



The Stream

A monthly publication of the Diocese of South-West America

October 2012

Vol. I Issue 04

Care with Love

Alexios Mar Eusebius Metropolitan



The Ministry of Human Empowerment of the Malankara Orthodox Church launched a project this year known as "Sneha Thanalil Ee Sayahnam," a project geared towards care for the elderly as well as palliative care. His Holiness the Catholicos, Baselios Marthoma Paulose II, sent a Kalpana informing the believers to arrange educational and awareness programs in our parishes highlighting the significance of this very important topic of great concern.

There is no doubt that the presence of elders is a blessing for a family and society at large. Their advices including the sharing of their life experiences are always beneficial for a growing generation. The first generation Indian immigrants in America had grown up and lived in a joint family system, which is a life experience that can be considered alien to western society. The system developed for them a mutual support lifestyle where the elders took care of the younger children and the adults took care of the elders. Almost every child grew up holding the hands of their grandparents, and they were generally guided into society by them. They learned numerous morals, stories, songs, etc. from the elders and thereby developed a well-rounded personality. The fruit of a joint family system is a close knit relationship from generation to generation.---Cont'd on p.3

What's News this Month

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Know our Parish.....p 8

Diocesan Metropolitan meets Bishop Basil



During his first pastoral visit to Kansas City, our Diocesan Metropolitan met with His Grace Bishop Basil, the Diocesan Bishop of Wichita and Mid-America of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

---Cont'd on p. 2

Malankara Association Secretary Visits Houston



The Malankara Association Secretary Dr. George Joseph recently visited the Diocesan Center in Houston. He was received by the Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebius, the Houston area clergy Very Rev. Geevarghis Aroopala, Rev. Fr. P.M. Cherian, Rev. Fr. Dr. V.C. Varghese, Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew, Rev. Fr. Varghese Thomas, Rev. Fr. Joel Mathew, Rev. Dn. Shaun Mathew, Dr. Zachariah Thomas (Sabha Managing committee & Diocesan Ad-Hoc Committee Member (2008-2011), Mr. Charly Varghese (Diocesan Council Member), Mr. Kuruvilla Varughese (Diocesan Public Relations Officer), Mr. Baby Thomas (Diocesan Assembly member) and other faithful members of the churches from Houston area.

--Cont'd on p.4

Stay Tuned for Next Month's Issue

**Report on
Morth Mariam
Vanitha
Samajam
4th Annual
Conference**



**CATHOLICATE
CENTENARY
AND
1960TH YEAR
CELEBRATIONS
IN INDIA
Nov. 25, 2012**



Ecumenical Corner

Oriental Orthodox Clergy Meet in Atlanta

On Monday October 1st H.G. Alexios Mar Eusebios hosted a clergy fellowship with the Oriental Orthodox Clergy Association of Atlanta, at St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Atlanta. The meeting was attended by priests and deacons from the Coptic, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Indian Orthodox Churches. The meeting began with Evening prayer, and His Grace led a devotional message and provided his blessing and pastoral wisdom. Afterwards the attendees had dinner and fellowship. We would like to thank all the clergy members who came and attended this meeting even with the inclement weather experienced that evening. A special thanks goes to the St. Thomas Parish and vicar Rev. Fr. K.Y. Wilson in providing their hospitality for the meeting.



The Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America is of the Eastern Orthodox tradition and includes over 250 churches and missions throughout the United States and Canada. The Church currently includes nine dioceses spanning the continent, overseen by eight bishops in addition to Metropolitan Philip, the ruling hierarchy of the church for more than 40 years now.

Visit with Bishop Basil - Cont'd from p. 1

The meeting took place on Monday, October 8th at the diocesan chancery in Wichita, Kansas where both bishops exchanged gifts, shared a meal, and prayed together at the nearby Cathedral of the diocese.

Also present during the meeting was Very Rev. Paul O'Callaghan (Parish Priest, St. George Cathedral, Wichita), Heirodeacon Benedict (Secretary to HG Bishop Basil), Fr. Zachariah Diyu Skariah (Vicar, St. Gregorios Church, Kansas City), and Mr. Amit Alex (Diocesan Assembly Member, St. Gregorios Church, Kansas City).

