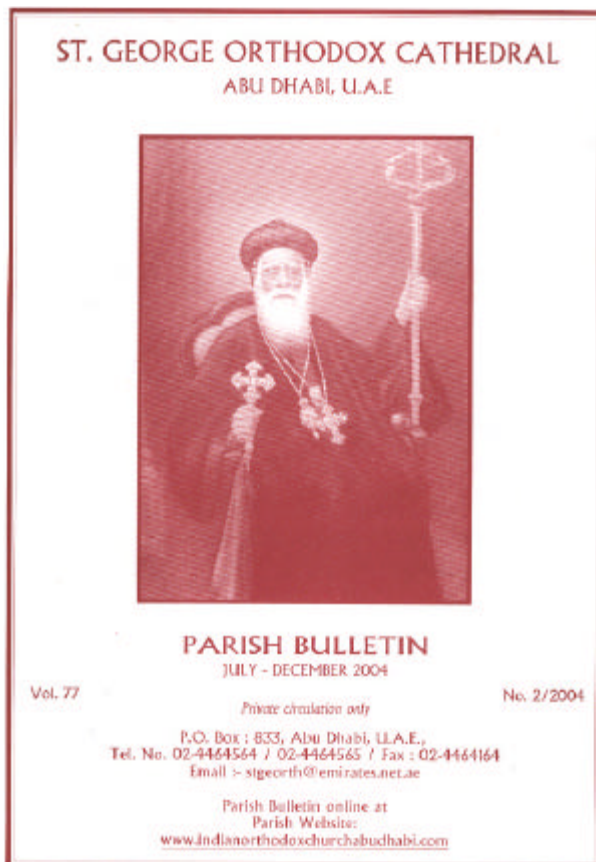


ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL ABU DHABI, U.A.E



PARISH BULLETIN

JULY - DECEMBER 2004

VOL.77

No.2/2004

Private circulation only

P.O. Box : 883, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.,
Tel. No. 02-4464564/ 02-4464565, Fax: 02-4464164

Email :- stgeorth@emirates.net.ae

Parish Bulletin online at

Parish Website:

www.indianorthodoxchurchabudhabi.com

MESSAGE FROM THE H.H. BASELIOS MARTHOMA MATHEWS II
CATHOLICOS OF THE APOSTOLIC THRONE OF ST. THOMAS AND
MALANKARA METROPOLITAN

Dearly beloved in Christ ,

“And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness; He who was revealed in the flesh” (1 Tim. 3.16).

We live again the great mystery of His revelation on earth through the everlasting mercy and great love of God for His being, when His only begotten Son, “took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Philip 2:7) “to put the corruptible man on incorruption and the mortal on immortality” (1 Cor 15:53).

In the turmoiled world today, subdued to so many trials and vicissitudes, the good news brought by the angels to the shepherds and announced by them to all human kind, that “a Saviour is born” (Luke 2:11), keep it’s hope giving power over centuries.

We glorify God for the infinite joy which He gave us by His appearance in flesh in which we receive the witness of blessed life on this earth as well as the hope of the everlasting salvation.

Let us all commit and rededicate ourselves to work towards a new order to which Christ had committed himself and make this world a better place to live in.

With love in Christ and with all best wishes and prayers.

Baselios Marthoma Mathews II

MESSAGE FROM THE DIOCESAN METROPOLITAN

Dearly beloved in Christ,

Christmas is the most popular feast of the Christians, particularly for the Western Christians. The only-begotten Son of God, my brethren, begotten in eternity of the Father without a mother, was born in time of a Mother without a father. That first begetting is an unfathomable mystery of the Holy Trinity in eternity, and this is an unfathomable mystery of God's power and love for mankind in time. The greatest mystery in time corresponds to the greatest mystery in eternity. Without probing with the light of our small understanding into this greatest of mysteries, let us be content, with the discovery that our salvation had its origin not from men nor from the earth but from the greatest heights of the invisible, divine world. Such is God's mercy and such is man's greatness, that God the Son Himself came down from eternity into time, from heaven to earth, from the throne of glory to the shepherd's cave, solely to save man, to cleanse him from sin and to lead him back to Paradise. The Lord was born in a cave, to show that the whole world is dark cave that only He can illumine. The Lord was born in Bethlehem-the House of Bread-to reveal that He is the only Bread of life worthy of true men.

