

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

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EARTH SUNDAY

BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Global climate change is a great concern for the world today as it is fundamentally alerting God's creation. Earth's climate is warming to dangerous levels; 90% of the world's fisheries are being depleted; coastal development and pollution are causing a sharp decline in ocean health; coastal wetlands are disappearing as a result of sea level rise; and shrinking habitat threatens to extinguish thousands of species. To continue to walk the current path of ecological destruction is not only folly; it is sin.

Over the past several decades, slowly but faithfully, the churches all over the world has attempted to address the issue of ecology and justice and have offered rich theological perspectives, considered the moral issue through the lens of long standing social teaching. But unfortunately, we have clearly failed to communicate the full measure and magnitude of Earth environmental crisis - religiously, morally or politically.

Mar Thoma Church, Diocese of North America and Europe is observing Sunday, June 14, 2009 as Earth Sunday to create more awareness among our members that as God's stewards, we are called not only to enjoy the resources of the Earth, but also to care for them as a sacred gift from God. As a positive outcome, it is our responsibility to formulate possible mode of action in all works of life in terms of judicious use resources of God like food, water etc.

Let us remember the words of Psalmist "The earth is the Lords and its fullness thereof" (Ps 24:1). As people of God, we are to maintain the bounties of this beautiful Earth. On Earth Sunday, encourage our youths and Sunday school students to conduct worship services and sermons to celebrate God's gift of planet Earth and everything in it.

I urge you all to join in protecting and preserving God's earth and its resources.

May God Bless you all

Yours in His Ministry,

Dr. Geevarghese Theodosius

Diocesan Bishop