



Are we ready to receive our Holy Father?

The Holy Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thoma Didymus I, the Catholicos of the East and the Malankara Metropolitan, to the American diocese started on June 13, 2006. The historical event and blessed occasion of Bava Thirumeni's visit to Chicago will take place from July 15 – 20, 2006. The State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and the Chicago Malayalee communities, in particular the Malankara Orthodox Churches in Chicago, are all eagerly looking forward to the grand reception for His Holiness in Chicago. Bava Thirumeni will celebrate the Holy Qurbana on July 16, 2006 at Dominican University (7900 W. Division, River Forest, IL 60305) for all his church members in this region. The Holy Qurbana will begin at 9:00 A.M., followed by lunch and the public meeting beginning at 1:30 P.M.

His Holiness will have an apostolic visit to all Chicagoland parishes of the Church during his time in Chicago. He is scheduled to visit our parish on **Wednesday, July 19, 2006**. Our program will begin at 6:30 P.M. with the reception of Bava Thirumeni and evening prayer at 7:00 P.M. After evening prayer, we will have an informal discussion with His Holiness. Dinner will be served at 8:45 P.M.

We have to receive our Father with all honor and respect. The diocesan Metropolitan His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas and Asst. Metropolitan His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholavos will accompany His Holiness to our church that evening. Let us all welcome our church fathers into our parish and use this intimate setting as an opportunity for us to receive his blessings and discuss the future of the Church, globally and in the United States.

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Kids' Korner	7	he East to the Apostolic Throne of St. Thomas.

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Photographs in this edition of the Gazette courtesy of :
MGOCSM America Missions Trip 2006—Steve Thomas
Walk-a-thon 2006—Sherene Panicker
Nuh'ro 2006—Arun Varghese

Gazette Staff and Board

Fr. M. K. Thomas

Fr. George Pulikkottil

Liju Paul (Malayalam Ed.)

Liju Varghese (English Ed.)

2. Sunday — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Reading — Acts. 6: 1-7, I Corinthians 16: 14-22, St. Luke 10: 1-16

9. Sunday — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Reading — Acts. 9: 10-18, II Corinthians 5: 14-20, St. Luke 9: 10-17

12-16. Wednesday-Saturday — Family and Youth Conf., NY**15. Saturday — Bava Thirumeni arrives in Chicago 7.45PM**

Evening Prayer @ St. Thomas Church 8.30PM

16. Sunday — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Combined Holy Qurbana @ Dominican University 9AM

Public Meeting 1.30PM

Evening Prayer @ St. Gregorios Cathedral 7PM

Reading — Acts. 1: 15-20, I Corinthians 8: 1-6, St. Mathew 15: 32-39

18. Tuesday — Evening Prayer @ St. Mary's Church 7PM**19. Wednesday — Apostolic Visit to our Church**

6.30PM Reception of Bava Thirumeni

7.00PM Evening Prayer

7.30PM Informal Church Meeting with Bava Thirumeni

8.45PM Dinner

21. Friday — OVBS @ Church 9AM-4PM**22. Saturday — OVBS @ Church 9AM-4PM****23. Sunday — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Youth Bible Study after Holy Qurbana

Fun Day Miniature Golf Outing

Reading — Acts. 4: 32-37, Ephesians 2: 11-22, St. Mark 3: 20-30

27-30. Thursday-Sunday — Dallas Leadership Camp**30. Sunday — Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

MMVS Monthly Meeting after Holy Qurbana

Reading — I Peter 2: 4-10, Hebrews 4: 14-5: 5, St. John 6: 47-59

8/3-8/6. Thursday-Sunday — MGOCSM Summer Conference**8/6. Sunday — Transfiguration (Koodara Perunnal)**

Reading — I John 2: 23-3: 1, Romans 11: 25-36, St. Luke 9: 27-32

Planning Ahead

August 20— Meeting after Holy Qurbana of all church spiritual organizations' office bearers (details to follow, please do not schedule other programs on this date)

