



GREGORIAN GAZETTE



OCTOBER 2005

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“Maranatha” - Our Lord Come!

ing to the liturgical calendar of the Oriental Orthodox Church, we are the last part of our liturgical year, namely the Eschatological period. This period starts from the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (Sep.14th) and ends on the feast of *Koodhosh Eetho* (the first Sunday of the liturgical year – Oct. 30th this year). The Gk. term *eskhatos* meaning "last, furthest" refers in Christian theology to the Second Coming of Christ and the Last Judgment. In the Nicene Creed, we pray: "He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; of His kingdom there shall be no end." When we recite this prayer, we do believe and admit four important points: 1. Jesus Christ died on the Cross; 2. He is resurrected and ascended into heaven; 3. He is to return to this earth to judge the world and to establish His Kingdom; and 4. Though no one knows the day or hour of Christ's second coming, a true believer should be always ready to face this final day. The Church is always in preparation for this great day and should always pray for that. This is why the last part of the year is set apart in the calendar as a special period of meditation and study on this important topic – Eschatology – study about the second coming of Christ, last judgment of the world and related things to happen. As a part of the preparation and longing for the Kingdom of our Lord in its fullness, we pray *Maran atha* (our Lord come)! Though this short Aramaic (Syriac) phrase occurs only once in the New Testament (I Cor. 16:22), it became one of the most important prayers of the Church because of its message and importance. It could be understood and interpreted as the essence of Lord's Prayer – "Our Father, who art in heaven..." The term literally means

or "our Lord will come", or more likely "Come, our Lord", or "our Lord will come", or more likely "Come, our Lord", or "our Lord will come". In that sense, there is a strong message in these words of the *Book of Revelation*: "Amen; come, Lord Jesus, quickly." This is the basic hope and prayer of the Church that our Lord will come soon.

CONTD BACK PAGE

INSIDE	
Editorial	2
Diocesan News	2
Calendar	3
News & Notes	4
MemberVoices	4, 6
KFC	5
Kids' Korner	7

Congratulations to Ashok Poozhikunnel who earned first place in the 8th Grade Centralized Examination of the American Diocese held in June.

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Diocesan News

The final Silver Jubilee Celebration of the American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Church will be conducted on Saturday, October 15th in New York. The function will start with a luncheon at noon, followed by the public meeting at 2PM. Distinguished political leaders like Governor Pataki of New York and Senator Hillary Clinton are expected to attend. Religious leaders of other sister Orthodox Churches will also be present on the occasion along with our Diocesan Metropolitan H.G. Mathews Mar Barnabas, Asst. Metropolitan H.G. Zacharias Mar Nicholovos and the first Metropolitan of our Diocese H.G. Thomas Mar Makarios. The public meeting will include a Christian devotional music performance by renowned singer Mr. Binoy Chacko.

Some of the Jubilee Memorial Projects are: Jubilee Memorial Theological Institute, Liturgical Translation, Cultural Events and Exhibitions, and Theological Education Projects for the Laity (Divyabodhanam) Program.

For more information on the Celebration or any of the Jubilee Memorial Projects, please contact:

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- 2. Sunday** - 3rd Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross
Reading - Acts 7: 2-5, Romans 8: 1-11, St. Mark 2: 23-28
- 3. Monday** - Memorial of Baslios Eldo Catholicos
- 9. Sunday** - Fourth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross
Reading - Acts 21: 17-26, I Corinthians 1: 21-29, St. Luke 16: 9-18
- 16. Sunday** - Fifth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross
Reading - Acts 22: 22-29, I Timothy 6: 13-21, St. Matthew 23: 1-12
- 23. Sunday** - Sixth Sunday after the Festival of Holy Cross
Reading - Acts 21: 27-40, I Corinthians 5: 6-13, St. Luke 18: 18-27
- 29. Saturday** -
Prayer Meeting
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Simon and Liza Thomas, Glenview.
- 30. Sunday** - Koodhosh Eetho (Sanctification) Sunday
Reading - Peter 2: 1-12, I Corinthians 3: 16-17, 6: 15-20, St. Matthew 16:13-23

Divyabhodhanam

Divyabhodhanam classes will begin in October. Classes will be led by George Achen and held every Sunday from 1.30PM to 3.30PM and Tuesday from 7.30PM to 9.30PM. Divyabhodhanam is a program started by our Church for the laypeople to learn about the Church and the Sacraments in greater depth. This program was started in Kerala almost ten years ago and is being adopted throughout the other dioceses of our Church. Please contact the coordinators, Marykutty Mathews (Sunday class) and Paul Babu (Tuesday class), for more information.

