



THE MAR THOMA BESORAH

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN BISHOP

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

During His public ministry, Jesus Christ proclaimed, "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). This month, India will celebrate its 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026. Freedom is a precious gift that must be respected and cherished with seriousness.

While freedom is a privilege, it also carries with it a great responsibility. Through His sacrificial death, Jesus Christ redeemed creation from the bondage of sin and restored humanity to the position of sonship in the Kingdom of God.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, reminds us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1).

May God enable us to experience and faithfully live out the freedom that Christ offers to all.

~With prayers and regards,
Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Episcopa - Diocesan Bishop



What is The Mar Thoma Besorah?

The Hebrew word, **besorah**, is translated as message or report. This newsletter includes a brief report of the Diocesan activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Aug. 6–9, 2026:**
 - Sunday School Northeast Region Junior & Senior Conference, New York
- **Aug. 14–16, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Yuvajana Sakhyam Conference — Salem MTC, New York
- **Aug. 20–23, 2026:**
 - Diocesan MTVEA Conference — Dallas, Texas
- **Sept. 30–Oct. 1, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Clergy Family Conference, Philadelphia
- **Oct. 1–4, 2026:**
 - Diocesan Sevika Sanghom Conference, Philadelphia
- **Nov. 28, 2026:**
 - Heavenly Trumpet — Diocesan Christmas Carol Program, Dallas, TX (Southwest Region RAC)



PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONS

Native American Mission
Mexico Mission
Southwest Border Mission
Neighborhood & Urban Mission
India Mission
Light to Life

For further details visit: marthomamission.org

Email: missionboard@marthomamission.org



Urban Mission 2026 took place in **Philadelphia, PA**, from **July 18-23, 2026**, in partnership with Momentum Ministry Partners. Participants took part in hands-on ministry training and community outreach activities.

DIOCESAN HIGHLIGHTS & REPORTS



MAR THOMA CHURCH
DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA
DSMC



Diocesan DSMC 2026 Inaugural Program – "Kaahal of Voices"

A Choir Meet was held via an online platform on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. EDT. The Diocesan Episcopa delivered the inaugural address. Several choirs from across the Diocese participated in the event. It was also an opportunity to come together in worship and fellowship, while renewing our commitment to the ministry of sacred music and communication.

Members of the **Canadian Mar Thoma Church Choir** participated in the release of the musical album **"Christucharitham – Navaragamalika: Life of Christ in Nine Sacred Indian Classical Ragas"** on August 8, 2026. Rev. Dr. Subin John serves as the Vicar.



Southwest Regional Youth Fellowship Sports Tournament

The 2026 Mar Thoma Southwest Regional Youth Fellowship Sports Tournament was held in Houston, Texas, from August 7–9, 2026. Trinity Mar Thoma Church, Houston, hosted the tournament, and more than 500+ attended. The theme for the Sports Tournament was "United: One Body, One Team, One Purpose," based on 1st Corinthians 12:27: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." A portion of the proceeds from the tournament was designated to support the mission work of the church at the Chagalamarri Mar Thoma Mission and its Mar Thoma Vidhya Nikethan Boys' Hostel in Andhra Pradesh, India.



The **Northeast Region Sunday School** hosted the **Junior-Senior Conference** from August 6–9, 2026, at St. John's University in Queens, New York. The summer camp was attended by nearly 200 participants. The Diocesan Episcopa, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni, inaugurated the conference. Rev. Dennis Abraham, Rev. Prince Varghese, Rev. Joel S. Thomas, Rev. Jason Varghese, Rev. Julia DeLashmutt, Mr. Tom Philip, Mr. Ajit, and Mrs. Betsy led various sessions throughout the conference.



Clergy and members of the Diocese of North America welcomed His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan at JFK Airport in New York on July 28, 2026, for Thirumeni's two-week visit to the Diocese.



29th Mar Thoma Choir Festival

The 29th Midwest Region and Canadian Region Center Combined Choir Festival, "El-Sela 2026," was organized and hosted by St. John's Mar Thoma Church, Detroit, Michigan, on July 25, 2026. Rev. Sanjo P. Varghese served as the President of the 29th Choir Festival Organizing Committee. Both English- and Malayalam-speaking choirs participated in the festival, with choir members from Chicago, Indianapolis, Detroit, and Toronto traveling to attend the event. Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos Thirumeni delivered a special video message, and Rev. Monsi K. Philip Achen shared a devotional message with the participants.



The **Northeast Regional Activity Committee (RAC)** hosted a **Fellowship Dinner** with His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and the Diocesan Episcopa on July 28, 2026, at The Inn at New Hyde Park, New York.



The **2026 Diocesan Youth Fellowship Conference** was held at the Ascension Mar Thoma Church, Philadelphia, from July 23–26, 2026. The sessions were led by the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Abraham Mar Paulos, along with the Youth Chaplains and lay leaders. Rev. Joji M. George serves as the parish Vicar.



The **Mar Thoma Church of Los Angeles** celebrated its **Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary)** on August 8, 2026, in the presence of His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan and other distinguished dignitaries, including Ambassador Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, the first-ever Consul General of India in Los Angeles. The celebration was centered on the theme, "Rooted in Faith, Flourishing in Grace." Rev. Thomas B. serves as the Vicar.

The **Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch**, celebrated its **Golden Jubilee (1976–2026)**. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan participated in the Golden Jubilee Finale Celebration held on August 1, 2026, and led the Holy Qurbana Service on August 2, 2026.

Rev. Abraham V. Samson and Rev. Jeswin John serve as Vicar and Assistant Vicar, respectively.



As the **Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Carrollton**, celebrated its **Golden Jubilee Anniversary**, a **Foundation Stone Blessing Ceremony** was held for the new church building and multipurpose hall. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan officiated the ceremony. Rev. Justin Pappachan Jacob is serving as the Vicar.



Neighborhood Mission Outreach by Durham Mar Thoma Congregation, North Carolina:

On July 18th, the Sevika Sanghom team partnered with RMH Charities and prepared 60 hot meals to comfort and support families of sick children, who are being treated at Duke Children's Hospital. Rev. Dr. Jameson K. serves as the Vicar.

2027 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 7-10: Diocesan Leadership Conference (Youth Fellowship) — St. John's MTC, NY
- July 1-4: Diocesan Family Conference — Chicago, IL (Midwest RAC)
- July 17-22: Diocesan Urban Mission — Los Angeles, CA
- July 22-25: Diocesan Youth Conference — MTC of Los Angeles, CA