In olden days, sailors on ships crossing each other used to shout 'whither bound'? It is a good question to ask ourselves at the beginning of 2005, 'whither bound? Where are we heading? We approach this New Year with the uncertainty of the future. Man's claim of domination over the Nature is questioned. The effect of Tsunami disaster is an eye opener to humanity, emphasising the significance of ecofriendly relationship. We don't know our future but we can prepare for it with this prayer: "If I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way" (Exodus 33:13). It was the prayer of Moses for himself and the people of God, as they wandered along an unknown path across the wilderness. Jesus answered to St.Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and life" (John 14:6) or it may be interpreted, as 'I am the true living way'. Christ is the true way for the whole humanity.

May God bless you

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Job Mar Philoxenos
(Diocese of Delhi)

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Dearly beloved,

It was Christmas Eve. The Midnight Eucharist Service was being celebrated by the Indian Orthodox community at St. Andrews-by-the-Wardrobe Church near to the St. Paul's Cathedral, London. A thunderous knocking on the Main door of the church. It was accompanied by a voice shouting 'Let me in!' The interruption came from an old tramp. He had been sleeping rough, in the churchyard. He seemed to express the demand of the poor and the needy of the world to be let in to our celebration of Christmas. That is a demand of which people today are more aware than were previous generations. The hungry and homeless millions are making their presence felt. Hundreds of charities makes a 'Christmas Appeal' because they know that at this season most people are willing to recognize their involvement in the needs of others. They are ready to let the world in and perhaps to acknowledge how at the first Christmas the Saviour of the world was identified with the under-privileged. For he too was one for whom there was no room at the inn. He began his life with no advantage of status or wealth or material security.

Letting the poor into our church or home perhaps. But there is a barrier to letting Christ in, by human created barrier. We have commercialised Christmas and sentimentalized it. A glamorized Bethlehem scene has become only an ornament. So history repeats itself. The early Christians chose this day for their festival because they hoped to distract men from the heathen Saturnalia that took place at this time of the year. But the old heathen ways fought back and still do so.

What is at stake is the commemoration of Christmas as the Birthday of the Son of God. To keep it as only a season of 'goodwill' and jovial self-indulgence, even of family fellowship, is missing the real meaning of the divine truth, which gives the real and lasting joy of Christmas. Perhaps we are nowadays more self-conscious about celebrating quite so self-indulgently as in the past and speaking so confidently about peace and goodwill. We are uncomfortably aware that there

is so much starvation and homelessness, and so much conflict. Yet this might be bringing us past all the glamour of Christmas to the real heart of the matter. For its real meaning tells something to us about the bare essentials of humanity, reminding us too that while there was no glamour in the first Christmas, there was certainly glory. The glory of our God was revealed-manifested.

On January 1st, the eighth day after His birth, the divine Child was taken to the Temple and duly circumcised according to the Jewish Law that had been observed from the time Abraham. At this time He was given the name Jesus, the name announced to the most Holy Virgin Mary by the Archangel Gabriel (St.Luke 1:31). The Lord was truly circumcised, desiring thus to fulfill all the Law, which He Himself had given through our forefathers and prophets. Fulfilling all the ordinances of the Law, He superseded them by Baptism in His Church, for, as the St. Paul says: "In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation" (Gal 6:15).

