

2005 Diocesan Leadership Conference

Report By: Jeoson John-Thomas, Convener

The 2005 Mar Thoma Diocesan Leadership Conference of the Diocese of North America and Europe was held from January 6-9, 2005 in Atlanta, GA and was hosted by the Atlanta Mar Thoma Church. The venue for the conference was the Atlanta Mar Thoma Church. Rev. Simon Behanan gave leadership for the arrangements of the conference as the president of the conference committee. The conference was inaugurated by Rev. Dr. K.A. Abraham on January 6th Thursday evening, after the dinner.

The theme for the conference was "Shaping a Christian Worldview". Rev. Manoj Zachariah was the main speaker for the conference. The delegates were able to attend one of the four tracks which were offered. The tracks were: Hermeneutics & Homiletics which was led by Rev. Saji Joseph and Rev. John George, Mentoring led by Rev. Simon Behanan and Ms. Nisy Philip, Doctrines of the Mar Thoma Church led by Rev. Isaac Johnson, and Christianity and other religions led by Rev. Dr. K. A. Abraham.

There were ninety-nine delegates from different parishes. Accommodation and breakfast for the participants were provided by the families of the host church. Programs included Singing, Worship, Bible study, Talks, Group Discussions, Vision Meetings, Tracks, etc. The conference concluded on Sunday, January 9th noon. The Holy Communion service on that day was celebrated by Rev. Raju Philip, and was attended by the parish members as well as the conference delegates.

After the worship service, there was a farewell meeting for Rev. Raju Philip, Rev. John George and Rev. Saji Joseph, which was presided over by the Diocesan Youth Fellowship secretary Mr. Alex Kolath. During the business meeting that followed, which was presided over by the Diocesan Vice- President Rev. Raju Philip, the names of the new Diocesan Youth Fellowship office bearers were announced: the new secretary being Mr. Ashley George and the new treasurer being Mr. Anoop George. Delegates from the Seattle Mar Thoma Church, WA volunteered to host the 2006 Diocesan Leadership Conference from January 5-8, 2006. The registration fee for the conference was \$60.00 per person. The income through registration was \$ 5940.00 and the expense was \$3192.36 with brings a total balance of \$2747.64. The conference was a success and the delegates had a blessed time at this conference.

Rev. Simon Behanan (President)

Jeoson John-Thomas (Convener)