MEMORY ETERNAL

The Armenian patriarch of Jerusalem, Torkom Manoogian, died on Oct. 12 after being hospitalized since January with cardiac problems. He was buried on Monday Oct, 21 in a funeral attended by representatives of all the Christian Churches of the Holy Land. Hundreds of cloaked clergymen marched through the narrow alleyways of the Old City of Jerusalem to lay its longtime Armenian Patriarch to rest. Since his election in 1990, Manoogian has led a the Armenians in Jerusalem. One of the four quarters of the Old City belongs to them. Armenians have a 1,600-year presence in the city.





Sooboro
Wednesday Prayer

Let us unite to pray for others!

<http://loveindeed.ds-wa.org>

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
 Phone #: (218) 632-0187
 Access code: 3703#



Care with love - cont'd from pg 1

Metropolitan's Column

The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is celebrating both the 1960th year of its founding and the 100th year of the establishment of the Catholicate in India. This celebration asserts the nationality, autonomy and autocephaly of our ancient church. Like all other Orthodox churches in the world, we have our own national hierarchs who wield spiritual and temporal powers over the global, borderless Malankara tradition. We have a Catholicos in India in succession to the apostolic throne of St. Thomas.

At the Diocesan level, the celebration of the establishment of the Catholicate was held during the Diocesan Family & Youth Conference in Florida on July 12, 2012. The Diocese also communicated the importance of this event to all the parishes using multiple avenues. At the parish level, many individual parishes in our Diocese celebrated this historic event. The one year long Catholicate Centenary celebrations in regions and Dioceses culminate on November 25, 2012 with a grand function in Ernakulam in which major religious and secular leaders will participate. As Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church members, we must all be proud of this great event.

May the Triune God bless this 1960 year old church and the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas and may God the Holy Spirit who guided the fathers of this church continue to guide the shepherds of this church, those who are and who are to come.

*Your Shepherd in Christ,
Alexios Mar Eusebius*

This relationship was not only with the immediate family but also distant relatives. Everyone was considered family and every individual was taken care of by someone. Whether young or old, there was mutual support and love. This was enough to take care of all the dimensions of life including physical, spiritual, emotional, academic, and psychological needs.

The western lifestyle and education system has a totally different philosophy which molds each individual to think and live independently. The states made laws in order to maintain freedom for individuals. The children also enjoy freedom in the family since the law limits parental punishment in their molding process. Though the law was made to protect children from all sorts of abuse that may occur in the family atmosphere or from society, it also tends to lead parents and elders to avoid being strict or give an appropriate punishment/consequence which is necessary in the development of a child. Essentially, the system inculcates an understanding among children and youth that their future is safe in the individual freedom provided by the civil law not in their relation to their immediate family or beloved ones.

Upon completion of high school, our children move to distant places for their higher studies, and the stress related to their education and job limits their contact and visit to their parents. Once married, they want to live independently and stress importance of privacy and personal life. It is not merely their fault, but the society they grew up in molded them in such a way that they do not prefer their aged parents to live with them. Thus, with their job stress, family responsibility and time constraints, they do not find time to spare with their parents. As a result, in the modern society, the elderly are often seen as burdens rather than blessings. Many quickly forget the sacrifices our parents made for us even when they were in need of care for themselves. Instead of taking them into our homes—whenever that is safe and feasible—we put them in retirement communities or nursing homes, sometimes against their will. We may not value the wisdom they have acquired through living long lives, and we often easily discredit their advice as “outdated.” The Scriptures have much to say about caring for elderly parents and other family members who are not able to care for themselves. The early Church served as the social service agency for believers. They cared for the poor, the sick, the widows and the orphans who had no one else to care for them. Christians who had family members in need were expected to meet those needs. Unfortunately, caring for our parents in their old age is no longer an obligation that many of us are willing to accept.

When we honor and care for our parents, we are serving God as well. The Scripture says, “Honor widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God...but if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8).

Not all elderly people need or want constant, live-in care in their children's homes. They may prefer to live in a community with other people of their age, or they may be quite capable of complete independence. Regardless of the circumstances, we still have obligations to our parents. If they are in need of financial assistance, we should help them. If they are sick, we should take care of them. If they need a place to stay, we should offer our home. If they need help with household things, we should step up to assist. Finally, even if they are under the care of a nursing facility, we need to assess the living conditions to make sure our parents are being properly and lovingly cared for. We should never allow the cares of the world to overshadow the things that are most important—serving God through serving people, especially the people in our own family. The Apostle Paul reminds us, “‘Honor your father and mother’ which is the first commandment with a promise ‘that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth’” (Ephesians 6:2-3).