As we enter the New Year with the future all unknown, we must first look over the past with the misfortunes and mistakes, which have thrown us off course. We need to check our present position in the sight of God, for there are deviations to be corrected, relationships to be repaired, and sins for which to repent. Forgiveness needs to be found, and restitution made before we can turn over the stained page of the past. But the year ahead is unsullied. The chart of the future lies clean and waiting to be plotted-if only we knew the way, our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the blessings and peace of Christmas remain with you through the New Year.

Yours affectionately in Our Lord Jesus Christ

Fr. M.S. Skariah

MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH SECRETARY

Dear Brethren,

I am very glad to greet you through the Parish Bulletin once again and wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. It is my prayer and wish that the Lord will bless you with all goodness in 2005.

During the year 2004 we saw a lot of painful incidents globally which ended with the most tragic Tsunami. I express my sincere & deep condolence to the family of the victims and all others who were affected by the disastrous. But the Lord was good to keep us safe in his hands and those incidents caused a self introspection in the lives of many people and helped them to come closer to our Creator. When the whole world is gripped under fear and uncertainty, we are the people who can give hope to the hurt and hopeless. 1 Pet. 2:9 says that we are called out of darkness to proclaim the good news to others. As we see a lot of darkness around us, it is our responsibility to fulfill the task for which God has graciously chosen us.

“Happy are those consider the poor; the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble. The Lord protects them and keeps them alive; they are called happy in the land; you do not give them up to the will of their enemies” (Psalms 41:1-2).

In respect of our activities in the year 2004, with the abundant grace of our Lord we have done marvelous work to the betterment of our Cathedral. All the achievements we made in 2004 were because of the wholehearted support and co-operation rendered by the parish members. I hereby extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you for all the support and earnest prayer given to the Managing Committee.

May our good Lord prosper us in the years to come. With best wishes and prayers,

Yours in His service,

P.S. Baby
Hon. Secretary

NEWS

Convention & Eight Days Lent

The Eight Days Lent & Convention in honour of St. Mary was observed in our Parish from Wednesday 1st September to Wednesday 8th September 2004. Rev. Fr. C.D. Rajan Nallila delivered the convention speeches. A good number of faithful devotees attended the convention. On 8th Wednesday Perunal was observed with Holy Munnimel Qurbana and Nercha was served to all participants.

Convention & Feast of St. Gregorios of Parumala

The church convention associated with the feast of St. Gregorios of Parumala was celebrated in our Parish from 2nd November to 7th November 2004. Rev. Fr. Mohan Joseph delivered the devotional speeches. Rasa and benediction were conducted on Saturday 6th November. On Sunday the 7th, was observed as Perunal with Munnimel Qurabana and after the Holy Qurbana Nercha was served to all the attendees.

Diocesan Day

The Diocesan Day was observed in our Parish on Friday, 12th November 2004. Special Prayer was conducted for the Diocese. All the members are requested to pray for the diocese and contribute for the successful collection of the diocesan day cover.

Retreat

One day retreat was conducted on 2nd December 2004 led by Rev. Fr. Mohan Joseph & Rev.Fr. M.S. Skariah.

Career Development Program for Teenagers

A Career Development Program was conducted in our Parish for the Teenagers from 21 August 2004 to 26 August 2004. Mr. M.K. Ravimenon, MBA was the Chief Resource Person. A total number of 75 children participated in the Camp. We take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Ravimenon and other Resource Persons for their valuable leadership and informative classes in the camp. As part of the programme, we have conducted visits to a Garment Factory in Umm El Nar and Pepsi Cola Plant. We express our sincere thanks to all the participants, volunteers, parents and co-ordinators who were behind the success of this programme.

Half Yearly General Body

Half Yearly General Body Meeting of our parish was held on Friday 27th August 2004 after the Holy Qurbana.

Memory of H.G. Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios

We have observed the memory of H.G. Dr. Paulose Mar Gregorios, our former Diocesan Metropolitan on Friday 26th November, 2004. Nercha was served to the participants after the Holy Qurbana.

