

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius
Diocesan Bishop



The Rev. Vinoy Daniel
Bishop's/Diocesan Secretary

Mr. Chacko Mathew
Diocesan Treasurer

Sinai Mar Thoma Center

2320 S. Merrick Avenue

Merrick, NY 11566

Tel: (516) 377-3311

(516) 377-0188

(516) 665-3740

Fax: (516) 377-3322

Email: marthoma@aol.com

Email: marthomadiocese@gmail.com

DC/ 34/ 10
Jan 14, 2010

To,

THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The deadly earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, has devastated that country, which was already one of the most impoverished nations in our western hemisphere. The images and reports from Haiti of collapsed buildings and injured people are heart-wrenching. The United States government, faith based organizations and the international community has initiated swift and aggressive responses to minimize the loss of lives, help the injured, and feed, clothe and provide shelter to those displaced by this tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers should be with the people of Haiti and all the relief efforts that are progressing to deal with this catastrophe. (For more information visit our website www.marthomanae.org)

The rebuilding efforts in Haiti will not be easy and is likely to take a long time. After all the immediate concerns and needs are met, there will be a lot of work needed to bring back a sense of normalcy to the lives of the displaced people. I have directed our Mission Board and Planning Board to find out ways by which the Mar Thoma Church can offer a helping hand to the people of Haiti to rebuild their lives. Meanwhile, I urge all our members and organizations to actively engage in every possible way to respond to this situation. Our intercessory prayers should include special prayers for the people of Haiti.

Each parish and congregation can collect voluntary contributions from our members for relief work and remit the amounts on or before Jan 31 to the Diocesan office in NY. The Diocesan council will make a decision on its disbursement. I also urge all of you to continue to stand with the people of Haiti and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

May the grace of God be with you all

Yours in His Service

Geevarghese Mar Theodosius
Diocesan Episcopa