



# GREGORIAN GAZETTE



JUNE 2006

VOL:III

ISSUE VI

## Message for June -George Achen

The GREGORIAN GAZETTE is celebrating her 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary! Thank God. Let us first of all congratulate GG's staff for their earnest work; may the Lord reward them from the highest. Since we started last June, all twelve monthly issues have come out, along with many occasional special issues. Let us also take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed by writing articles, giving information and sponsoring this project of our parish. While we enter the second year of this publication, let us review our goals and its effectiveness and value in the spiritual and social life of our parish.

“A monthly bulletin for the parish can be helpful in the following ways: serving as a handbook for our spiritual life, highlighting the liturgical importance of the periods like Lents, Fasts and Feasts, reminding the parish of the activities of its spiritual organizations and social welfare projects, informing its members of news and projects from the diocese and Catholicate office, and discussing ideological issues and challenges that the Church may face from time to time.” The quote is from the first issue of the GG (June 2005), in which the goal for this monthly is laid out. By just keeping this bulletin on our drawing-room table, we should be able to call our attention to our parish programs. The more it becomes effective, the less laborious will be our Sunday announcements!

### CONTD BACK PAGE

Please keep Steve Thomas in your prayers as he is currently participating in the

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American Diocese's 2006 Mission Trip to India. From Friday, June 16, 2006, Steve, along with three other members of the diocese, will serve at the Pampady Dayara Boys Home, Thalacode. For more information about this trip, please look for Steve's report in an upcoming issue of the Gregorian Gazette.

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### Divyabhodhanam

Classes have started on the new book, *Pravachakka Sandhasan (Prophetical Message)*. Sunday classes for the month of June will be on the 11th and 25th; and Tuesday classes on the 6th, 13th, and 27th. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Babu, Mr. George Molayil, or George Achen.

Photographs in this edition of the Gazette courtesy of:

OVBS Training— Sibyl Thomas

Bava Thirumeni— Saju Varghese

Outreach Ministries— George Achen

Youth Group Movie Night— Jerry Panicker & Saju Varghese

FOCUS Fellowship— Sibyl Thomas & Saju Varghese

### Gazette Staff and Board

Fr. M. K. Thomas

Fr. George Pulikkottil

Liju Paul (Malayalam Ed.)

Liju Varghese (English Ed.)

**4. Sunday - Pentecost**

Reading- Acts. 2:1-13, Galatians 5: 16-26, St. John 15: 1-14

**10. Saturday – WOF @ Christy John's 11AM-12.30PM**

KFC Large Group @ Church 2-4PM

**11. Sunday - First Sunday after Pentecost**

Last day of Sunday School Charity Drive!

Softball @ Harrer Park, Morton Grove 5PM

Reading- Acts. 17: 10-15, II Corinthians 5: 14– 6:10, St. John 6: 26-35

**16. Friday – Apostles' Lent Starts**

Youth Group Friday Night @ Church 7.30-9PM

**17. Saturday– Walk-A-Thon @ Chicago Park District 9AM****18. Sunday— Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Sunday School Camp Counselor and Staff Meeting @ Church 12.30PM

CLC 2007 Committee Meeting @ Church 3PM

Reading- Acts. 4: 23-31, Ephesians 2: 11-22, St. Mathew 10: 5– 16

**22-25. Thursday-Sunday– Sunday School Camp****25. Sunday– Third Sunday after Pentecost**

Youth Bible Study after Holy Qurbana

Centralized Exams for 5th, 8th, & 10th grades  
12.30PM

FOCUS Bible Study @ Church 1PM

Softball @ Harrer Park, Morton Grove 5PM

Reading- Acts. 13: 26-39, Galatians 6: 10-18, St. John 6: 35-46

**27. Tuesday– Prayer Team****29. Thursday– Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul; End of Apostles' Lent****30. Friday– Feast of all Apostles****Planning Ahead**

