**DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE MAR THOMA MERIT AWARD 2016**

**Dear Achen:**

The Diocese of North America & Europe is inviting nominations for the 2016 Mar Thoma Merit Awards. Students who graduate as high school class valedictorians or have exceptional qualifications (see appropriate forms for criteria) and who are members of Mar Thoma parishes or congregations and who attend worship services and participate in parish activities are eligible for this award.

If there are candidates in your parish/congregation who will meet the appropriate criteria for awards, please encourage them to apply.  Applicants must fill out the appropriate forms (attached), submit necessary supporting documents and mail it to:

**Mr. Samuel K. Samuel,**

**Mar Thoma Merit Award Convener**

2320 Merrick Avenue

Merrick, NY 11566

Tel: (914) 498-9990

Fax: (516) 377- 3322

Email: samsamuel@optonline.net

Please note that the forms have to be signed by the applicant and verified by the parish vicar.

The application must also include one of the following:

      In schools that have a Valedictorian award, a letter from the respective school on the school letter-head certifying that the student has been selected to be the Valedictorian of the 2016 graduating class from that school.

      In schools with no Valedictorian awards, a letter from the respective school on the school letter-head stating that the school does not offer a Valedictorian award.  This letter should also include the overall GPA/percent marks of the student at the time of application.

Students with Valedictorian awards are requested to send, with the application form, a copy of their Valedictorian speech (if available at the time of applying).

All applicants must submit a passport size photograph to be published in the Mar Thoma Messenger. The completed form along with attachments should reach the above address on or before August 7th, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Samuel K. Samuel (914) 498-9990**email**: samsamuel@optonline.net

With prayerful regards,

**Rev. Denny Philip                                                                      Samuel K. Samuel**

**Diocesan Secretary                                                                             Convener**