Planning Ahead

The Annual Feast of St. Gregorios of Parumala

(Church Perunnal) November 4, 5 and 6.



MMVS One-Day Conference was conducted on Saturday, September 3. George Achen led the class centered on the topic “Meditation and Liturgical Understanding the Holy Sacraments From an Indian Christian Perspective”. A novel experience for many of us to learn about an Indian culture which was formed even before Christ. George Achen poured out his knowledge on ‘YOGA SUTHRA’ developed by ‘PADANJALI MAHARSHI’. Achen explained the steps in ‘YOGA SUTHRA’. The beautiful thing was the way Achen connected those steps to our Holy Sacrament of Holy Qurbana. The first four steps (‘Yama’, ‘Niyama’, ‘Aasana’ and ‘Pranayama’) he related to the preparation stage and the last four steps (‘Prathyahara’, ‘Dharana’, ‘Dhyanam’ and ‘Samadhi’) to the different parts of Holy Qurbana itself. George Achen taught that this model for focusing our Body, Mind and Soul together in meditation can be useful to us when we prepare for and participate in our Holy Qurbana. I am sure that this led all members who attended the conference to a new level of meditation and worship in our spiritual journey. It added a new dimension to our Liturgical Life. Indeed, it was a blessed experience in our busy life.

Sunday School

Learning to Live the Life

2005-2006 Academic Year started on Sunday, September 4 at 8.45 AM with around 80 students attending and 30 teachers in classes from Junior Class (11th Grade+). Classes are conducted every Sunday from 8.45AM to 9.45AM, beginning with Music Ministry. Please continue to bring your children on time so that we can maintain the momentum we started with on September 4th!

Library News: In the first year of the Summer Reading Program, a number of our students participated. Of those, five students were able to complete the required 840 minutes of reading over the 4-week period. Congratulations to Anand Poozhikunnel, Jeena Panicker, Gilbert Mammen, Cyatharine Alias and Basil Alias for their successful completion of the program. They were recognized on Sunday, September 11 after church. We appreciate all the students who participated this year and look forward to even greater participation in Year 2!

Please note that new books on Orthodoxy and Divyabhodhanam are now available in the Library. Check it out!

MemberVoices: Love and Like by Chinnamma Chretien

Every now and then we run into people we don't like either in our family, church, community, and/or work. They just rub us the wrong way and we conclude that we thoroughly dislike them. Are we supposed to love these people? Is it possible to love someone whom we don't like? What is the difference between love and like? Of course, I am raising these questions from a Christian perspective. All these questions came into my mind based on a personal experience. Having had the

CONTD PAGE SIX

The KFC Super Saturday was held on Saturday, September 10, 2005 as the closing session of the KFC study of the Holy Qurbana.

As you all know, the KFC ministry has been focused on the Holy Qurbana for the past couple of months. With the guidance and leadership of Thomas Achen, Binu Achen and George Achen we were able to present the ideas of the Holy Qurbana to the kids. We went over in detail what each part signifies and explained how the Holy Qurbana paralleled the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We covered the three main parts of the Holy Qurbana:

1. The Preparatory Service
2. The Public Celebration
3. The Post Communion

This final session was presented as the KFC Super Saturday where the kids enjoyed a fun-filled day of fellowship and games. We incorporated the teachings of the KFC Holy Qurbana sessions into the games.

For instance, one game that the children enjoyed was the "balloon game." In this game, pieces of paper with facts about the Holy Qurbana were put into balloons. The kids had to pop the balloons to get the facts and put the papers in boxes, matching up the fact with the part of the Qurbana to which it was related. The team with the most right answers within the time limit won the game.

Like this, the activities were not only fun but also a learning experience and a review of the KFC materials. We also thought it would be fun to have some of the Colonel's original recipe, so we enjoyed some excellent chicken from KFC (Kentucky Fried Chicken) for lunch.

We would like to thank the parents and kids who participated in KFC throughout the year and hope it was as enjoyable and educational for them as it was for us. We would also like to thank our dearest achen's Thomas Achen, Binu Achen and George Achen for all their hard work, support and dedication to the youth of our church.



(FROM PAGE FOUR) Having had the feeling of not liking someone, I did not feel very good about myself. So I did some research for scriptural reference to justify my bad feeling and found nothing commanding us to like everyone.

There are many Bible verses directing us to love each other as Jesus loved us. John 13:34, John 15:12, Luke 6:32 & 35 and Leviticus 19:18 to name a few. From these biblical examples and from other sources it is clear that we are to love and treat people with respect. However, when we run into people occasionally whom we don't like, we feel like we are not living a spiritual or Christian life. Since some people are not likable to us, we usually assume that we cannot love them either. As humans, we think that we have to like people before we can love them and like is a prerequisite to love.