With advances in medical technology and improvements in public health and nutrition, the average life span of people has remarkably increased. As the elderly population expands, the



number of people who require care is growing rapidly. A survey notified that by 2055 one in 2.5 people will be 65 years or older. Aggravating society's care problem is the fact that the average family's ability to provide such care is decreasing, partly because of the ongoing transition from extended to nuclear family patterns. In those cases, the Church has also a role to cater to the needs of these elders who were once instrumental in the building up of the churches in the respective areas. Elderly welfare services are to be designed to support them to ensure their needs are met on a long term basis. The elderly welfare system includes a variety of services such as:

1. Senior Centers and Home Delivered Meals
2. Case management, supportive counseling, adult day services, senior transportation, adult protective services
3. Home health care and geriatric mental health services

Palliative Care is also a very important area the Church needs to get involved in. I firmly believe that the hospice movement has been God's gift to this country, and it is especially encouraging to know that some of the clergy within our diocese is working with this movement. Hospice care is open to people of all faiths, but the term 'spiritual care' in the context of the hospice movement was originally defined in terms of our relationship to God the Creator. As it has expanded and moved back into mainstream healthcare, palliative care has become secularized and the dominant ethos is now humanism. The concept of spirituality has been broadened and watered down so that it is now very hard to define and spiritual care is difficult to provide.

The people who are in the palliative care should get the faith that God is in their dying, just as He was there in their birth. It is essential that the Church gets involved in this work and reclaim its foundation. It is important to say that this kind of work is not something that everyone can do. I believe that to do it effectively there has to be a sense of calling. The world believes that physical death is the worst thing that can happen to a person. With such an outlook, the inevitability of death destroys hope. Orthodox Christians are not immune to this fear. One might think that having a Christian faith would generally equip a person better to face death than a non-believer. I think there is great truth in the observation that although most Christians believe in life after physical death in their heads, it is not often a reality in their hearts. Palliative care can be challenging and demanding, but it is also tremendously rewarding and full of opportunity. People die only once, and we only get one chance to serve them. The Church has a huge amount to contribute to let a person pass on from this world in hope.

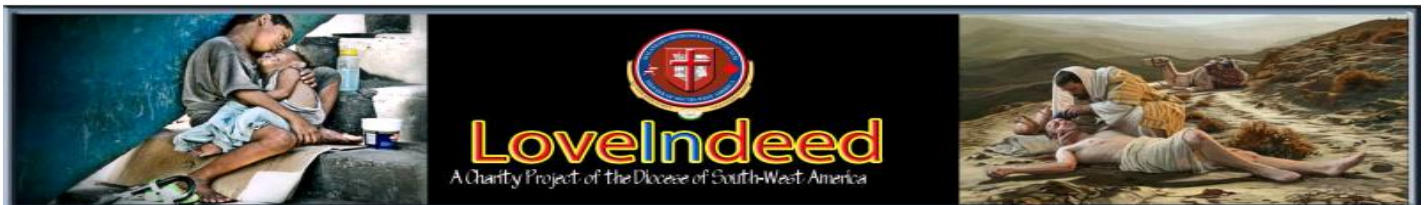
It is my prayer that the parishes and people in our diocese would respond to this great need by responding first to the needs in our own family and then extend a helping hand to the people in society. With a willing heart, we have the ability to put our hands and talents together and work to serve this population that is in great need of love and care. May the Holy Spirit guide us to respond in love to the elderly and those in palliative care so that we can fulfill the mission of the Church.

Dr. George Joseph's visit to Houston - Cont'd from p. 1

Thirumeni expressed his great happiness in welcoming the young and dynamic secretary to the diocese and then introduced the members present to Dr. Joseph. During the informal discussion, the lack of public relations work in our church, to highlight our churches' strength and rich traditions, was brought to the attention of the secretary. In reply to that, Dr. Joseph commented that it has been recently identified by many members as one of our weak points. This is due to the absence of our own media and influential political leaders from our church.