Feast of St. Thomas

St. Thomas Day, the feast of Apostle of India and our Patron Saint was celebrated in our Parish on 09 July 2004. Our Youth Movement unit observed "Marthoma Smrithi 2004" with various programmes.

Dormation of St. Mary

The 15 Days Lent and the feast of St. Mary was observed in our Church on 15th August 2004. The Perunal was celebrated with Holy Qurbana and Nercha was served.

Award for Students obtained Distinction in Std. X & XII

A special meeting was convened on 17th September, 2004 immediately after the Holy Qurbana to congratulate and appreciate the students of our parish those who obtained Distinction in Standard X and XII in the Board Exams 2004. Trophies were presented to the students in appreciation of their achievements. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah, Vicar and Mr. P.S. Baby, Parish Secretary offered felicitations.

Winners of UAE Sunday School Competition

As a token of appreciation, on 1st October 2004 after the Holy Qurbana, we have presented bouquet to the winners of our Sunday school for their excellent performance in the UAE level Sunday school competitions held in Dubai on 24th September 2004.

Condolence & Special Prayer for H.H. Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan

St. George Orthodox Parish expressed sincere & deep condolence to the sad demise of H.H. Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi. Special prayers were conducted in the Cathedral for the eternal peace of the soul of His Highness. Condolence was conveyed

directly as well as through medias. Our Vicar Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah and Hon. Traustee Mr. Ninan Thomas Panicker visited H.H. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the Royal Family Members at the palace on 4th November 2004 and conveyed the condolence of our parish.

On Friday 12th November, 2004 after the Holy Qurbana, all the parish members & Sunday school children led by Vicar Rev.Fr. M.S. Skariah, visited the tomb of HH Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and offered special prayers.

Medical Camp

We have conducted free Medical Camp in 2004 on every alternative Fridays after the Holy Qurbana. Dr. M.V. Rajan of NMC provided the medical assistance with free ECG, Blood Sugar, Lipid Profile etc.

A meeting was held on Friday 10th December 2004 after the Holy Qurbana to appreciate Dr. Rajan for his voluntary service. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah, Vicar and Mr. P.S. Baby, Hon. Secretary offered felicitations. Mementos were presented to Dr. Rajan for his voluntary service, and Mrs. Fancy Thomas & Mrs. Jyothi Anna George for their assistance in the medical camp.

Blessing of New Main Gate of the Cathedral

We have renovated the Boundary Walls of the Cathedral and replaced the Main Gate. The blessing ceremony of the new Main Gate was conducted on Friday 10th December 2004 after the Holy Qurbana by our Vicar Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah. Rev. Fr. Ham Joseph, Vicar, Al-Ain Parish was also present on the occasion. A large number of members attended the ceremony. Sweets were distributed to all the participants after the function.

Kudumba Sangamam-2004

Kudumba Sangamam-2004 was organized in our Parish on Friday 10th December 2004 from 11.00 AM to 13.30 PM after the Holy Qurbana. Mr. Oscar Mascharenhas conducted the class on "Family issues in biblical perspective". A large number of families attended the programme. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah welcomed the gathering and Mr. P.S. Baby, Hon. Secretary delivered vote of thanks. A memento was presented to Mr. Oscar Mascharenhas as a token of appreciation for his voluntary service to our church community. Lunch was served to all the participants after the function.

Reception for Mr. Adoor Prakash, Hon. Minister of Food & Civil Supplies

Mr. Adoor Prakash, Hon. Minister of Food & Civil Supplies, Kerala, visited our parish on 19th December 2004 at 9.00 PM. A public meeting was conducted in the Church immediately after the Holy Qurbana on Sunday 19th December 2004 at 9.15 PM to honor the Minister. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah, Vicar, introduced the Minister to the gathering and delivered the speech. Mr. P.S. Baby, Hon. Secretary offered the welcome speech and Mr. Ninan Thomas Panicker, Hon. Trustee, presented bouquet to the Hon. Minister.