July 1— Fun Day

July 8— MGOCSM Picnic

July 12-15— Family and Youth Conference

July 16– Combined Qurbana w/ Bava @ Dominican University

July 19– Bava Thirumeni visits St. Gregorios Oak Park

July 21-22— OVBS at Church

July 27-30– Dallas Leadership Camp

July 29– Church Picnic

August 3-6— MGOCSM Summer Conference

September 3– Sunday School Reopens

**Rejoicing in the Lord**

Rev. Dn. George Mathew, OVBS Director, American Diocese

On May 27, 2006, the OVBS Training Camp for the Central Region was conducted at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Oak Park. In sum, 20 participants spent the day discussing and brainstorming about the 2006 theme, "Rejoice in the Lord." This year's theme has great relevance when considering the many things in our lives that reduce or seek to eradicate our joy in the Lord. Our ability to rejoice in God comes from the knowledge that:

1. We are children of God, redeemed from the slavery of sin. Our Lord's death and subsequent Resurrection paid the price for our sin, and He promises to forgive truly repentant hearts. True repentance requires a complete change of mind and attitude.
2. We receive and are filled with His love. When we are full of His love, it should overflow and touch those around us. We become humble in the sight of God and others, and begin to truly produce the other fruits of the spirit - joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It all begins with love and ends with love.
3. He watches over us and brings good out of the suffering we experience. Some suffering is a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, which includes vulnerability to illness and disease. Also, Satan rules the earth, causing pain and suffering. Suffering tests, teaches, or strengthens belief in God. Suffering also can be for the benefit or edification of others. The greater the suffering of innocent believers, the greater will be their reward after life.
4. He uses us as instruments in His hands to help those around us and allow them to also rejoice. As part of the body of Christ, we are the hands and feet and mouths and ears of God in this world. We have a great responsibility to take care of one another, especially those that are less fortunate and are without. It is not sufficient to simply pray that God act; we have to be ready and willing to act for Him.
5. He has given us the hope of heaven and eternal bliss in the other world. We have the hope of going to heaven one day and being with God for eternity. Our Lord promised us that He went to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. We have the assurance that God is always with us, guiding and directing us to Heaven. Therefore, we can rejoice knowing that our final destination will be a place of love, joy, and peace, where there will be no death, sorrow, crying, or pain.

As a result, we can rejoice in the Lord. Rejoicing in the Lord does not mean we will always be happy and upbeat, but it does mean that we can still rejoice even in the times of suffering and persecution because we stand with a Living and Loving God. We should always remember that true, abiding joy can only be realized through Christ and in Christ. The temporary satisfactions and joy we get from the objects and services around us can never be truly fulfilling.

**NUHRO 2006**– Saju Varghese

The FIRST EVER Sunday School Kids' Camp has officially been named "Nuhro 2006". The word "nuhro" is Syriac and means "light". Since Syriac is the liturgical language of the Indian Orthodox Church, we wanted to give the camp a name from our root language, as well as incorporate an important symbol in Christianity.

From Thursday, June 22 to Saturday, June 25, 2006, 41 of our Sunday School kids between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will stay at the Conference Point Conference Center in Lake Geneva for four days of fun, teaching, and fellowship led by Thomas Achen, George Achen, Aju Semassan and Gregory Semassan, from New York, as well as our own Sunday School and KFC leaders.

The campers are asked to arrive at church in Oak Park on Thursday morning at 8.30AM, where refreshments will be provided and registration will take place before our departure to Lake Geneva. We are asking all kids, parents, and the entire church to keep "Nuhro 2006" in your prayers that it may be a blessing for everyone involved and that God will continue to guide and protect our leaders, campers, and clergy throughout.