The Association Secretary explained the current situation facing our church in Kerala regarding the issue with the Jacobite faction. As a result of the lack of enthusiasm among our church members to get involved in politics at the grass root level, unless we get involved early on, we will have much less clout in Kerala politics which will adversely affect our interests. This was evident in the recent developments in Kerala regarding our church. Dr. Joseph commented that our church leaders and members are aware of this and will give much attention to getting our members to get more involved.

Interaction with the church center at Kottayam and American Dioceses were among other topics discussed. Due to the improvements in communication technology, it is easier nowadays to convey information. However, the Kalpanas written in Malayalam poses difficulties for the young generation here. Members requested the Association Secretary to try to send all correspondence in English as well. He also suggested that while other Dioceses had met the target regarding the Catholicate Day Fund collection, more cooperation from our Diocese would be valued, considering the resources we have.



MGOCISM Round-Up

MGOCISM Chicago Summer Conference



The 14th Annual Chicago MGOCISM Summer Conference was held at Benedictine University in Lisle, IL, from August 2nd-5th. Nearly 110 individuals attending the conference themed "Walking in the Light", taken from 1 John 1:5-7. Clergy and seminarians from both the Northeast American Diocese and the Diocese of South-West America helped lead the conference.

With blessings from HG Alexios Mar Eusebius, Metropolitan, who in spite of a tightly packed schedule, took a personal interest in attending, the Core Team that organized the conference was led by Mathew Mani and Subin Oommen and guided by Chicago area clergy such as Fr. Abi Chacko and the Youth Chaplain for the Chicago area Fr. Christopher Mathew. Those in attendance experienced a great time of fellowship and growth as a result of excellent sessions led by Fr. Aju Mathews, Fr. Christopher Mathew, Dn. Teji Abraham, and Jenny Mosher, a 'kochamma' from the Orthodox Church in America. These dynamic speakers presented various workshops to participants divided into various age-groups. Additionally, there were small group sessions led by lay leaders who enabled discussions of both the spiritual and practical aspects of the main theme, workshops and devotions.

Furthermore, there were several thought-provoking skits, refreshing song sessions, informative presentations about the Missions Trip and the upcoming Philadelphia Leadership Camp, a evening of Holy Confession followed by a blessed Holy Qurbana, celebrated by Fr. Aju Mathews. The conference ended with an emotional closing session where participants shared experiences blessed and equipped with practical ways to "Walk in the Light"

Houston Area Campus Ministry



The campus ministry of the Houston was conducted at The University of Houston on September 19th by Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew and Rev. Fr. Joel Mathew (Assistant vicars of St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Houston). The Achens led Bible studies and emphasized the need to be focused and to stay away from distractions. The students were also advised of the importance of helping each other and being role models for others in studies and character. Fifty students from various universities at Houston attended the fellowship. This fellowship is scheduled for every third Wednesday of each month.

Campus Ministry – University of Illinois

On September 13 and 14, students from the University of Illinois opened up their apartments and dorms to be blessed by Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko (V.P. MGOCISM Mid-West Region) and Rev. Fr. Christopher Mathew (Youth Minister – Chicago). It was blessed occasion for students to come together and make



their home away from home a sacred place. The U of I campus ministry meets weekly on Friday evening with prayer and a book/article/podcast study for the week. Both achens were able to attend the weekly meeting which was also attended by students from the local OCF chapter.

Slootho

Tuesday Prayer

Let us come together for
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Tele-Prayer Meeting in English

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

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From Around the Diocese

Midwest MMVS Regional Conference



The Midwest Regional MMVS Conference was held on September 15, 2012, at St. Gregorios Orthodox Cathedral, Bellwood, IL. Rev. Fr. Ninan V. George gave an educational lecture about the topic, "How to Live a Model Life in different Leadership." Rev. Fr. Daniel George introduced & explained about the developing plans of the upcoming Family conference to the Group. Regional level quiz and talent competition was conducted at the conference, and the trophies were awarded. Rev. Fr. Philip Sankarathil & Rev. Fr. James Cherian from Detroit, and Rev. Fr. Abi Chacko from St. Mary's Church, Chicago also attended and gave useful suggestions & advice in felicitation speeches.

Mrs. Sarah Gabriel from St. Thomas Church also spoke at the conference. The enthusiastic leadership of the Vicar along with Mrs. Aleyamma Punnose (US) and Mrs. Gigi Simon (AS) and the hard work of all the other members made the event a great success.