Christmas Celebration & Annual Get-together

The 25 days lent and the birth of Jesus Christ was observed in our Cathedral on Friday 24th December 2004. The Holy Qurbana and Special Christmas service were celebrated from 6 pm to 10.30 pm. A large number of faithful attended the Holy Service. Christmas cake was distributed to all the participants.

Christmas celebration together with our Annual Get-together was organized on Wednesday 29th December, 2004 from 8 pm to 10.30 pm. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah, Vicar, delivered the Christmas Message. Various cultural programmes were conducted by our Sunday School Children and Spiritual Organizations. Dinner was served to all the participants.

Tsunami Relief Fund

Special Prayers were conducted for the Tsunami victims and condolence of our parish conveyed to the families affected by the disastrous. Charity collection initiated on 29th and 31st for the Tsunami Relief Fund.

Harvest Festival 2004

Harvest Festival 2004 scheduled to conduct on 19th November 2004 was postponed to 7th of January 2005, due to the sad demise of H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and in respect of the 40 days mourning.

The festival was conducted in the Cathedral premises on Friday 7th January 2005 from 4.30 PM to 8.30 PM. Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah, Vicar presided the public meeting and delivered the presidential address. H.E. Sheikh Ali Al Hashimi, Religious Advisor to H.H. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, delivered the inaugural address and inaugurated the stall. Mr. Hashim Ali Al Hashimi and Mr. C.C. Alexander, Managing Director, Al Mawasim Watch Co. LL.C also attended the meeting. Rev. Fr. Daniel George, Vicar, CSI Parish, Rev. Fr. Ham Joseph, Vicar, Al Ain Parish, Mr.

Tomy Mathew, General Manager, Al Mawasim Watch Co. LL.C, Mr. Rajan John, Asst. General Manager, UAE Exchange Centre, were offered felicitations. A large crowd attended the festival.

Mr. P.S. Baby, Hon. Secretary & General Convener delivered the Welcome Speech and Mr. Ninan Thomas Panicker, Hon. Trustee & General Convener (Finance) offered Vote of Thanks. The hard work of our members for weeks led the festival a successful event. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to each and every one who offered their valuable support and contribution to make this festival a grand success. Also, we are thankful to the business community for their sponsorship, contribution and support for the Harvest Festival.

Release of Souvenir

The release of the Souvenir commemorating the proclamation of the elevation of our Church to Cathedral took place on Friday 17th December 2004. After the Holy Qurbana our Vicar Rev. Fr. M.S. Skariah presented the first copy of the Souvenir to Hon. Trustee Mr. Ninan Thomas Panicker. Mr. Jose P. Kurian, Convener of Souvenir Committee expressed his thanks and appreciation to each and every one for their contribution and support for the successful publication of the souvenir.

Ward Prayer Meetings

Ward Prayer Meetings are conducting regularly in all the 10 Wards. Two prayer meetings are conducting on each Friday at 5.00 pm and 6.30 pm respectively. Mussaffa prayer meeting is conducting on 2^d Monday of every month.

Episcopal & Clergy Visits

The following Priests visited our parish during the second half of 2004. We express our sincere thanks for their services, sermons and blessings.

1	Rev. Fr. Varghese Joseph
2	Rev. Fr. C.D. Rajan
3	Rev. Fr. Shaji Paul
4	Rev. Fr. Saji Thomas
5	Rev. Fr. John Daniel
6	Rev. Fr. Thomas P. John
7	Rev. Fr. John Paul
8	Rev. Fr. Thomas Panicker
9	Rev. Fr. P.S. Yohannan
10	Rev. Fr. Koshy Thomas
11	Rev. Fr. Mohan Joseph
12	Rev. Fr. Mathai OIC