**Bava Thirumeni's Visit to Chicago**

His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thomas Didymus I, the Catholicos of the East and the Malankara Metropolitan, the Supreme Head of all the Indian Orthodox Christians living in India and abroad, will be making his first visit to the United States with his arch-pastoral visit to Chicago on July 15 & 16, 2006. The presence of His Holiness in Chicago gives immense joy to his followers, and we have planned a few major programs in his honor on Sunday, July 16, 2006, in the Performing Arts Center at Dominican University in River Forest:

9AM – Holy Liturgy officiated by His Holiness

1.30PM – Public Meeting

His Holiness will be visiting our parish on Wednesday, 19th July at 7PM. Please make yourselves free at this time and be in the church for the reception of our beloved Bava Thirumeni.

**Holy Land Trip**

Our church is planning a trip to the Holy Land this year during the Thanksgiving holiday season. As of now, the plan is to take a guided tour called "Foot Steps of Jesus Christ and Apostle Paul" through Rome (2 nights) and the Holy Land (7) from November 18-28, 2006. Please contact Thomas Achen, George Achen, Koshy Vaidyan, Chandy Thomas or Mathews Abraham, if you are interested.



VS One-Day Conference was held on Saturday, May 13, 2006 at church. He was "The Holy Church the Bride of the Most High," and was led by Achen. The conference was a blessed occasion for the nearly 30 people ended.

Congratulations to the Lucky Drawing winner, Susheela Mathew, who received a gold coin!

- The next MMVS area Bible Study will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2006, from 2-4PM at the residence of: Lilly Varghese  
14293 W. Kirkwall Ct.  
Green Oaks, IL 60048

### **Ascension Holy Qurbana**

On Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Oak Park, the Feast of Ascension was celebrated by Fr. Paul P. Isaac, Fr. George Pulikottil, and almost twenty-five members of our church. Paul Achen celebrated the Holy Qurbana and led the special liturgical service for the Feast of Ascension.

### **Prayer Meeting**

Our last church prayer meeting was held at the residence of Alias Mathew and Sherly Alias on May 27, 2006. Benny Chemachen delivered the message, leading the prayer meeting along with George Achen and Paul Achen.

There are still many dates available for our church prayer meetings, so please sign-up on the list in the basement and/or contact Paul Babu to coordinate.

### **2006 Family & Youth Conference**

The 2006 Family & Youth Conference will be held from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> at Hudson Valley Resort & Conference Center in Kerhonkson, New York. His Holiness Baselios Marthoma Didymus I, Malankara Metropolitan and Cathlicos of the East, and our Diocesan Bishops, His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas and His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, along with His Grace Dr. Thomas Mar Makarios, will be leading the conference. Other leaders are Rev. Fr. Paul N. Tarazi, Professor of Old Testament at St. Vladimir's Seminary; Zachariah Mani, administrator of the Medical Mission, Pondicherry; and Tenny Thomas, graduate student at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Please continue to keep the conference, its speakers, and all the participants in your prayers.

**Outreach Ministries**– Saju Varghese

On May 25, 2006, George Achen and Saju Varghese set out from St. Gregorios Orthodox Church in Oak Park to embark upon a semi-missionary trip. We first traveled by car to St. Paul, Minnesota, where H.G. Yakob Mar Irenaeus, (Metropolitan of Madras) celebrated the Holy Qurbana. About ten Orthodox families along with other Malayalee families from the Jacobite, Marthoma, C.S.I, and Catholic churches also gathered together for Holy Qurbana that Thursday night. Around sixty Malayalee persons participated in the Holy Qurbana, which was followed by dinner and fellowship. The Malayalee Christian community in St. Paul and the outlying area gather together every three weeks for a formal liturgical service, whether it be an Orthodox Holy Qurbana or a C.S.I. service. The Minnesota community expressed great gratitude for George Achen's dedication and assistance in welcoming Irenaeus Thirumeni and his continued prayers and leadership for the community in Minnesota.

