

Annual Clergy Retreat 2012



Dallas, Texas: The Annual Clergy Retreat started at 6:00PM on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at our St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church, Carrollton, Texas. The Clergy Retreat is being led by His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho, the Archbishop & Patriarchal Vicar of the Malankara Archdiocese of the Syrian Orthodox Church in North America. Many of the Corepiscopos, Priests & Deacons are in attendance at the retreat.

The Main Speakers and the Sessions are being led by:

- Very Rev. Abraham O. Kadavil Corepiscopos who is the Archdiocesan Secretary
- Rev. Fr. Cherian Muzhiyil, Vicar General of the Knanaya Archdiocese in North America
- Rev. Fr. Saji Kuriakose, Vicar of the St. Mary's Church, Houston Texas
- Rev. Fr. Saju George, Vicar of the St. George Church, Oklahoma
- Rev. Fr. Dr. Paul Parambath, Vicar of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia

Thursday – February 9, 2012

The retreat started with evening prayer at 6:00PM in the Syriac Language which is the dialect spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ. Following evening prayer, Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas Edathara the Archdiocesan Clergy Secretary welcomed all the Clergy including Archbishop, Corepiscopos, Priests & Deacons. The evening ended with business meeting followed by Dinner and Soothara Prayer.

Friday – February 10, 2012

The day started with morning prayer at 8:30AM followed by devotional songs led by Rev. Fr. Saji Kuriakose. The Holy Scriptures were read by Rev. Dn. Shiryl Mathai.

At about 9:00AM, Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas Edathara welcomed everyone and thanked Rev. Fr. Paul Thotakat the Vicar of the St. Mary's Syrian Orthodox Church, Carrollton, Texas for hosting the 2012 Clergy Retreat. Rev. Fr. Paul Thotakat then welcomed everyone on behalf of the Trustees and members of the St. Mary's Church.

Rev. Fr. George Parathuvayalil read out the allegiance to the Holy Throne of Antioch; to His Holiness Moran Mor Ignatius Zakka I Iwas, the Prince Patriarch of Antioch and All the East, the Supreme Head of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church; the Catholicose of India - His Beatitude Aboon Mor Baseliose Thomas I; the Archbishop & Patriarchal Vicar of the Malankara Archdiocese - His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho and to all the Metropolitans of the Universal Syriac Orthodox Church.

His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho then gave the presidential address with inspirational words to all the Clergy.

At 10:30AM the first keynote address was given by Very Rev. Abraham O. Kadavil with the theme "Priest as a Counselor".

Thereafter the noon prayers were conducted followed by break for lunch. After lunch at about 1:30PM, Rev. Fr. Saji Kuriakose led a session on Liturgical and Sacramental songs mainly focusing on the Shubkono and Washing of the Feet service. The songs session was followed by a short break.

The second keynote session started at about 2:45PM with the theme “Pastoral Ministry” led by Rev. Fr. Cherian Muzhiyil, the Vicar General of the Knanaya Archdiocese. Following the session was a short break and group picture was taken with all the Clergy present.

After the group photo, the Deacons of the Archdiocese led a praise and worship session by singing liturgical songs in Syriac to the entire Clergy.

At about 5:30PM, Retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Saju George which made the Clergy reflect on their own lives and prepare for confession. Thereafter Confession and Evening Prayer took place in the Syriac language.

After Dinner at about 7:30PM the third keynote session was led by Rev. Fr. Dr. Paul Parambath with the theme “You are chosen to resolve, rebuild and rejoice” The evening ended with Soothara Prayers.

Overall the Clergy Retreat was a rejuvenating experience for all the Clergy. The time at this retreat will be cherished by all the Clergy as they had a lot of motivational and inspiring messages to take back with them to their respective parishes.

On Saturday February 11, 2012 (Tomorrow) the Clergy Retreat will conclude with Holy Qurbono (Tri-Mass) by our Archbishop His Eminence Mor Titus Yeldho and Clergy along with the celebration of the 80th Dukhrono of St. Ignatius Elias III of Manjanikkara.