



# The Stream

A monthly publication of the Diocese of South-West America

May 2013

Vol. 2 Issue 4



## Annual Clergy Conference & Diocesan Assembly May 16 – May 18, 2013 in Detroit



*"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-3*

Let us all pray for this year's gathering. May the Holy Spirit inspire our Clergy and Assembly to plan great things for the welfare of our Diocese.

***"When love has entirely cast out fear, and fear has been transformed into love, then the unity brought us by our savior will be fully realized, for all men will be united with one another through their union with the one supreme Good."***

**St. Gregory of Nyssa**



**MEMORY ETERNAL**



**H.G. Geevarghese  
Mar Ivanios  
(1941-2013)**

**30th an 40th Day  
Commemorations  
p. 7**



## REGIONAL FAMILY AND YOUTH CONFERENCES 2013

**\*\*See details inside - p.4**

## Houston Aramana Welcomes Delegation from Coptic Orthodox Church



On Monday, April 8, 2013, the Diocesan Center in Houston was blessed by a visit from His Grace Bishop Youssef of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States, accompanied by Hegomen (Archpriest) Fr. Bishoy George, Vicar of St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Bellaire (Houston), TX. This was the first time that the two hierarchs were able to meet in person.

**--cont'd on p. 2**

### What's News this Month

Ecumenical Corner.....	p. 1,2
MMVS Corner.....	p. 2
Metropolitan's Column.....	p. 3
Regiona F&Y Conf.....	p. 4
From Around the Diocese.....	p. 5 - 6
Memory Eternal.....	p. 3,7
Seasonal Potpourri .....	p. 7
Know our Parish.....	p. 8

## Ecumenical Corner

### *Visit of Bishop Yousef, Diocesan Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern U.S.*

*-cont'd from p. 1*

The bishops discussed the close relationships the Coptic and Indian churches have had in the past, especially in the activities in the World Council of Churches, and the historic meeting of the Oriental Orthodox Churches in Addis Abba in 1965. The Bishops exchanged gifts and thoughts about the similarities between the two churches as well as the monastic systems in both churches. The two prelates discussed ways in which the two churches could work together and especially in the common celebration of liturgy so as to strengthen the bonds of the Dioceses of both churches here in America



## MMVS Corner



***The 5th Annual Conference of Martha Mariam Samajam of the Diocese of South-West America of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church, is scheduled to be held from Friday, September 13th 2013 through Sunday September 14th 2013 at the St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This years the keynote speaker will be Rev. Fr. P.C. George, a renowned convention speaker and the vicar of the St. George Orthodox Church in Vancouver. This year's conference theme is taken from St. Paul's letter to the Hebrews chapter 12 verse 14 which states "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." Along with Fr. P. C. George, our Diocesan Metropolitan, His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius, and Dr. Elizabeth Paul of St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Los Angeles, CA will be leading some of the sessions. Please be sure to register for this conference once the registration process begins in August and do keep this conference in your prayers.***



**Sooboro**  
Wednesday Prayer

Let us unite to pray for others!

**Tele-Prayer Meeting in Malayalam**  
 From 10:20am to 11:30am (CST) every Wednesday.  
 Bible reading, hymns, devotional message,  
 intercessory prayer for the needy & the sick.  
 Please send prayer requests to: [sooboro@ds-wa.org](mailto:sooboro@ds-wa.org)  
 Phone #: (218) 632-0187  
 Access code: 3703#



## Metropolitan's Column

### *Metropolitan's Column*

Beloved in Christ,

We are pleased to see that 'The Stream' has been an effective means for communication within our Diocese. Launched less than a year ago, we have received great feedback regarding its development over the months and its progression not merely as a news bulletin, but as an informative, educational, and edifying publication.

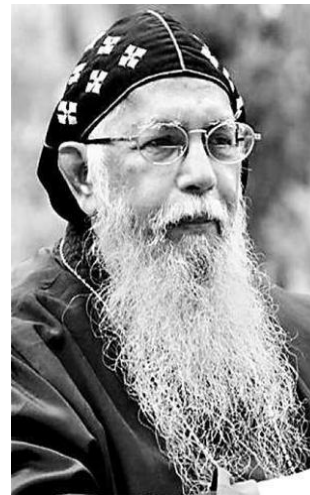
The monthly publication has provided summaries of news and events that take place at the Church, Diocesan, and parish level including ecumenical relations. It has also featured a brief history of a selected parish of our Diocese each month along with articles related to the faith, Biblical expositions, and more. We hope as we move forward that this will be an opportunity for our youngsters to present their talent through poetry, stories, and the like. The ideas and possibilities for this news bulletin are seemingly endless. There is indeed much potential for it, and we are glad to know we continue to make great progress since the first edition.