Centenary Celebrations - St. Mary's, Dallas

Catholicate Centenary celebrations were held at St. Mary's Valiyapally, Dallas, on Sunday October 7, 2012. The Meeting was presided over by Rev. Fr. Raju M Daniel (Vicar & Sabha Managing Committee Member) and H.G Yakob Mar Irenios (Metropolitan, Kochi Diocese) inaugurated the meeting. Dr. George Joseph (Malankara Assoc. Secretary) was the Keynote speaker. Mr. Thomas Rajan (Sabha Managing Committee Member) & Mr. Elson Samuel (Diocesan Council Member) gave felicitation speeches.

OVBS and Back to School Camp

The 2012 OVBS and Back to School Camp was held at St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church from August 23rd to 25th. Forty six students from the host parish and



neighbouring parishes participated in the event. The OVBS was inaugurated on Thursday evening, August 23rd by Rev. Fr. CG Thomas, Vicar, in the presence of the Southwest America Sunday School Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Alex Alexander, and the Dallas Region Sunday School Coordinator, Mr. Philip Thomas. During the 2 and a half days, students participated in various classes, games, group activities, sports, and spiritual messages centered on the main theme taken from Galatians 3:28, "...one in Christ..". Rev. Fr. Binu Mathews, Assistant Vicar at St. Paul Malankara Orthodox Church, Plano, Texas provided the closing message to prepare the children for the start of the new Sunday School and Academic year. We appreciate the tremendous support of our coordinator, Mr. Jithin Zachariah, Sunday school parent volunteers, financial sponsors, and our senior Sunday School class who all were instrumental to the success of this year's OVBS.

Centenary Celebrations at St. Gregorios, Dallas

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Dallas Texas celebrated the Catholicate Centenary Celebrations on Sunday October 7th after the Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr. Dr. O. Thomas, Malankara Orthodox Church Sunday School Association Director gave the keynote speech. In addition, Vicar Rev. Fr. C.G. Thomas, Rev. Fr. Mathew Alexander, Secretary Alex Alexander, Trustee Michael Chacko, Committee Member Mrs. Jolly Thomas and Diocesan Council Member Charley Varghese also spoke at the occasion.



Sunday School Anniversary at St. Gregorios, Dallas

The annual Sunday School anniversary was celebrated the St. Gregorios Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church on Sunday, August 26th. The program was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. CG Thomas, Vicar, in the presence of the Southwest America Sunday School Diocesan Secretary, Mr. Alex Alexander, and the Dallas Region Sunday School Coordinator, Mr. Philip Thomas. Achen provided an uplifting message centered on the importance of Sunday School as the foundation in the life of every child and confirmed Sunday School as the most important spiritual organization in the parish. Principal Sony Alexander provided the welcome message and thanked the former and current vicars of the parish, students, parents, and volunteers for

their time and effort to Sunday School activities. This year, St. Gregorios Orthodox welcomes 12 new individuals who will serve as teachers and assistant teachers. We thank God almighty for bring them forth to serve the needs of our children. A special song was sung by Bethany Zachariah. Personalized plaques were distributed to students who received distinction at the church, region, and diocese level in oral and written competitions, as well as Sunday School academic and attendance. Sunday School awarded a special plaque in memoriam to the family of our beloved student who left this world for eternal glory, Samuel George. The program concluded with prayers by our vicar for the upcoming Sunday School year.



Chicago Area Combined OVBS

The Chicago area parishes of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church jointly conducted the OVBS (Orthodox Vacation Bible School) at the St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Oak Lawn, from July 19 through 21. About 120 children and 50 volunteers participated. The event started with

a video message from our Bishop Alexios Mar Eusebios, and the children enjoyed three days of fun-filled activities, including lessons, music, crafts, food, and outdoor activities. Children participated in the Holy Qurbana on the last day, as well as the procession in celebration of Centenary of the establishment of the Catholicate in India. Overall it was a blessing to all participants, and a tribute to the host parish for selflessly accommodating the event.



Dallas Mar Gregorios Trophy

Ms. Asha Abraham was awarded the Dallas St. Mary's valiapally's Parumala Mar Gregorios Trophy by HG Yuhanon Mar Chrysostomos Metropolitan of Niranam Diocese. Ms. Asha Abraham scored first in church and faith knowledge exam given by the church for students above seventh grade.



REMINDER!!!!

