are meaningful, accessible, and relevant for ministry in today's world. Lighthouse has been formed to assist the Diocese in meeting this continuing responsibility.

Lighthouse will serve as a supportive and creative arm of the Diocese, working collaboratively with the Diocesan Sunday School and Diocesan Youth Fellowship to support and enhance their respective ministries. Through training, resource development, and thoughtful long-term planning, it will help strengthen the church's ministry among children, youth, young adults, teachers, leaders, and families.

As its first priority, Lighthouse will develop online and hybrid training courses for Sunday School teachers. These courses will seek to equip teachers with a deeper understanding of Scripture, the faith and traditions of the Mar Thoma Church, effective teaching practices, and the spiritual and educational needs of children growing up in North America. Lighthouse will also begin developing standardized materials for preparing children for First Communion. These resources will provide parishes with a shared theological and educational foundation for preparing children to participate meaningfully in the sacramental life of the church.

In the future, Lighthouse will undertake curriculum renewal, develop digital learning resources and youth ministry materials, support parents in the faith formation of their children, and encourage leadership development. Lighthouse will also serve as a resource for individual parishes seeking religious educational materials that are relevant to their particular ministry settings and local needs.

We request all parishes and congregations to uphold this new ministry in prayer, make its work known among our members, encourage our current teachers and youth leaders to participate in and contribute to its work, and support the ministry in the days to come. Further information regarding its programs, resources, and implementation will be communicated as the work progresses.

May God bless Lighthouse Ministry and use it to strengthen the faith of our children and youth, equip those who teach and lead them, and prepare future generations to live faithfully as a people who are Lighted to Lighten.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos
Diocesan Episcopa

