

THE DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

The Mar Thoma Church

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

Dearly beloved in Christ,

It is with deep sorrow that I inform you that four of our youth members who were on a mission trip to work among the Native American Community at Broken Bow, a suburb of Oklahoma, met with a road accident on Tuesday June 04, 2013. One of the youths, Mr. Patrick Maruthumootil, a member of St. Paul's MTC, Dallas, was airlifted to the Sparks Hospital, Fortsmith, Arkansas, but unfortunately passed away on the way. As per the desire of Patrick's parents, Mrs. & Mr. Cherian and Jessy and his uncle Mr. Sunny John, Patrick's body will be taken to Kerala for the last rites. The other three members who were in the vehicle are safe.

Upon hearing the news, I reached Dallas on Wednesday, and visited the youths and their family members. On the same evening there was a prayer meeting at the St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas, where I spoke from the Word of God for consoling the bereaving families and our youths. The Diocesan Council members Rev. Roy A Thomas and Rev. Jaisen A Thomas, and a number of Clergy and believers attended the meeting. A Wake service was arranged on Friday evening at the St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas, in which our Metropolitan Tirumeni, Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma, attended and led the service and expressed his condolences.

This is a terrible tragedy and I am saddened that it happened during one of our mission trips, especially in the Oklahoma region. As believers in the Almighty God who has the power to give life and take it away, we can only humble ourselves and submit to His master plan. We have to take courage in His power and firmly believe that He will never forsake us, even when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

I urge all members in the Diocese to specially pray for the youth who are shaken up by this accident and for all who are recovering from this trauma. On Sunday, June 9, 2013, our parishes shall offer a prayer thanking God for the life of Mr. Patrick Maruthumootil and asking God to console his family and other bereaved members.

The Diocesan Mission work among the Choctaw community will be continuing and I encourage the parents to continue sending their children for this outreach mission. We will be establishing an endowment in honour of Patrick to continue the Gospel work among the Native Americans and our youth will continue the good work carried on by our dear Patrick during his life time in the Diocese.

May God's abundant grace strengthen all of us during these trying times.

Yours in Christ's Ministry

Geevarghese Mar Theodosius, Diocesan Bishop