We then set out on Friday, May 26, 2006 for Davenport, Iowa where George Achen would participate in history by becoming the first to celebrate the Holy Qurbana of the Indian Orthodox Church in the Quad Cities (on the border of Iowa and Illinois.) Through the gracious support of the local Greek Orthodox parish and their priest, Fr. Peter, George Achen celebrated Holy Qurbana on Saturday, May 27, 2006 at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church with four Orthodox families communicating that day. There were also other Malayalee Christians and a few members of the Assumption parish who participated in the Holy Qurbana, totaling almost forty persons. It was a blessed journey for George Achen, who was able to visit and establish a strong relation with the Malayalee Orthodox Diaspora in the Midwest. In fact, the Minnesota community has asked George Achen to return one day to teach them the songs and the service of the Holy Qurbana, while the community in the Quad Cities has already scheduled with George Achen for their next Holy Qurbana on August 19, 2006.

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**The Gregorian Gazette is looking for a columnist to write about current events around the world. If you are interested in at least writing one such article, please email [info@gregoriangazette.com](mailto:info@gregoriangazette.com).**

**Fun Days - Movie Night**—Alwin Joy

On Saturday, May 13, 2006, Fun Days had its first event, Movie Night. The event was a great success with about thirty people in attendance to watch the Chronicles of Narnia, a film based on C.S. Lewis's book about four children who enter a wardrobe to find the world called Narnia. The movie is about the quest of the four kids in their effort to free the people of Narnia from the rule of the evil witch. The movie was very enjoyable to accompany the great food. Popcorn, chips, candy, and cookies were provided. Juices and sodas were also served, along with Libu Yohannan's tasty special shakes. A special thank you also to Jerry Panicker for setting up the Gregorian theatre audio and video system for a great movie atmosphere. Thanks also for the Fun Days committee: Anju Easo, Jenny Polachira, Julie Jokutty, Ruby Philip, and Alwin Joy for making this event possible. Please come out to our future events and stay tuned for the next Fun Days event!

**The next Fun Day is being scheduled for July 1st**, details to be announced. Please contact any of the Fun Days coordinators for more information.

**Youth Bible Study**—The first Youth Bible Study was held after church on Sunday, May 28, 2006. There was a great turnout from our youth between 2nd and 8th grades! We discussed what a Bible study is, how the Gospels were written, who St. Luke was and began our study of the Gospel according to St. Luke. It was a good experience for everyone who attended and we look forward to the continuing participation of all the Sunday School Camp-aged kids, especially the leadership and creativity of the older kids!

The next Youth Bible Study will be held after we return from the Sunday School Camp on June 25th. Please be sure to stay after church for half an hour, so that we can maintain the momentum!

~~**Sports Ministry**—The Oak Park Sports Ministry launched its softball season on~~ Sunday, May 28, 2006. There was a large turn-out such that we were able to play teams of nearly 13 people each, with others sitting in the grass watching. The weather was beautiful and a good time was had by all. With the success of football and basketball, the start-up of softball is another way for our brothers and sisters in Christ to grow with each other and have some fun at the same time.

Softball games will be played every other week. The next game is on **June 11<sup>th</sup> at 5PM in Harrer Park** (6240 W. Dempster Ave., Morton Grove, IL 60053).

For more information about how you can participate in the new softball ministry, please contact Libu Yohannan, Justin Joy or Joju Varghese.

**Youth Group Friday Night**—As a special announcement, this month's youth group meeting will be held on Friday night, June 16 at 7.30PM at church. This will be the first of our (hopefully) bi-monthly meetings held on Friday nights. These meetings will be structured much like an MGOCSM Friday night sing, with prayer, music ministry and a message. Also, necessary ministry updates and announcements will be given and any issues for youth group discussion presented.

As discussed at the Youth Group meeting on May 21st, the purpose of this alternative meeting format every other month is to try to use our monthly meetings to help bring all our youth together for prayer, study and worship outside of Sunday service. Hopefully, all the youth will be able to attend. Please contact Julie Jokutty, Sherene Panicker, Stanley Thomas or Liju Varghese for more details or if you need a ride.