New Members

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll No.</u>	<u>Place</u>
1)	George John	G-140	Kunnankara
2)	Suby Pathrose	S-161	Thumpamon
3)	Prince V. Abraham	P-59	Puramattom
4)	Sabu Puthenpurayil Jose	S-162	Pathiricode
5)	Lenu D. Idicula	L-8	Venmony
6)	Abraham George	A-128	Chengannoor
7)	Mathew Varghese	M-202	Bangalore
8)	Anil Thomas Vettapurackal	A-129	Puramattom
9)	Philip Karampentethu Mathew	P-60	Naranammoozhi
10)	Satheesh Karampentethu	S-163	Naranammoozhi
11)	Joseph George Kunnil	J-277	Chennai
12)	Biju Thomas Daniel	B-96	Pattom
13)	Shaji Varghese	S-164	Kunnamkulam
14)	Sinu Kuruvilla	S-165	Edakadathy
15)	John A.I	J-278	Karichal
16)	Babu Jacob Velampampil	B-97	Andheri
17)	Roy Abraham Puliprathu	R-93	Hubli
18)	Varghese V.A	V-110	Vakathanam
19)	Robin Joseph John	R-94	Mangalore
20)	Daniel George	D-37	Punalur
21)	Chacko Chacko	C-62	Mallappally
22)	Philip Mathew	P-61	Pullad
23)	Biju John Chelamattom	B-98	Thottakad
24)	Manoj Abraham	M-203	Kumbanad
25)	Binu Varghese	B-99	Puthiyakavu
26)	Jyothish Thankachan	J-279	Keerukuzhy
27)	Santhosh Babu	S-166	Parakodu
28)	Boby Eapen	B-100	Kanakappalam
29)	George M.V	G-141	Kumarapuram
30)	Ajoy Thomas Jacob	A-130	Chengannoor
31)	Sony M. John	S-167	Vazhamuttam

32)	Jilesh Babu Thomas	J-280	Vettikkodu
-----	--------------------	-------	------------

We welcome the new members to the parish.

Baptism

- 1) Joseph, son of Abraham (Member of St. Gregorios Church, Sharjah)
- 2) Naomi, daughter of Gijy Koshy, Roll No. G-109
- 3) Amal Mariam, daughter of Shaji Varghese, Roll No. S-164
- 4) Jadyeen Elizabeth, daughter of Mathew Varghese, Roll No. M-202
- 5) Joel Dan Philip, son of Philip Danielm, Roll No. P-55
- 6) Elizabeth, daughter of Benzi Alex Mathew, Roll No. M-36

Transfer of Residence

The following members of the parish left Abu Dhabi for good. We express our sincere thanks for their dedicated services and contributions to this parish. We pray for them and wish them all blessings for a better future.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Roll No.</u>	<u>Place</u>
1)	Mr. Jacob C.T	J1	Chengannoor
2)	Zachariah Cherian	Z12	Thumpamon
3)	Mathews Punchamannil	M182	Maramon
4)	Abraham T.G.	A35	Kaipatoor
5)	Rajan M.M	R3	Mavelikara
6)	Daniel Peter	D16	Omalloor
7)	John George	J44	Pathamuttom
8)	Philipose T.V	P57	Kodumon

Inter Emirate Transfer

1)	George K. Daniel	G132	
2)	Biju Varghese	B73	
3)	Abraham K. George	A121	

Election General Body

The Election General Body of the parish was held on Friday 17th December 2004. The following members were elected to serve as the Managing Committee for 2005:

Mr. Itty Panicker P.G	Hon. Trustee	050-6119159
Mr. George Danielkutty	Hon. Secretary	050-5312405
Mr. Aby Sam	Hon. Comm. Member	050-5321056
Mr. Babu A.C	" "	050-5807313
Mr. Issac T.V	" "	050-5460721
Mr. Joykutty A.J	" "	050-4439567
Mr. Mathai Varughese	" "	050-7811571
Mr. Saji Thomas	" "	050-5312515
Mr. Samuel Vaidyan M.J	" "	050-7520758
Mr. Thomas I	" "	050-7907935
Mr. Ninan Thomas Panicker	Ex-Officio	050-6112873
Mr. John Eapen	Hon. Auditor	050-6150327