August 26— Divyabhodhanam Seminar @ Church 2-5PM

September 3— Start of New Sunday School Year

Mission Report—Steve Thomas

Last month, the MGOCSM of America sent its second missions team into India under the guidance of our metropolitans, His Grace Mathews Mar Barnabas and His Grace Zachariah Mar Nicholovos, and leadership of MGOCSM America General Secretary, Rev. Dn. Paul Cherian. I was blessed to be a part of that team that was sent into Pampady, a small village within Kerala, just a few minutes outside of Kottayam. Team members Diju Skariah from St. Gregorios Bellwood, Anish Alexander and Joel Mathew from St. Mary's Dallas, and I were sent to stay at the Pampady Dayara where one of the most beloved figures of the Church, Pampady Thirumeni (His Grace Kuriakose Mar Gregorios), eternally rests. Within a few minutes of our arrival we were warmly greeted by the Dayara manager, P.C. Yohannan Ramban, who was a direct disciple of Pampady Thirumeni. Rambachen shared the experiences he had with Thirumeni with us, and, just like Thirumeni, he showed us hospitality far beyond what we expected.

Just down the road from the Dayara was where our mission sites were. First was the boys' orphanage (Balabhavan) where 45 boys resided. These young boys of ages 7-16 were living at the orphanage because their parents had died, left them or are unable to financially support them. Our second site was adjacent to the Balabhavan and that was the Abhaya Bhavan, or old age home. The Abhaya Bhavan is a place for the elderly to stay when they have no where else to go or when they have lost all that they had. These 30-35 ammachis and appachens live in close quarters with the orphanage boys and care for them like their own children. The third site was a place that we were not planning on visiting, but, after talking to Rambachen, it was a place that we felt compelled to go. It was called Asha Kiran and it was a home for children afflicted with HIV. This is an ecumenical establishment between the Malankara Orthodox, Mar Thoma, and Syro-Malabar Catholic churches that gives children who are afflicted with this disease a place to live, play and pray. In the few short weeks that I was in Pampady, my eyes were opened to see how God and His Church are working in our mother country. This is something that is unseen to us who have lived in America all our lives. The Church and its members are working to help those who are less fortunate and who don't have the freedom and pleasures that we do. The Lord has blessed me immensely with the opportunity to go on this trip and he has given me an amazing home church here at Oak Park. I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and I humbly ask that you continue praying for those in Pampady.

In an upcoming special edition of the Gregorian Gazette, Steve will more fully share his experiences from this inspirational undertaking.

The 100th Anniversary of the Gregorian Bible Society Group 5K Walk study on the Gospel of St. John was held on Saturday, June 17, 2006. It was a Bible study which was led by George Achen and George Achen. Upcoming events: July 29 youth day meeting at Holy Quid. George Achen coming out to walk and support the event. We raised a little over \$4,000. The money raised this year will be used to: 1) Contribute to our church charity fund to help build churches in India, 2) Run the different youth ministry programs, and 3) Contribute to the church building project. We would like to thank everyone who supported and prayed for this event to make it such a success.

"If the Lord delights in a man's way, He makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with His hand." Psalm 37:23-24

MGOCSM of Chicago hosted its final Bible study before and Kick-off to the Summer Conference on Saturday, June 3rd at St. Thomas Church. The theme of the Bible study was the "heavenly hosts prayer of adoration" taken from Revelation 4. George Achen was the main speaker. We had over 40 of our MGOCSM youth participate in this Bible Study. We also offered opportunities for MGOCSM youth to sign up for the various ministries of the Summer Conference to be held August 3th-6th, including skits, ice breakers, registration, prayer team and mini-olympics. Please continue to pray that the upcoming MGOCSM Summer Conference be a blessing for all the youth in the Chicago region.



Divyabhodhanam

There will be a Divyabhodhanam seminar on Saturday, August 26, 2006 from 2-5PM at Church. George Achen is expected to speak about the last book, *Pravachakka Sandhasan (Prophetical Message)*. Please contact Mr. George Molayil, Mr. Paul Babu or George Achen for more information.

NUH'RO 2006, the St. Gregorios, Oak Park Church's first ever Sunday School Summer Camp took place at Conference Point, Lake Geneva, WI from June 22-25, 2006. The theme for NUH'RO 2006 was taken from Genesis 1:27, "So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Thirty-nine of our Sunday School students from 2nd through 8th grades participated in the exciting inaugural summer camp led by our two priests, Dn. Aju Mathews and Dn. Gregory Varghese from New York, five adult chaperones and seventeen of our elder youth as camp counselors and activities coordinators / staff.

A special edition of the Gregorian Gazette will be released later this month with more details on this blessed event.

