



THE OTTAWA MAR THOMA CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2011

INTRODUCTION:

The year 2011 is behind us now, but the consequences of many events that happened in that year will be felt for years to come. The March 2011 earthquake that rocked the northern coast of Japan obliterating towns, killing more than 25000 people and rendering nuclear reactors to the brink of disaster briefly halted the world in shock and fear. The widespread uprising demanding freedom against the tyranny of dictatorship and the purging of evil forces from this world, once again highlighted the vulnerability of undeserved worldly powers. Let us move on to the New Year with prayers for all those who seek freedom to have an opportunity to live in this world in peace & tranquility and remind ourselves to be thankful to God for the religious and social freedom that we are privileged to enjoy in our lives.

WORSHIP SERVICES AND PRAYER MEETINGS:

During the reporting year there were six Holy Communion services on the second Sunday of alternate months. Vicar Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia conducted the first two services and Rev. Varghese K. Abraham conducted the remaining services at the St. Mark Anglican Church. Two family prayer meetings were also conducted on Saturdays during Achen's visit.

Our new vicar started his ministry in the Ottawa parish by conducting service on June 19, 2011. We welcome Achan, Kochamma and their two sons to this Church and look forward to the spiritual guidance and support in the years ahead.

Congregation would like to thank our lay-leaders Mr. John Kompithra & Mr. Mani P. Mani for their support in the worship services & our food co-ordinators Mrs. Suzy John & Mrs. Leela Varki for organizing the after service receptions. Our thanks to St. Mark's Anglican Church for allowing us to use their Sanctuary and other facilities for conducting worship services and other programs throughout the year.

FAREWELL TO REV. MANOJ M. ZACHARIA

Rev. Zacharia served this Parish for a period of four years from May 2007 to May 2011. A short program was arranged after the Qurbana service on April 24, 2011 to bid farewell to Achan and family. Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel, Mrs. Susha Zacharia, Mr. Reji Alex and Mr. Abey George, Secretary of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church offered felicitation speeches during the program, appreciating Achens service to the Church and the

Malayalee community in Ottawa through his Ecumenical outlook. Treasurer Mrs. Sobha Koshy presented a monetary gift to Achan during the program.

The congregation would like to express our sincere thanks to Manoj Achen for his commitment to attending to the needs of this Parish throughout his tenure. We shall remember Achen, Kochamma and their daughter Abigail in our prayers for God's continued guidance and blessings upon them, as they carry on their ministry in His vineyard.

MEMBERSHIP & HOUSE WARMING:

This year two new families were added to this Parish bringing the membership to 24 families. Membership was granted to Rozen & Naomi Mathai who moved here from Toronto. Membership was also granted to Anil & Chandrima Varghese and their children Ayush Varghese & the newborn baby Adarsh Varghese, born on Jan 11, 2012.

On Saturday August 27, 2011 a House warming service was conducted by Rev. Abraham to bless the residence of Anil & Chandrima Varghese.

We extend our warm welcome to the new families to this church and congratulations to Anil & Chandrima on the birth of their new born baby.

This year we also lost one membership to the St. Mathews Mar Thoma Church in Milton, ON. Dr. Philip Mathew, a long term member and a good friend of this church has moved to Oakville, ON to be in close proximity to his family. While we regret the loss of Sunnyuncle as a member to this church, let us take this opportunity to appreciate the service that he rendered to the church in various capacities as Secretary, Diocesan Assembly member & Auditor, many times over the years. Let us also pray that his life anew in Oakville be abundantly blessed with good health and happiness.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING:

Annual General Body meeting was held on February 13, 2011, at St. Mark's Anglican Church. Rev. Manoj M. Zacharia presided over the meeting. Secretary Mr. Reji Alex presented the Annual Report. Treasurer Mrs. Sobha Koshy presented the annual accounts for the year 2010 and the budget for the year 2011. Report and accounts were unanimously approved.

The Annual general body meeting held on October 23, 2011 elected the following members as the office bearers for the year 2012, with unanimous approval.

❖ Vice-President	: Mrs. Aleyamma Samuel
❖ Secretary	: Mr. Reji Alex
❖ Treasurer	: Mrs. Sobha Koshy
❖ Accountant	: Mrs. Susha Zachariah
❖ Lay-leader(s)	: Mr. Anil Varghese, Mr. John Kompithra
❖ Auditors	: Dr. John Samuel, Mr. K. Vargese

Mrs. Suzy John and Mrs. Leela Varki were named as the Refreshment coordinators.

Dr. John Zachariah will continue as the Diocesan Assembly member. We sincerely thank all those who serve the Church in various positions, for their dedicated service.

ECUMENICAL CHRISTMAS CAROL PROGRAM:

On Saturday December 10, 2011, with the overwhelming support and participation from the two sister churches in Ottawa, our Parish hosted the ninth Annual Ecumenical Christmas Carol program. Members from the three churches performed various Carol programs much to the delight of a large audience who attended the program, which ended with a catered Christmas dinner.

On behalf of the Church, I like to take this opportunity to appreciate the support of the Secretaries and the members of the St. Thomas Orthodox Church and the Ottawa Malayali Catholic Community for their dedication and continued commitment to this program.

FINANCE

With an opening balance of \$8,739.85 and total revenue of \$11,360.13, we closed the accounts of the reporting year with a balance of \$7,354.52 carried over to 2012.

DONATIONS

This year approximately 18% of the total revenue was distributed as charitable donations. Agencies that received our assistance include Carmel Mandiram in Ayroor and educational support fund for Jinu James, a nursing student. Thanks to all those who contributed to these valuable causes.

CONCLUSION:

2011 is behind us now. While we remember all our loved ones who passed on last year, let us be thankful to God for keeping us in good health as a community in Ottawa one more year. Let us pray that this New Year brings continued joy and happiness among us; and hope and peace for all those people around the world living under oppression and despair.

Mr. Reji Alex

Secretary.

Feb 12, 2012