Youth Movement Managing Committee Members 2005

Mr. Bino. V. John	Vice President	050 5401785
Mr. Johnson Kattoor	H. Secretary	050 6160730
Mr. Dinny John Kocheril	H. Trustee	050 5917403
Mr. Thomas George	H. J. Secretary	050 7924497
Mr. Joji Joseph	H. Comm. Member	050 6155368
Mr. Sony Mathew	H. Comm. Member	050 5914228
Mr. Thomas T. Mathew	H. Comm. Member	050 4153130
Mr. Mammen Varkey	H. Comm. Member	050 5425601
Mr. Sabu P.J.	H. Comm. Member	050 8482068
Mr. Boby Eapen	H. Comm. Member	050 3154527
Mr. Jeem Johnson	Ex-officio	050 4452061

Martha Mariam Samajam Managing Committee Members 2005

Hon. Secretary	Mrs. Lizzy Alex	6326761 (Res)
		6020489 (Off)
Hon. Treasurer	Mrs. Kunjamma Mathew	4454690
Hon. Jnt. Secretary	Mrs. Suma Kuriakose	6721143
Hon. Comm. Members:	Mrs. Annie Mathew	6324638
	Mrs. Asha Panicker	6210015
	Mrs. Annamma Ninan	6346653
	Mrs. Anu Johnson	4432170
	Mrs. Jinu George	6779303

	Mrs. Jolly Johnson	03-7824955
	Mrs. Kunjumol Thomas	6218258
	Mrs. Lalitha Raju	6717659
	Mrs. Lizzy Varghese	6343549
	Mrs. Molamma Baby	5700310
	Mrs. Rosamma Rajan	4451234
	Mrs. Saramma Ponnachan	6214339
	Mrs. Sherly Stephen	4452206
	Mrs. Susan Koshy	6715535
	Mrs. Suja Sony	5914228
	Mrs. Susamma Mathew	6776654
	Mrs. Sunu Ninan Panicker	6767916
	Mrs. Valsamma Abraham	4435358
Ex-Officio	Mrs. Jolly Koshy	6440787

Youth Movement - 2004

Marthomasmrithi 2004 - The programmes of the Marthomasmrithi 2004 came to its conclusion on July 9th 2004. The day commenced with the Holy Munnimel Qurbana concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Y. Thomas, vicar Sharjah parish, Rev. Fr. Ham Joseph, vicar Al Ain Parish and our vicar Rev. Fr. M. S. Skaria. The meeting and celebrations thereafter were inaugurated by the lighting of the lamp by Rev. Fr. Ham Joseph. Members from all OCYM units across the UAE attended the programme. The meeting was presided over by our vicar Rev. Fr. M. S. Skaria. Rev. Fr. Y. Thomas gave an enlightening talk on the biblical verses " No one comes to the father, but by me."

The OCYM unit delegates also presented inspirational talks focusing on the sub theme-"Eternal life only through Christ". The celebrations came to an end with the prize distribution for the various competitions.

Seminar at Sharjah Parish sept 12th upto 2 P.M.:- 30 members from our unit & Rev. Fr. C. D. Rajan Nallila, our vicar Rev. Fr. M.S. Skaria attended the seminar.

Talents Day 2004 at Dubai parish on 1st Oct 2004:- Our unit members attended the special cultural programmes and Our unit Committee member Mr. Johnson Kattoor won the second prize in extemporaneous speech.