Love is not a feeling. Of course when we are loved we all experience certain good feelings. Love is an action. What are some of these actions? We all know 1 Corinthians 13. It gives us examples of actions.

Patience: For example, you are attending a function and the MC is one of the persons you don't like. You may ignore what he/she says but you are not going to disgrace /embarrass the individual by acting out. Instead you grind your teeth and sit through the function. This is love. Our action is that despite our feeling toward that individual, we loved him/her to sit through the entire function and utilized our patience which is an action of love.

Kindness: The same person after the ceremony was walking out and tripped and you are right behind that person. Your first instinct/reflex is to help that person and not ignore, despite how much you dislike. That action is coming out of love. You did not turn your head and look the other way instead you attempted to help in time of trouble.

Like is a feeling. We like people because we feel certain attraction or affection towards them. They sing well, smile well, look nice, dress well. Like is conditioned upon -----.
But, love is despite -----.

Were there people Jesus did not like? I think the religious fanatics during Jesus' time are examples which reveal that even Jesus disliked people. I don't think He liked them very much when He addressed them as "religious hypocrites". But Jesus did not separate them when he died for us. He did not say I give my life only for the people whom I like.

So my conclusion is that it is OK to have a few people you don't like provided you can still treat them with respect, love them. We don't have to feel guilty for not liking everybody. Love and like are different and like is not a precursor of love. We like people because ----- and we love people in spite of -----. I found no scriptural reference in the Bible commanding us to like everyone. Each individual is different and we possess our own unique qualities which others may not appreciate. This may lead us to conclude that we don't particularly like them, but we don't have to feel guilty about it.

This is my view point. You may choose to agree or disagree.

Original articles from church members are always solicited, please submit your articles to info@gregoriangazette.com.

QUIZ: Jobs and Professions in the Bible

1. What was Abel's profession?
A. Wise speaker B. Farmer C. Keeper of flocks D. Scribe
2. Which man was plowing when he was called to be a prophet of God?
A. Peter B. Elijah C. Elisha D. Ezekiel
3. What trade-related task was James and John working on when Jesus called them?
A. Repairing a plough B. Preparing a fishing net C. Sharpening a saw
D. Repairing a wheel
4. Joseph (Mary's husband) was involved in what trade?
A. Shepherding B. Farming C. Carpentry D. Fishing
5. King David started out his life in what occupation?
A. Shepherd B. Warrior C. Musician D. Carpenter
6. What was Lydia's occupation?
A. Sewing B. Weaving C. Herding sheep D. Selling purple cloth
7. Besides authoring the book that bears his name, what else did Luke do?
He was a- A. Physician B. Tax collector C. Carpenter D. Fisherman
8. What was Paul's profession?
A. Scribe B. Blacksmith C. Tax collector D. Tentmaker

Please submit your answers to the Library by October 16. If multiple submissions have the same number of correct answers, the prize winner will be selected by random. Contest is open to Sunday School students only.

BIRTHDAYS

1. Jocelyn Varghese
1. Betsy Benedict
2. Jacob George
3. Rubin Samuel
5. Joseph Mani
6. Shawn Varghese
8. Nina George



(FROM PAGE ONE) our **Lord will come again.**

But, will He come again at all? Is it not somewhat only a superstitious belief of Christians? Why is He so late, if he really wanted to come again? We hear all these from unbelievers or even from some Christian friends who are still in doubt and confusion. Being the witnesses of the Right Faith (*Ortho Dukssso*), it is our responsibility to face these questions. If you believe in Christ and Gospel, then you have to believe in His Second Coming and Last Judgment too, because it is an essential message of the New Testament. In other words, the Plan of the kingdom of God will have its completion only on the day of the Second Coming of our Lord. Thus “the Holy Church, the bride of the Most High”, will receive her reward on that day – the Eternal life with Christ her Bridegroom. Though we can neither anticipate the time nor the method of His coming, we do have His assurance that He will come and restore His creation – the Church. Hence we pray during the Eucharist: “...we wait for Your awesome and glorious Second Coming...” (Lk. 22:16-18 & 1 Cor. 11:26). So, let us recite this prayer from the depth of our hearts on waiting for His eternal Kingdom. Let it be our final goal and longing. Let it be our contemplation and meditation: “*Maranatha o’ Kyrielison – Our Lord, come and have mercy upon us.*”

ആദരാഞ്ജലികൾ



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