We take this opportunity to appreciate the efforts of the current Chief Editor, Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko, who has labored much despite his parish and regional level responsibilities to ensure that this publication is sent out in a timely manner each month. There is a great team of volunteers who are working alongside Achen to work on the format, layout, editing, and the many aspects related to such a publication. It is our hope that more lay leaders who have a talent and interest for assisting in this effort will come forward and volunteer their time to work with them to increase the efforts and grow this in the years to come. It is our hope that maybe one day a printed edition of this publication will also be made available.

We seek your whole-hearted support and prayers for the frequent and exceptional publication of this news bulletin throughout our Diocese. May God continue to bless this effort, and may it bring glory to His name.

*Your Shepherd in Christ,  
Alexios Mar Eusebius*

### ***H.G. Geevarghese Mar Ivanios of Blessed Memory***



The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church lost one of its senior bishops as Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Ivanios entered eternal rest in the early morning hours on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Consecrated as a bishop in 1985, Mar Ivanios was enthroned as the Metropolitan of the Kottayam diocese in 1991. Bishop Ivanios was born in 1940 and after his undergraduate studies, completed his post graduate studies in Hebrew and Syriac from Mansfield College and a Masters in Theology from Oxford University in the United Kingdom. He was a professor of the Orthodox Theological Seminary and the author of numerous books on spirituality. In 1978 he was diagnosed with cancer, a condition which he eventually overcame. However, in the recent years, Thirumeni's health had been deteriorating and he was undergoing dialysis procedures twice a week. He was a well respected administrator of diocesan matters and a spiritual father to more than twenty young men who were undergoing tutelage under Thirumeni's at his dayara in Njaliakuzhy, a unique institution that he built from the ground up so as function as not only the bishops residence but a monastery as well. There are now within the Kottayam diocese, numerous young priests who are products of Thirumeni's formation

***-cont'd p.7***

## Regional Family and Youth Conferences 2013

### **2013 Regional Family and Youth Conferences - Looking Forward to a Summer of Blessings!!!**

The conference theme for this year is "One Body, Though Many Parts" (1 Corinthians 12:12). The Diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius and His Grace Dr. Yuhanon Mar Demetrius, Metropolitan of Delhi Diocese, will both be present and lead each of the conferences. Here is some information about each of the regional conferences:

**The 2013 Northwest Region Family & Youth Conference** will take place from **Friday, June 28 to Sunday, June 30, 2013**, at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA. In addition to the two Metropolitans, the main leaders include Youth Leader Mr. Avram Hamdy of the St. George Coptic Orthodox Church in Seattle and other clergy and laity. The conference committee is working under the leadership of Conference Convener Very Rev. Fr. Michael Hatcher, Cor Episcopa (509-325-6432), Youth Conveners Ms. Sunita Victor and Ms. Meklet Yigezu, Conference Secretary Ms. Virginia Pike and Conference Treasurers Rev. Dn. Gabriel Pike and Ms. Dona Newman Gillmore.



**The 2013 South Region Family & Youth Conference** will take place from **Wednesday, July 3 to Saturday, July 6, 2013**, at St. Thomas Orthodox Cathedral, Houston. In addition to the two Metropolitans, the main leaders include Rev. Fr. Dr. Reji Mathew, Dean of Studies, Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, as well as Rev. Fr. James Cheriyan (Detroit), Mrs. Elizabeth Pike (Spokane, WA), Mrs. Achamma Philip (Austin) and other clergy and laity. The conference committee is working under the leadership of Conference Convener Rev. Fr. Raju Daniel, Youth Convener Rev. Fr. Joel Mathew, and Joint Conveners Very Rev. Fr. Geevarghese Aroopala Cor Episcopa, Rev. Fr. Dr. C.O. Vargis, Rev. Fr. P.M. Cheriyan, Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew, Rev. Fr. Joshua George and Rev. Fr. Jake Kurian. Please contact Rajan Joseph (Secretary – 972-242-7535) or Manoj Thomas (Secretary – 832-633-0593) for more information.

**The 2013 Midwest Region Family & Youth Conference** will take place from **Wednesday, July 10 to Saturday, July 13, 2013**, at the Shishewana Conference and Event Center, Shishewana, Indiana. In addition to the two Metropolitans, the main leaders include His Grace Dr. Abraham Mar Seraphim, Metropolitan of Bangalore Diocese, and other clergy and laity. The conference committee is working under the leadership of Conference Director Rev. Fr. Daniel George, Conference Convener Rev. Fr. Abraham (Abi) Chacko (516-655-0117), Conference Coordinator Mrs. Sibyl Chacko, Conference Secretary Mr. Paul Jacob (248-786-9945) and Conference Treasurer Mr. Gibson Mammen.