**5K Walk Along the Lake Shore**— The second annual St. Gregorios Youth Group Walk-a-thon will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2006. For those of you who are unfamiliar with a walk-a-thon, volunteers raise funds by getting pledges from people they know to sponsor their participation in a 5K walk along the city's lakeshore. We are accepting pledges per kilometer walked and looking for each walker to raise at least \$100. The funds raised this year will be used equally to support our church building project, church-sponsored charity works (like the church building initiative for poor communities in India) and youth ministries.

As last year, the walk-a-thon will be held in the Chicago Park District by Foster Beach, near Lake Shore and Foster. Stay tuned for more info as an email will be sent out closer to the 17th. All participation and pledges are greatly appreciated and encouraged. Anyone interested in helping out please contact Libu Yohannan or Sherene Panicker.

Last year, we were able to raise approximately \$6,500 for the church, so let's set it as our goal to raise more than that this year!

**Women of Faith**— The next WOF meeting will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at Christy John's residence from 11AM-12.30PM. Please contact Christy with any questions or if rides need to be arranged.

**KFC**— The next KFC Large Group Session will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2006 at church, from 2-4PM. This will be the final lesson in the current series on the Nicene Creed. If you have any questions or need help arranging rides, please contact Jinu Alex, Jason Thomas, Stanley Thomas, Princy Paulose, or Julie Polachira.

**IGNITE**— The last Ignite meeting was held on May 20th. Please contact Sunil John

**Chicago Leadership Camp 2007**– Jason Thomas

Each year the diocese chooses a region to host the annual MGOCSM Leadership Camp. Our region, will be hosting the leadership camp in Chicago from July 26- July 29, 2007. The diocese has given us an opportunity to call together hundreds of youth from all over the United States in July 2007. We all have been chosen to be disciples and role models within our church and the diocese.

On Saturday, March 18, 2006, young people from St. Gregorios, Oak Park, St. Thomas, and St. Mary's Churches met to organize the committee for the Chicago Leadership Camp. At this meeting, names were proposed and it was decided that St. Thomas would be given 1 seat for the committee, St. Mary's would be given 1 seat, St. Gregorios Bellwood would be given 3 seats and St. Gregorios Oak Park would be given 12 seats. This meeting was presided over by Central Region Vice President, Fr. Dr. M.K. Thomas; Fr. Slomo Isac, Vicar of St. Thomas Orthodox Church; and MGOCSM General Secretary Rev. Dn. Paul Cherian.

Below is a list of the finalized 2007 CLC committee members. It our humble request that you pray for this camp and for this committee as a whole.

Thomas Achen- MGOCSM VP, Central Region  
 George Achen- St. Gregorios Orthodox Church-Oak Park, Assistant Vicar  
 Slomo Achen- St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Vicar  
 Kurian Achen- St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Vicar  
 Sunoj Achen- St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Assistant Vicar  
 Daniel Achen- St. Gregorios Orthodox Church-Bellwood, Vicar  
 Dn. Paul Cherian- MGOCSM General Secretary  
 Jimmy Panicker- MGOCSM Council Member  
 Jason Thomas- CLC Camp Convener

**Committee:**

From St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Oak Park:

From St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Bellwood:	Jaison Panicker
From St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Bellwood:	Sibyl Thomas
From St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Bellwood:	Arun Varghese
Liju Varghese	Saju Varghese
Leju Yohannan	
Rollin George	Christy Kuriakose
	Diju Skariah

**FOCUS Group Meeting**– Sibyl Thomas

Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in the United States is a movement initiated by young adults in the MGOCSM who felt a need for a spiritual ministry more directed to people of their age and background. It is very encouraging to see the number of young people coming forward and wanting to learn about the scripture and the Church and, because of this, we have launched FOCUS within our church.