H.G.Dr. Paulose Mar Gregarious Anusmarna: - A special meeting was held on 26th Nov. to mark the remembrance of His Grace. Dr. Paulose Mar Gregarious, the late Metropolitan our diocese. Mr. I. Thomas OCYM unit committee member delivered messages about the life of Gregarious Thirumeni. The great works done by the Thirumeni in the field of ecumenism

and literature were recalled. He was a great scholar and an able leader who took Orthodox Church to International heights and crusaded for the cause of Christian unity worldwide.

Marthoma Feast:- Dec 21st with Holy Qurbana followed by nercha.

Quiz Competition on Dec 24th at Sharjah Parish :- Our team won the 1st prize (our team members Mr. Sony Mathew, Thomas. T. Mathew & Mrs. Susan Koshy).

Christmas Carol:- Youth carol songs by youth movement members.

Harvest Festival 2004:- Youth Movement Stalls, Magic lamp & Burger and puzukku.

Regular Meeting: - Regular meetings were held from July to December. Those meetings included classes on the Sacraments of Baptism & Holy Qurbana. Regular bible quiz competitions were conducted for the members of the Youth Movement and Marthmariam Samajam. The visiting priests conducted fruitful bible study classes. Zonal Conference 2004 will be held on 22nd Jan at Sharjah parish and we are preparing our best for cultural programmes.

As this year comes to an end, we wish one and all, a fruitful New Year and express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and cooperation extended to us during the year goneby.

Martha Mariam Samajam - 2004

Apart from the regular meetings on alternate Fridays after the holy Qurbana, and monthly retreats, medical check ups to determine Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar were conducted which were beneficial for most of our church members.

We made fish pickle again for our members for a nominal cost which serves the charitable activities undertaken by Marth Maria Samajam.

The second UAE Zonal conference was held in our Cathedral on the 19th November 2004 and we are glad to say that a record No. of 200 plus Marth Mariam Samajam members from all parishes and congregations attended the conference. It was begun with prayers and offered condolence to the demised President of UAE H. H. Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Debate on the subject "Invdvement of ladies in Church's growth" was held. The main theme was presented by the visiting priest Rev. Fr. Mohan Joseph and sub themes were presented from each unit. Quiz competition and Bible reference competitions were held. Subsequently, election for the office

bearers for the year 2005 were held and we are glad to announce that our member Mrs. Annama Ninan has been elected as the zonal secretary.

Most of the charity tins distributed in the beginning of the year are back, earlier than the past years and thanks to one and all who contributed for a noble cause. May God All Mighty reward your good intentions.

Sunday School

"I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works". Ps.9:1

The academic year 2004 -2005 of our Sunday school started on the 3^d of September 2004, as usual our children came with enthusiasm to start the new academic year. It was also very encouraging to note that 46 new students joined us this year mainly in the lower classes. The current strength of our S.S. is 356 students catered to by 33 dedicated teachers.

We will remember 24th September 2004 as a glorious day because of the excellent performance of our children at the U.A.E. level competitions, which was held at St: Thomas Orthodox Church, Dubai. Our hearty congratulations to all the participants.

October 8^h we witnessed the "Just For Kids" programme organized by the "Bible Society In The Gulf", which was very interesting and beneficial for our children.

The long awaited Qurbana in English was celebrated on the 11th of November and again on 2^d December 2004. It was well attended and appreciated by all. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to our Achen and all those who worked to make it a reality.

With a heavy heart we bid farewell to Mr. John George (Joykutty) our beloved Asst. Headmaster, who returned to Kerala on T.R. Joykutty who served our Sunday school for more than 26 years was a source of strength and inspiration.

Mr. Saji Oommen has assumed the duties of Asst. Head master.

"Christmas comes but once a Year". This year also as usual the children played an important role in the Christmas get-together, singing carols and staging a small skit with a new theme, which everyone enjoyed. May this season bring Peace and Joy to everyone.

A note of caution to our parents: Do we allow our Children to make their own decisions, according to their whims and fancies, or do we help them make that vital choice?

We wish you all a very prosperous and a peaceful 2005.

GOD BLESS US ALL.