**The 2013 West Region Family & Youth Conference (F&YC)** will take place from **Thursday, July 18 to Sunday, July 21, 2013**, at the Foothills Club, Phoenix, Arizona. In addition to the two Metropolitans, the main leaders include Rev. Fr. Dr. Reji Mathew, Dean of Studies, Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, Rev. Dn. Gabriel Pike, Mrs. Elizabeth Pike and other clergy and laity. The conference committee is working under the leadership of Conference Convener Rev. Fr. Slomo Isac George (480-643-9770), Conference Coordinator Mr. Rajan K. John, Youth Convener Rev. Dn. Samuel (Saju) Varghese, Youth Coordinator Mr. Rohit John Mathew, Conference Secretary Mr. Thomas Mathew and Conference Treasurer Mr. Jenu Mathew.

**The 2013 Southeast Region Family & Youth Conference** will take place from **Friday, July 26 to Sunday, July 28, 2013**, at the Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, Tampa, Florida. In addition to the two Metropolitans, the main leaders include Rev. Dn. Abraham Philip, Mrs. Bijy Zachariah and other clergy and laity. The conference committee is working under the leadership of Conference Convener Rev. Fr. George Paulose (813-838-1756), Joint Convener Ms. Sonia Kallarackal, Youth Conveners Ms. Sheena Mathew and Mr. Riju Thomas, Conference Secretary Mr. Cherian Abraham and Conference Treasurer Mr. Koshy Mammen.





## From Around the Diocese



### **Holy Ordination to the Sub-Diaconate**

On Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>, His Grace Metropolitan Alexios Mar Eusebius will ordain Arun Varghese Modayil to the order of sub-deacon at the St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Elmhurst, Illinois. Arun has been studying at our Orthodox Theological Seminary for the

past four years and will finish his final year at O.T.S after his ordination. Although born in Kerala, he has been in living the United States for the past 19 years now. He completed his undergraduate degree in History from Northern Illinois University and work for a short period of time before heading out to India for his theological studies. Please keep his upcoming ordination and future ministry in your prayers.



### **MMVS Area Meeting held in Chicago**

The Chicago Area MMVS held their quarterly meeting on April 13, 2013 at St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church, Oak Lawn. The MMVS gathering consisting of over 70 participants from all the Chicago Area Parishes was blessed with the presence of our Diocesan Metropolitan, H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius, V. Rev. Peter Thomas Remban from Mt. Tabor Dayara, Pathanapuram and all the Vicars from the Chicago Area Parishes. The keynote Speaker for the day was Prof. Mary Mathew, The General Secretary of the Akhila Malankara Morth Mariam Vanitha Samajam, who spoke about Christian family values and roles in the home. It was truly a blessed day for the Chicago Area.

### **How do you like your news?**



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**thestreamdswa@gmail.com**

### **MGOCSM DEVOTIONALS**

<http://www.mgocsmamerica.com/devotionals>

*MGOCSM North America releases weekly devotionals based on the Gospel readings for each week. These devotionals are written by the leaders of the Church - both clergy and lay leaders. This is a great way to revamp your week with self-reflection and in the word. Please subscribe and spread the word in your areas as well!*

## Slootho

Tuesday Prayer

Let us come together for fellowship and intercession!

## Tele-Prayer Meeting in English

From 9:05 pm to 9:35 pm (CST) every Tuesday.

Soothoro prayer, Devotional message,

Intercessory prayer for the needy & the sick.

Please send prayer requests to: [slootho@ds-wa.org](mailto:slootho@ds-wa.org)

Phone # (218) 632-0187

Access code: 3703#

## From Around the Diocese



### ***St. George, San Antonio Celebrates Tenth Anniversary***

***"For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth to all generations." Psalms 100:5***

The St. George Indian Orthodox Church, San Antonio celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on May 3-5, 2013. The church was established on December 28, 2003 under the leadership of its first vicar, Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew. There was a vision to start a parish in San Antonio due to the growing community. The parish continued to flourish under the guidance of the resident priest, The Late Very Rev. Koshy Poovathoor Corepiscopa. Currently, St. George is growing strong with an increasing number of members under the leadership and support of its current vicar, Rev. Fr. Mathews George.