We had our first meeting and fellowship on May 21, 2006. After our meeting, FOCUS members went bowling for a time of fellowship and fun. We have decided that this group will meet once a month on Sundays for fellowship and Bible Study. Our first Bible Study will be held on June 25, 2006 at 1PM. Dn. Gregory Varghese will be leading this session. It is our hope and prayer that this group will become the backbone of our church. We ask for everyone's continued prayers as we develop the FOCUS ministry.

**Goals of the FOCUS Ministry:**

**Provide spiritual nourishment and guidance to young adults who are facing the various challenges of living a Christian life in the modern American world.**

**Being a present and active resource and support to the younger generations who lack an understanding ear and an advising presence during their formative years. This means being active leaders in Sunday School, OVBS and MGOCSM activities.**

**Teaching young adults ways to become active members of the parish in terms of administration and the various spiritual activities of the parish.**

**Actively pursuing those brothers and sisters who have left the church, or remain away from the church for various reasons, and yet have not been confronted and presented with a way back in. This is fulfilling the call of the Lord to go after "Lost Sheep," just as He would as the Good Shepherd.**

**Dallas Leadership Camp 2006**

This year Dallas will be hosting the annual MGOCSM Leadership camp from July 27th-30th. We will be having 14 people (including Thomas Achen) representing our church at this upcoming camp in Dallas. Listed below are the delegates to this camp from our church:

Jinu Alex	Sara Mathew	Jerry Panicker
Jimmy Panicker	Sherene Panicker	Jason Thomas
Sibyl Thomas	Stanley Thomas	Steve Thomas
Arun Varghese	Liju Varghese	Saju Varghese
Leju Yohannan		

As George Achen alluded to earlier, with the completion of a full year of the Gregorian Gazette, it is important for us to assess the progress of this project. Over the past year, we have tried to faithfully document the activities of our church, while aiming to provide more than just a monthly consolidation of the weekly announcements. We have attempted to provide more through worthwhile articles and reports on the activities of our members. We have had the fortune to report on events of significance to us on a local parish level, the national level and internationally. On the parish level, we have participated in a year of our Church festivals and fasts, watched the growth of existing church programs like MMVS and KFC, and the development of programs such as Divyabhodhanam and our church's youth ministries. On the national level, we have a number of members active in the diocese, through council memberships, conference participation and other relationships. Internationally, we have participated in conferences and had first hand witness of the changing of leadership in our church in India, from the elevation of new bishops to the enthronement of our current Bava Thirumeni to the passing of our last. The Gregorian Gazette has tried to serve in bringing together this amazing diversity of our church's members, as individuals and separate groups, in a form accessible to everyone. Hopefully, through this, everyone in some small way has benefited in learning about each other, growing in the activities of our church and broadening his/her understanding of our world - bringing us closer together and giving us better perspective as we move forward as a church.

But of course, it has only been one year. Lofty goals take a long time to accomplish and it is in times like these that we can take a step back and think of how we can better reach those goals. As part of the Gazette staff, we have a few ideas on how we can improve this publication.

1) With our goal being to connect our church members, we need to take better advantage of the resources available to us today. This undoubtedly requires us to be better "connected," specifically with regard to a website. To better communicate with our church members and provide a means for them to read articles at their convenience, when they may not have a printed copy of the Gazette handy, it is critical that our articles get on the Internet. In addition to the benefits received by our members, some of the original articles that have appeared on our pages would be beneficial to Christians throughout our Church, throughout the world. Additionally, such a website could host a discussion group or email list that could offer a more informal venue for discussion.

**FROM PG 12**

2) We need to expand the number of contributors to the Gazette. In addition to reporting on the diverse activities of our members, we have to better utilize the talents of our members. There are many people in our church who like to write, who think about ideas which could stimulate thoughts and discussions in other people, or who could just share something that they recently learned in their daily life or studies. It is important that these thoughts have a forum in which to be shared. The Gazette, in keeping with the mission of the Rev. Dr. M.K. Thomas Library through which it is published, wants to be such a forum for discussion and stimulate thought.

