

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

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

The Rev. Binoy J. Thomas
Bishop's/Diocesan Secretary

Mr. Philip Thomas
Diocesan Treasurer



Sinai Mar Thoma Center

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DC/485 /14

June 11, 2014

BLESSINGS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE OF THE MAR THOMA CHURCH

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

The Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam is the House of Representatives of our Church for considering and deciding all matters, spiritual and temporal concerning the mission of the Church. This year the Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam is scheduled to be held on September 9,10,11 (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) 2014 at Dr. Alexander Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan Memorial Auditorium at Tiruvalla. The term of office of the existing Sabha Council will be over by the forthcoming Sabha Mandalam. The election of the new Sabha Council members should be completed two weeks before the first session of the Mandalam meeting and this was informed to the parishes by the Mar Thoma Metropolitan through Circular No. 196 dated June 10, 2014.

As authorized by His Grace, the Metropolitan, I hereby inform you about the following regulations that will govern the elections conducted by postal ballot in the Diocese of North America and Europe. All Mandalam members of the Diocese are instructed to follow them.

1. According to clause 164 (2) B of the Constitution, it is hereby informed that the election of the members to Sabha Council will be held by postal ballot.
2. As per clause 164 (1) A, the Diocese of North America and Europe will have 3 Council Members.
3. As per clause 164 (1) B, out of the three candidates to be elected, one should be a clergy, and representing lay people, one should be a male and the other a female.
4. The election will be conducted under the supervision and responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop. Rev.Dr.Philip Varghese is appointed as the Returning officer and Rev. Binoy J. Thomas as Assistant returning officer.
5. The final voters list will be published in the Sabha office and Diocesan office at 2320 S Merrick Ave, Merrick, NY at 5 p. m. (U. S. EDT) on Thursday, July 24, 2014.
6. Only Mandalam members, of this Diocese, shall have the right to propose or second a candidate to the post of Sabha Council. All the names are to be the same as given in the voters' list.

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7. A Mandalam member cannot propose or second candidates exceeding the total number to be elected.
8. The nomination should be submitted in the prescribed form and the same should reach the Returning Officer, 2320 S. Merrick Ave. Merrick, NY 11566 before 4 pm (U. S. EDT) on Thursday, July 31, 2014. The nominations received thereafter will not be accepted.
9. The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be done at 5 pm on Thursday, July 31, 2014, under the supervision of the Returning officer. The list of the candidates after scrutiny will be published in the Diocesan office on the same day at 6 p. m. (U.S. EDT).
10. The last date to withdraw the nomination will be on Tuesday, August 5, 2014 before 05:00 p. m. (U.S. EDT). The final list of the candidates will be published on the same day at 06:00 p. m. (U.S. EDT).
11. Ballot papers with necessary guidelines will be mailed to the Sabha Prathinidhi Mandalam members by certified mail on Wednesday August 6, 2014.
12. The ballot papers with the votes marked therein, as required, has to reach the Returning Officer, 2320, South Merrick Ave, Merrick, NY 11566, before 5 pm (U.S. EDT) on Wednesday, August 20, 2014.
13. The counting of votes will be done at the Diocesan office at 11 am (U.S. EDT) on Thursday August 21, 2014. The results will be declared thereafter.
14. Any complaints arising against the decision of the Returning officer, the same can be intimated to the Metropolitan. The decision of the Metropolitan will be final in all matters concerning election.

It is my wish and prayer that the election will facilitate the mission of the church and will bring glory to the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May God bless you all.

Yours in His service

Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius
Diocesan Episcopa