The Perunnal Celebrations commenced Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with an Inauguration Program led by our Diocesan Metropolitan, His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius. The occasion was also attended by all the

church families, vicars, representatives and members from the local churches in San Antonio and Austin. During the evening's program, the parish honored 14 couples celebrating 20 or more years of marriage. Each couple was given a plaque blessed by our Metropolitan. We also took a few moments to remember our Founding Forefathers, and the members of our parish who have passed away. The entertainment portion of the program consisted of songs and dances by the spiritual organizations of the St. George church. In addition, one of the evening highlight's was the musical talent of Houston Saregama and the comedy performance by Vodaphone. The evening was truly successful due to the cooperation of all the church members.

The Perunnal Celebrations continued on Saturday evening, May 4<sup>th</sup> with evening prayer led by our Eusebius Thirumeni. This was then followed by Thirumeni's devotional address to the congregation. Each spiritual organization presented their annual reports from the last year. We then ended the evening with Rasa and dinner.

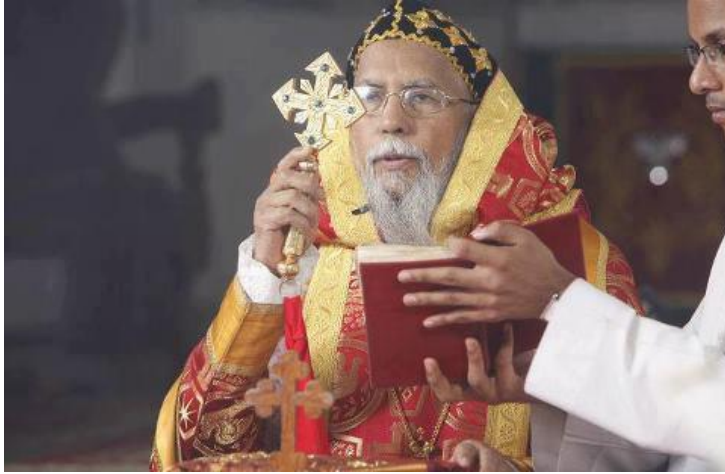
Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Perunnal Celebrations concluded on Sunday morning, May 5<sup>th</sup> with Morning Prayers. Our Metropolitan led the altar boy ordination service for Joshua Mathews and Kevin Varghese. Our vicar Mathews George, post seminary graduate Arun Varghese, and other altar assistants helped our Thirumeni with the service. This was then followed by the Holy Qurbana and Rasa. A plaque commemorating the consecration of the church was unveiled and installed following the Rasa by our Metropolitan. There was lunch provided to all that came and shared in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Perunnal Celebrations of St George.

God has tremendously blessed our congregation over the last 10 years. The blessings we received and the struggles we endured have led us to this momentous occasion. We look forward to God's will and purpose for our parish in the years to come.

**O GREAT AND HOLY MARTYR ST. GEORGE PRAY FOR US!**



## MEMORY ETERNAL- cont'd



### *H.G. Mar Ivanios of Blessed Memory* -cont'd from p.3

and training. He was very adamant that candidates for seminary studies, stay with him at his dayara for a certain period of time so as to mature spiritually. The teachings that thirumeni instilled on these young men can be seen in the lives of the young priests of the Kottayam diocese. The elder priests of the diocese also had tremendous love and respect for Thirumeni something that is shared by the fellow Metropolitans of the Malankara Orthodox Church as

well. He was an ardent follower of Orthodox Christianity and personified the life of a modern monk. Let us continue to pray for Thirumeni and ask that he intercedes for on behalf of us all. The 40<sup>th</sup> day of his demise will be celebrated on Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013. May the memory of His Grace Geevarghese Mar Ivanios be eternal!

## SEASONAL POTPOURRI



### *'Fulfilling My Dream' by Christina Elson*

I want to fulfill my dream. I want to get my point across to the people out there. What do we learn from seeing other struggle? Pleasure? Enjoyment? Are we all not humans? Have we all not have at least suffered once because of economy problems, health problems, and mental problems? Therefore, we all have at least once, if we are truthful to ourselves, have been through this. So why do we like to see others going through the same situation? You are not they only person going through a tough situation. Wouldn't you want some to help you when you are in trouble? For someone to lend you a hand, and stay with you through your harsh and troubled times? One day your favor will be repaid to you 10 folds more powerful than what you did. Why do we all build up walls against others in need? To protect ourselves against what we have already been through? So we don't decrease the level of social life like they do? And for the matter why are there even levels? We all want to feel wanted and accepted. Well if we all could accept each other there won't need to have different levels or competition. The more we help other who are going through what we had been through, the more immune we become from that situation. We should not look at someone and judge. Underneath the skin we are all the same in every way.

