

## YOUTH CHAPLAIN & ASSOCIATE VICAR'S MESSAGE

*he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall  
(John 3:16)*



*For God so loved the world that  
not perish but have eternal life.*

Once again the world is getting ready to remember the Christ. In the midst of all religious persecutions, terrorism and for God to shower his divine peace and hope to humanity. The us is summarized in John 3:16 " *He gave His only son*" for the universe. The resurrection of Christ becomes real to us only when being risen with Christ. Paul says in Gal 2:20 " *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ lives in me; the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me*"; those who undergoes the experience of being crucified with Christ will surely experience the power of His resurrection. As we celebrate Easter once again, it is a reminder to live in the risen experience through our words, deeds and actions in our day to day lives. On behalf of Chicago Mar Thoma youths I extend a warm Easter greetings to all the parishioners. For the past two months, God has been faithful to our church by blessing us with so many opportunities to witness Him and learn from His word. This year also our youth fellowship gave leadership to publish 50 days Lenten devotionals. I really appreciate all the youths who participated behind in this ministry. Youth Fellowship hosted 3rd Midwest Regional Leadership Retreat in our church. Almost 30 leaders from this region participated. Along with the retreat, our first neighborhood mission was started for the year. It was truly a blessed experience for all those who participated in it.

resurrection of our savior Jesus corruption, let us pray together greatest hope which God gives redemption of our sin and the we undergo the experience of

On a different note, this is the final newsletter message I am writing as Youth Chaplain & Assistant Vicar of the Chicago Mar Thoma Church. For the last three years, depending purely upon the grace of God we were able to share the joy of being together in the ministry of our Lord Jesus. I along with my family thank the Almighty God for the wonderful opportunity to meet you all and serve you as the youth chaplain and assistant Vicar of this parish. We have no words to express our thankfulness to God and to each and every member and families as well. We want to also thank Rev. Daniel Thomas and family and Rev. Abraham Scaria and family for the love, care, and mentorship they provided. We would also like to thank all the office bearers of the parish, executive committee members and all the organizations for their support during our tenure here. When I look back, I would say not because of our merit but because of His grace and mercy that we were able to minister here in this context. All my efforts of these 3 years were centered on one thing - to rebuild and prepare our youths closer to God. We are thankful to God and you all for your prayers, love, and support. Especially, I want to thank all our youths who gave us all the fellowship, love and support in my ministry.

The Mar Thoma Church community in Chicago land is a blessed community in terms of the presence of our members, church buildings, priests, bishop and a long history of existence among the plethora of immigrant Christian communities from India that is settled in North America. If our church needs to continuously keep up with the reforming spirit, we need to adopt a contextual ministry that is relevant in our churches, especially an intentional effort to get our younger generation more involved and giving them space to take leadership roles in the local parishes. We have more than 200 kids in various ages with much potential. As a church we have to open the doors and create spaces to build their abilities. It is a great challenge for our community in the coming years. As a faith community we need to go a long way and let us seek God's guidance and providence in this journey.

Rev. George Varghese is posted as the new youth Chaplain & Assistant Vicar of our parish. With the grace of God, Achen and family will reach here by May. I am sure that under the vibrant leadership of Sam achen and George Varghese achen our parish will grow tremendously.

God willing, we will be leaving Chicago on May 1st Monday. I know that there is no apt word to express our heartfelt thanks to our dear CMTC family. We are going to miss you all. I humbly request your whole-hearted prayers and support in my new assignment as the Vicar of the Lubbok Immanuel MTC and Crossway MTC, Dallas. We are leaving Chicago with lots of cherished memories and different experiences of life. May God bless us all.

With love and prayers,

**Sonu Achen and Sherin Kochamma**

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