DIOCESAN MMVS ANNUAL EXAM

November 17, 2012

Please contact your parish MMVS unit for more information

The Indian Consul General Visits the Diocesan Center

The Honorable Mr. Parvathaneni Harish, the newly appointed Consul General of the Indian Consulate in Houston, together with his family, called upon our Diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius at the Diocesan Center on Thursday, September 27, 2012. His Grace Dr. Yakoob Mar Irenios (Diocesan Metropolitan Of Kochi Diocese) and local Houston area clergy, Very Rev. Gheevarghis Aroopala Cor Episcopa, Rev. Fr. Mammen Mathew, Rev. Fr. Dr. V. C. Varghese, Rev. Fr. P. M. Cheriyan, Rev. Fr. Varghese Thomas, Rev Fr. Joel Mathew and Rev. Dn. Shaun Mathew joined the Diocesan



Metropolitan to welcome the Consulate General to the Diocesan center. The Consul General was very pleased to get to know the Diocesan Metropolitan and the local clergy, while he made it clear that his familiarity with the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church goes back many years. Thirumeni presented the Consul General with an intricate carved vase made of cedar while his wife Mrs. Nandita Harish was presented with an Orthodox Study Bible, which she accepted most graciously.

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SPIRITUAL ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS TO

thestreamdswa@gmail.com

Know our Parishes

St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Kansas City, MI

(www.stgregorioskc.org)

It is truly the work of the Holy Spirit that we are blessed with an Indian Orthodox parish in the Kansas City area. While Orthodox families have resided in the area since the 1970s, it was in the year 2002 the seed for our parish was planted. It all began when our senior-most member and long-time Kansas resident, Mr. Abraham Mathew, came across Rev. Fr. M. Zachariah at an engagement ceremony in Denver, Colorado. Though it was the first time they had met, the conversation ended with Achen volunteering to come to Kansas City to celebrate the liturgy. On November 16, 2002, Fr. M. Zachariah celebrated the first Divine Liturgy for the Indian Orthodox faithful in the Kansas City area.

As the years passed, efforts were taken to try and organize more frequent services. Beginning in June of 2007, Rev. Fr. Chacko V. Issac, the Vicar of St. Mary's Orthodox Church in St. Louis, extended his support to our community by offering to come to Kansas City on occasion to lead prayer fellowship meetings and to celebrate the Divine Liturgy.

During the summer of 2008, Rev. Fr. Cherian M. Kunnel (Sunny Achen), relocated to the Kansas City area for work purposes and volunteered to celebrate the liturgy in Kansas City as his schedule allowed. On November 1, 2008, we were blessed to have Sunny Achen celebrate the liturgy commemorating the memorial feast of St. Gregorios. Following the liturgy that day, a meeting of all who had gathered led to the historic decision that a congregation should be formed in the name of St. Gregorios of Parumala which was immediately followed by the election of our first committee. Under the sacrificial and committed leadership of Sunny Achen, we were able to celebrate



the liturgy on a monthly basis on Saturday mornings, and the foundation was laid for a parish community.

In September of 2009, His Grace Alexios Mar Eusebius formally recognized our congregation under the South-West Diocese and appointed Rev. Fr. Cherian M. Kunnel as the priest-in-charge.

In August of 2011, we were blessed to have Dn. Zachariah and his wife move to Kansas City for their graduate studies. Recognizing the potential in Kansas City and the need for a resident priest, our Diocesan Metropolitan ordained Dn. Zachariah to the Holy Order of Priesthood. Just days after the ordination, on November 2, 2011, our Diocesan Metropolitan through his written order elevated our congregation as a parish under the Diocese of South-West America and appointed Rev. Fr. Zachariah Diju Skariah as the first resident Vicar of our parish.

Since the inception of our parish and the appointment of Fr. Zachariah, the liturgy has been celebrated weekly on Sunday mornings at a rental church and monthly family prayer fellowships have been held at the residence of our parishioners. We have been blessed to celebrate several major feast days for the first time including the Holy Week services. Just a few weeks ago, on October 6-8, we were extremely blessed to welcome our Diocesan Metropolitan during his first pastoral visit to Kansas City and our parish since its inception.

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Diocese of

South-West America
3703 Chesterdale Dr.
Missouri City, TX • 77459

PHONE

(281) 403-0670

FAX

(281) 459-0814

E-MAIL

dswadiocesanoffice
@gmail.com



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