If only we all would realize we are still in our cocoons. We all would be able to be happy without worries. To break free of the unfortunate past drama that held us back. We won't be perfect, but close enough to our make our community a better place. We should not wait for others to take a step forward. We could start a chain reaction. Yes, not all people will agree, but we have millions who will. We shouldn't ignore the ones who can't reach a settlement, but show them a happy medium. We all have to step up to these words and live up to theses dreams. So I hope one day that this might happen. Of course it will take progress and time, but I believe it's worth the wait. It's for the better. We can't make choices for other, but we have many places where we can persuade. Like media, using it for the better of the world. I have a dream and I hope to fulfill it. I will work hard and strive for the best. I have a dream and I am not planning on backing down. No! I have to let everyone know there is much better things waiting for us outside out cocoons. That we all need shed our cocoons that hold us back and fly free of them for the better. With the different kinds of wings that represent our personality. I know we all can. We all need to make a movement together. Starting today, we all can stand up at once and say "No, I will not judge". It will bring us not only more friends, but also greater joy knowing you helped some. I have a dream and I believe in fulfilling it.

*Christina's Essay placed second in Denton County(TX) Martin Luther King Jr. essay competition. Congratulations!*

## Know our Parish

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### St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Detroit, MI

2850 Parent Ave. Warren, MI 48092

([www.stthomasdetroit.org](http://www.stthomasdetroit.org))

In the early nineteen seventies, a few Malankara Orthodox Christian families who came to the Metropolitan-Detroit area pursuing their dreams brought with them also an idea to have a place to worship the Lord in the Malankara Orthodox way. They formed a congregation and arranged prayer meetings at their homes. Later they decided to bring priests to celebrate the Holy Qurbana. They were able to obtain the services and spiritual guidance of the late Very Rev. Fr. Thomas P. Mundukuzhy, Corepiscopa, Very Rev. Yohannan Sankarathil, Corepiscopa, Rev Fr. M.T Philip, Rev. Fr. Dr. M.K. Thomas, and Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Kurian Thottupuram, Rev. Fr. T.M. Zachariah and Rev. Fr. P.K. Mathew. Their services are still cherished and remembered with deep respect and sincere thanks. The guidance and efforts of Rev. Fr. Yohanan Sankarathil Corepiscopa in helping us to form a parish of our own are praise worthy. The arrival of Rev. Fr. MT Philip (then Deacon M.T. Philip) to Detroit was a great blessing to our congregation having played an integral part in the spiritual growth of our congregation until his move to Houston.

On April 9, 1978 the late His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, Rev Fr. Philip Jacob and Rev. Fr. Dr. M.E. Idiculla visited our congregation and celebrated the Holy Qurbana and declared our congregation, St. Thomas Orthodox Church of India, Detroit, as a parish of the American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. Rev. Fr. Philip Jacob was appointed as the Vicar of the parish. By the grace of God, in 1990 we were able to sign the deed for the Apostolic Faith Temple church in Southfield, Michigan. The new church provided the congregation with a facility not only to worship, but also to hold cultural and spiritual events including Malayalam classes, retreats, and youth days. Prayer meetings continued as well as weekly Sunday school classes. Over the years, we have started Divya Bhodhanam classes for the adults of our church, which is conducted at same time as Sunday School classes.

As years passed, the parish blossomed under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Philip Jacob and soon the existing church building was not adequate to accommodate all the members and their activities. After looking into several churches, as well as conducting a detailed study into the possibility of building a church, we decided to purchase The Holy Trinity Seminary with 38,000 square feet building on 5 acres of land in Warren, Michigan in 2006. This facility consists of a chapel, gym and many class rooms.

Our church members once again demonstrated their commitment to the church by working collaboratively to renovate the facility to our needs. Our plan was to build a new church attached to the existing building to accommodate our growing members. The general body decided to build a new church building for accommodating 700 people. After completion, in June 2008, we were blessed with the presence of His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thoma Paulose II (then His Beatitude Paulose Mar Milithios) who consecrated the new church. In 2012, Rev. Fr. James Cheriyan was appointed as the Assistant Vicar of the church by His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius. The arrival of Fr. James has had a profound effect on our church, especially the youth.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> generation and the youth are strongly integrated with all aspects of our church. From church administration to holy services we are blessed with a dedicated and passionate group of youth. Our church has also been an active participant in the ecumenical programs held in the metropolitan area. Our various organizations, like the FOCUS group, MMVS, MGOCSM and Youth Group have organized numerous community service events. As a church we recognize the need to extend a helping hand to the poor and needy in the community we live and in the community many of us left back in India.

If you get a chance to visit Michigan, please take some time and visit us at our church. For more information, visit our website or find us at [www.facebook.com/stthomasdetroit](http://www.facebook.com/stthomasdetroit)

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