3) In addition to occasional contributions, we need to find people with a desire to write regular columns that can challenge our members. Specifically, we would like to find people who keep up with current events outside of our church and can provide a Christian perspective to those events. In this way, we can all learn and benefit from something we would not have been exposed to on our own.

These are just some of our thoughts, however. Since our goal is to best serve the needs of our members, methods cannot just be developed by a couple people closest to the situation. To make a meaningful impact, the improvements need to be guided by the readers. Communication from the general population of the church is critical. To this end, please look for a survey in the upcoming weeks. Please fill it out to give your thoughts on the last year of the Gazette, your hopes for the future and any other suggestions you might have.

I would also like to use this occasion to thank everyone who has in the past written for the Gazette, shared their pictures, offered their suggestions, sponsored issues and taken the time to help in the production process on any level, be it editing, printing, stapling or distributing. A project like this could never be successful without the participation of a large group of people. A special thank you as well to anyone who takes the time to read the product of the monthly effort of this group.

Finally, let all thanks and praise be to the Triune God who has provided us so much as a church and given us the fortunate position where we are able to concern ourselves with supplementary pursuits, like a monthly newsletter, to assist us on our journey as a church to Him.



Competitions were held in the classes on Sunday, May 14,

2. Teachers' meeting was held on Friday, May 19, 2006 at 7PM at church.

The topic of discussion was "Made in His Image" Genesis 1: 27 (the theme of the Sunday School camp) led by Saju Varghese and assisted by Arun Varghese. Through the PowerPoint presentation and talk, Saju Varghese stated that our image should be God's and we should become like His image. We should stress love and inter-personal relationships. Our relationship with God should enable us to overcome deception and flattery and it should be a perfecting process.

3. The charity drive has picked up and collections are coming in. 5<sup>th</sup> grade conducted a bake sale and raised around \$200. The total collections are now about \$800. The target is \$1,500. June 11<sup>th</sup> is the closing date for the charity drive.

4. Music Ministry ended on May 21st for the 2005-2006 academic year . We thank Smitha Mathen and Jerry Panicker for their dedication and sincere efforts.

5. Final exams were conducted on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> in the classes. The 2005-2006 academic year has ended. The papers are being graded and result compilation is in progress. The next academic year classes will start on Sunday, September 3rd.

6. Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 12.30PM are the centralized exams for 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Review classes will be conducted on Sundays, June 11 and June 18 for 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. For 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, review classes will be conducted at the Sunday School Camp on Saturday, June 24, 2006.

**Prayer Requests**—Please send your prayer requests to [www.1church.org/prayerteam.htm](http://www.1church.org/prayerteam.htm). We will join you in bringing your requests before God. Questions or prayer requests? Please contact:

Julie Polachira-815.295.2469; [jpolachira26@yahoo.com](mailto:jpolachira26@yahoo.com)

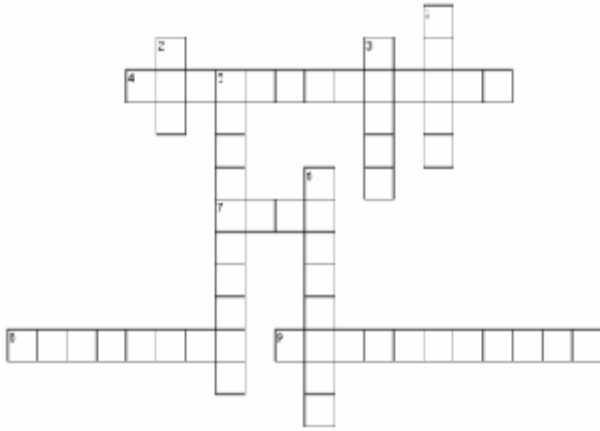
Stacy Thomas-847.722.0446; [stacy\\_thomas79@yahoo.com](mailto:stacy_thomas79@yahoo.com)

**Original articles from church members are always solicited, please submit your articles to [info@gregoriangazette.com](mailto:info@gregoriangazette.com).**

**FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

Galatians 5:22

Galatians 5:22 tells us that, the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is the way God is, His make up, His mind set. This is the Spirit and the nature, that He wants all true Christians to possess.