Sunday School for the charity drive have reached about \$1,200. We hope
Learning to Live the Life of \$1,500.

the Centralized Exams for 5th, 8th and 10th grades were conducted. 13 students wrote the exams. It was proctored by Ms. Anna Panicker from St Thomas Orthodox Church.

3. Sunday, June 4th was celebrated as Sunday School day in our Church. A short report on the activities of the Sunday School for the academic year 2005-2006 was presented. George Achen appreciated the efforts put in by the students, teachers and parents towards the conduct and organization of Sunday School.

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

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Stacy Thomas-847.722.0446; stacy_thomas79@yahoo.com

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

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MEN AND WOMEN OF THE BIBLE: Can you guess who I am?

(Please submit answers on separate sheet with your name to the box in the Library)

- 1. The second son of Adam and Eve, I was a shepherd, and my brother, Cain, was a farmer. When we brought offerings to the Lord, my offering was accepted but Cain's was not.
- 2. I worked miracles such as restoring a dead boy to life. During a contest with the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, I called down fire from heaven to show God's power. After I chose Elisha to be my successor, a fiery chariot appeared and I was taken to heaven by a whirlwind.
- 3. I prophesied in the northern kingdom of Israel between about 745-722 BC. My family symbolized God's relationship with His people. As a wife was to have only one husband, Israel was to have only one God, yet Israel repeatedly worshiped other gods.
- 4. I was Sarah's Egyptian maidservant. When it seemed impossible for Sarah to have children, she urged Abraham to have a child with me. When I became pregnant, Sarah became jealous and I fled into the desert. An angel appeared to me and told me to return. The son that I bore was Ishmael.
- 5. A descendant of Aaron and the wife of the priest Zechariah, I lived in the hill-country of Judea. In my old age, I gave birth to a son who became John the Baptist. I am called a kinswoman of Mary, Jesus' mother.
- 6. I am the first Christian martyr. I became known as a man "full of grace and power" whose speaking was inspired by the Spirit of God. I had to stand trial before the Jewish Council. I accused them of betraying and murdering their Messiah, they stoned me.

Answers to last month's puzzle:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Faith | 6. Meekness |
| 2. Joy | 7. Love |
| 3. Peace | 8. Goodness |
| 4. Longsuffering | 9. Self-Control |
| 5. Gentleness | |

JULY BIRTHDAYS

4. Isabel Thomas

7. Shana Mathew

13. Aby Mathew

17. Anu Mathew

20. Leah George

23. Ashwin Jacob

24. Shane Varghese



FROM FRONT PAGE Born on October 29, 1920, His Holiness is the son of Ittyavira Thomas of Mulamootil House in Nedumbram near Thiruvalla and Sosamma of Chiramel House in Mavelikara. He joined the Mount Tabor Dayara in Pathanapuram in 1939 where he completed his high school education. He passed his Intermediate from C.M.S. College, Kottayam in 1945, his B.A. from National College, Tiruchirapalli in 1951, his B.T. from Maston Training College, Chennai in 1954, and his M.A. from Christ Church College, Kanpur in 1961. He has served as headmaster of Ponnayya High School, Thiruchirapalli and St. Stephen's High School, Pathanapuram; Professor of English, St. Stephens College, Pathanapuram; and President of the Orthodox Youth Movement.

His Holiness was called to the monastic life as a teenager. He joined the Mount Tabor Dayara and was guided by the late Metropolitan Thoma Mar Dionysius, its founder. He completed his training for priesthood and was ordained by His Holiness Mar Baselios Augen, then Catholicos of the East, on January 25, 1950. On May 16, 1965, His Holiness Mar Baselios Augen made him Ramban. The Malankara Syrian Christian Association, which met on December 28, 1965 at M.D. Seminary, Kottayam, elected him to the office of Metropolitan.

On August 24, 1966 at Kolencherry, His Holiness Baselios Augen consecrated him as Metropolitan Thomas Mar Timotheos and he became the Metropolitan of Malabar on November 11, 1966. He continues to serve as the General Superior of Mount Tabor Dayara and Convent in Pathanapuram. On September 10, 1992, the Malankara Association, which met at Parumala, elected him as Catholicos-Designate to succeed His Holiness Moran Mar Baselios Mar Thoma Mathews II as the Malankara Metropolitan and Catholicos of the East.



**to congratulate the sponsors
Shaun & Smitha
for their 2nd Wedding Anniversary!**

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