

## **Report for the Annual Clergy Retreat 2008 of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church in North America**

*Fr. Abraham O. Kadavil*  
*Clergy Secretary*

The Annual Retreat of the Malankara Syrian Orthodox Clergy Association was held at St. Ignatius Syrian Orthodox Church in Dallas, Texas. The program started on Thursday February 14, 2008 with evening prayers. His Eminence Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho gave the inaugural address. The Archbishop reminded the Clergy that, during this lent, they must examine themselves to see and realize that they are called by God to serve His people. His Eminence also told the members of the Clergy that they must serve as leaders by walking alongside their Parishioners.

Rev. Fr. Dr. A.P. George addressed the group on the main theme: “Whom shall I send; who will go for us.” (Isaiah 6:8). He told the Clergy that their calling enables them to stand before the throne of God, the very throne which Isaiah saw in his vision. Fr. George further stated that to stand before the throne is a special privilege which God has given to the Priests. He explained that when Isaiah felt his sins, the angel of the Lord took a burning coal with which the angel touched Isaiah’s tongue. Fr. George emphasized the similarity between the angel touching Isaiah’s tongue with the burning coal and the priest giving the Holy Eucharist to the people of his Parish, thus allowing them to feel the forgiveness of their sins.

On Friday evening, Rev. Fr. Baiju Chandy gave the devotional address which was followed by confession and preparation for receiving the Holy Qurbano. On Saturday morning, Moonnummel Qurbano was conducted with the Archbishop as the chief celebrant. At this time, all clergy members were united in receiving the Holy Qurbano.

Several important issues were discussed during the business meeting. All the Priests expressed their commitment to work as one body under the leadership of His Eminence Archbishop Mor Titus Yeldho to further the spiritual life of the Archdiocesan members. Additionally, since there are Priests coming to the Archdiocese with religious visas, the Clergy agreed that the respective Parishes should be responsible in providing them financial assistance.

Rev. Fr. Alias Aramath gave the welcome speech, and Fr. Abraham O. Kadavil provided the vote of thanks to the vicar and the members of the Parish for all the arrangements they had made to make the retreat a successful event. Next year’s Clergy Retreat will be hosted by Rev. Fr. George Abraham at St. Gregorios Syrian Orthodox Church in Tampa, Florida.

**Pictures below**







