

THE MAR THOMA SYRIAN CHURCH OF MALABAR

CHENNAI – BANGALORE DIOCESE

No: 77, 6th Avenue, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu - 600 031

Circular No: 11 CBD/DB/S11/M10/2013

All Achens and Members
Mar Thoma Parishes & Congregations
Chennai - Bangalore Diocese.

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

With heart full of gratitude to the Lord Almighty and appreciation to all the members of the Chennai - Bangalore Diocese for your valuable prayers and contributions, I urge each one of you to prayerfully participate in the ***Diocesan Sunday Worship and Diocesan Day Collection*** which is scheduled on ***Sunday the 17th of November 2013.***

The Diocesan Sunday is an occasion to remember our Diocese and all its mission activities. We have been blessed by our Lord and with all the support and goodwill extended by the Parishioners from time to time. It is the time to thank God for the mercies we have received as a Diocese. The Chennai –Bangalore Diocese is a missionary diocese with mission activities in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the Union territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry. It also includes Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain in UAE.

The mission, educational, social and developmental activities are progressing well with proper initiatives and dedicated work of the Achens and Evangelists. The balawadies, hostels, tailoring institutes, self employment schemes, participatory development projects etc. are progressing well. Thanks for the prayers and generous contributions of our members. The Diocesan Day Collection and Pulpit Exchange Programme is arranged on Sunday the 17th of November 2013 to raise funds for the activities of the Diocese. Special donations will be received on this day. Receipt book will be sent to the parishes for the same.

At present we have 72 parishes, 58 congregations and more than 100 chapels and house churches in the Diocese reaching out with the Gospel-message to more than 810 villages. We need more places of worship and mission houses. 96 Achens (including 8 retired), 195 Evangelists (Diocese and MTEA) and social workers are ministering in our institutions and mission centres. Along with their salary, the medical needs of their family and educational need of their children are to be taken care of.

Hostel facility is provided for boys and girls at Mydakur, Chickabalapur, Rayalpadu, Ankola, Sankeswar, Honavar, Sirsi, Devanahally, Sidlaghatta, Chintamani, Neeredmet, H B Halli and Pollachi. Kindly support one child by donating Rs. 1500/- per month and help the child to be a better person.

We have a total of 22 students' centres in Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Raichur, Gulberga, Salem, Erode- Coimbatore, Manipal, Hubli, Mangalore, Belgaum, Pondicherry and Karaikal. Our student chaplains are reaching out to the students in these areas. The youth centre of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam at Bangalore is an additional blessing. A worship/students centre is the dream of the students of Karaikal who come from far off places for their studies which is being materialized.

Mar Thoma Vidhya Sadanam – ‘Mar Philoxenos Student and Media Centre’ is being planned at Padur, Chennai with the objective to guide our youth to deepen their Christian faith and commitment and to channelize and equip the youth to make use of the modern media of communication for mission and evangelism among students, youth and underprivileged people. We request each member to donate generously for this cause.

The Hospital Guidance and counselling centres at Vellore and Manipal are catering to the needs of a wide range of people irrespective of their caste, creed and colour who are coming to the Hospitals from different parts of the world. The second phase of the Hospital and Guidance Home at Vellore is nearing completion.

HIV/AIDS patients are spotted more in some areas of our diocese. A rehabilitation centre named 'Anpin Karam' has been started at Kuruvakkalam. It is necessary that all parishes in the Diocese take local initiatives to conduct awareness programmes and join hands with Government and Non-Governmental organizations to fight out the disease and take care of the widows and children of the affected and infected families.

A Senior Care Home is the need of the hour. Taking care of the elders is the responsibility of the younger generation and the church. Negotiations are going on to buy a land in the outskirts of Bangalore city to start a Senior Care Home.

Every mission is accomplished only by the wholehearted prayer and support of its members. Kindly do your best in supporting the mission programmes of the Diocese. The office bearers and members of the Diocesan Assembly are advised to assist the Vicar and the visiting achen in this regard. Ensure that the collection is completed soon and sent to the Diocesan office by the end on December 2013.

The total amount expected from your parish is Rs...../-.....will be visiting your parish. Your Vicar/Assistant Vicar..... is deputed to..... I urge all the members to donate generously for the mission work of the diocese.

Let all our efforts be for the Glory of God and for the extension of His Kingdom.

May God's Blessing be with you all.

Dated 25th of October 2013 from Mar Thoma Bhavan, Chennai.

Sd/-

**Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos
The Diocesan Bishop**