Faith gentleness goodness joy longsuffering love meekness peace self-control

Congratulations to this month's prize winner: Kripa Poozhikunnel!

Answers to last month's quiz: 1) Genesis; 2) Isaiah; 3) Micah; 4) Isaiah; 5) True; 6) John, Psalms, Romans; 7) Psalms; 8) True; 9) Isaiah; 10) Psalms

Contest is open to Sunday School students only. If multiple submissions have the same number of correct answers, the prize winner will be selected at random. Please submit in the Gregorian Gazette Submissions box in the library.

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

2. Julie Polachira

3. Cyatharine Alias

12. Ruby Philip

13. Elizabeth George

13. Enya Eettickal

15. Meghna Kuriakose



**FROM FRONT PAGE**

According to Church calendar, **the month of June comes in the fifth period of the year, known as the Pentecostal period.** The Church experiences the renewal power, charisma of the Holy Spirit. This is also the time of remembrance of the early developments of the Church, the Virgin Mary, the mother of God, Apostles, Martyrs, Fathers and Mothers in Faith are specially remembered in this season.

We celebrate the Feast of **Pentecost on June 4<sup>th</sup> this year.** The word Pentecost literally means “the fiftieth.” In Christian Tradition, it refers to the fiftieth day of the Great and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It happened on the tenth day after the Victorious Ascension of our Lord, according to the Scripture; and the Holy Spirit came upon the Holy Apostles and all those who had gathered there in prayers (Acts 2). This event happened according to the Will of God; and it was foretold by Christ as well (St. John 16). Usually, when we have a feast day, the primary reading will be from the Gospel, in terms of the content of the feast. But the event of Pentecost is described in the Acts of the Apostles, which is the account of the continuation of the history of Salvation and hence it is included in the New Testament, next in importance to the Gospel. The Ascension of our Lord, the Descending of the Holy Spirit and indwelling in the Church, and the early history of the Church are described there. The book is hence also called the ‘Work of the Holy Spirit.’ The event of Pentecost is the link between the Gospel and the other part of the New Testament. It shows that the Church is the Church of Triune God; continuation of Creation, redemption in Christ and growing in Spirit.

**The Apostles’ Fast, also called the 13-day Fast, is observed from June 16th to 29th.** On the 29<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrates the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, the great leaders in Faith. The following day, June 30<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of all Apostles. Their witness through their self-less ministry and martyrdom is the strong citadel of the Church for all times. Being witnesses of the Charisma of Pentecost, we too should experience the Power of Resurrection like them. This is why we, as a witnessing and living Church, observe the Apostles’ Fast.

Why do we observe this Fast for thirteen days? This is for the twelve Apostles (excluding Judas Iscariot and including Mathias) and Paul, the Apostle of the Gentiles, which brings the number to thirteen. The Gk. Term ‘Apostle’ means ‘being sent’. They were commissioned and sent to the four corners of the world for spreading the Gospel of Christ. The Apostleship is thus given to the Church by the Holy Spirit. This is why we say, “we believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church...” Out of this authority and virtue, the Church officiates and dispenses the Holy Sacraments. We should keep always in our mind that we are the apostles and ministers of the Church in given contexts. The Apostles’ Fast is a great call and opportunity to redefine and dedicate our apostleship to Christ in the Holy Spirit by the blessing of God the Father. May the Triune God make us worthy and bless us to receive the real Charisma of Apostleship so that we as a parish and Church could join in the Feast of Holy Apostles toward the end of this lent season.

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