

## Programme

- 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2009** : Arrival of Delegates
- 26<sup>th</sup> September** : Inaugural Function
- Chief Guest : **Smt. Meira Kumar**  
Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha
- Guest of Honour : **Rev. Sr. Jessy Kurien**  
Member, NCMEI, New Delhi
- Presided by : **H. B. Paulos Mar Milithios**  
Catholicos Designate, MOSC
- 27<sup>th</sup> September** : Holy Qurbana
- Classes by : Shri Jiji Thomson, IAS  
: Rev. Fr. Dr. O. Thomas  
: Dr. Jaya Lal  
: Rev. Dr. Valson Thampu
- 28<sup>th</sup> September**
- Classes by : Rev. Fr. John Sankarathil  
: H.G. Dr. Zachariah Mar
- Theophilos : Rev. Fr. Dr. O. Thomas  
: H. G. Dr. Joseph Mar Dionysious
- Valedictory Function & Talent Night
- 29<sup>th</sup> September** : Delhi Darshan
- : Musical Concert followed by  
Cultural Programme.

# The Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church

Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam Global Meet-2009



*"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."  
(Colossians 3:2)*



September 26<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009

at

**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD**

Hosted by:-

St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Ghaziabad,  
Diocese of Delhi.

## MARTH MARIAM VANITHA SAMAJAM

### ABRIEF HISTORY

St Mary's Orthodox women's League (Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam) is the Women's wing of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church. It is one of the major spiritual organizations of the Church consisting of women members in each parish. With the laity of the Church, spread throughout the world in 24 Dioceses, the Samajam forms a significant force for the Church, for her spiritual growth as well as her social involvement.

The organization was established in 1928 under the permission of the late Catholicos, H.H. Moran Mar Baselios Gheevarghese II with the sole objective to retain innate qualities of meekness, discipline, fidelity, obedience, charity, hospitality, fear of God, observation of the Lents, etc. and to train them to lead a dynamic spiritual life which would be the corner stone of every family and parish of the Church. The founders named it "Marth Mariam Samajam" after the Blessed Virgin Mary who epitomised these strong Christian values through her life. The motto of the Samajam was coined as " Pray, Illumine and Act".

The samajam started under the patronage of the Late Very Rev. M.C. Kuriakose Ramban, with Rev. Fr. Alexios, OIC (late H.G. Alexios Mar Theodosios) as Vice President and Mrs. K.M Annamma Kandathil as Secretary. His Holiness Gheevarghese II, the late Catholicos remained the Samajam's Patron for a long time during his time as the supreme head of the Church.

It was in 1955 that the Samajam was established at diocesan level where the rules for the Samajam was layed out by H.G. Alexios Mar Theodosius and Mr. E. J. Philipose. The first Head office of the Samajam was at Othara, Kerala naming it Marth Mariam Mandiram.

### ADMINISTRATION

Under the dynamic leadership of H.G. Dr. Zachariah Mar Theophilos, President of the Marth Mariam Samajam, it functions through a central committee with all the 24 Dioceses of the Church. Each diocese has its own committee whose President is the Diocesan Metropolitan and each parish unit of the Samajam is under the vicar. Each Diocesan Samajam has a secretary, elected from the committee members who in their turn represents the group or districts into which each diocese is subdivided. The Group secretaries encourage the parish unit samajams and make members ever more loyal to the faith and practices of the Church. The diocesan and the organizing secretaries are expected to visit the branches at times. Retreats, Bible Classes, Competitions etc are held both on Diocese and Parish levels. There is a Leadership Training Camp held annually for 5 days during summer holidays. The Annual Conference is held in May. Annual examinations are conducted based on prescribed text books of Church faith, Bible portions and liturgical hymns.

### PRESENT CONCERNS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

1. Preparing women to have theological training through Divyabodhanam course of the Orthodox Seminary, Kottayam.
2. Preparing Church Choir- Mistresses. The samajam is now co-operating with Sruthi School of Liturgical Music of the Orthodox Seminary Kottayam.

3. Training women to have social awareness, participation in political activities, decision-making at every level.
4. Advocacy for human rights and fundamental values of women through gender awareness programs.
5. Explore possibilities for building potential of women in every sphere of life.
6. Training women to conduct prayer groups, to lead prayer, Bible classes, fellowship meetings and to preach the Gospel.
7. Preparing counselling cell to address the problems of working women.
8. Seek solidarity with women's action groups on local and national level. Encouraging more participation in ecumenical gatherings.
9. To enhance spiritual practices within family by observing lent, family prayer etc. and effective parenting.
10. Attempts to find out more Sunday school teachers with a commitment to Christ.
11. Advocacy against dowry system and other social evils .
12. Advocacy for equal opportunities for women in all spheres of life.
13. Advocate for greater participation for women in the administration of the church-membership in Parish Committee, Managing Committee, Working Committee. Advisory Committee etc.

### CONFERENCE

The Akhila Malankara Marth Mariam Samajam Conference is held once in two years bringing together active women leaders from different parts of the world. It is a great opportunity to come together and share experiences of good work happening in the Church, share time in prayer and be inspired for new ventures for the glory of God. This time, the conference held from September 26th - 29th, 2009, is hosted by St. Thomas Orthodox Church, Ghaziabad, Diocese of Delhi with the venue at St. Thomas School, Indirapuram, U.P., one of the best educational institutions of the Church. The delegates will deliberate on the theme from Col.3:2

**“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”**

### THE CONFERENCE IS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE KEY LEADERSHIP OF THE FOLLOWING DIGNITARIES :-

1. H. B. Paulos Mar Milithios, Catholicos Designate of MOSC.
2. H.G. Dr. Zachariah Mar Theophilos, President of Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam.
3. H.G. Dr. Joseph Mar Dionysius, Metropolitan, Diocese of Calcutta & Asst. Metropolitan, Diocese of Delhi.
4. Fr. Dr. O. Thomas, Professor of Counselling, Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam.
5. Shri Jiji Thomson, IAS, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India.
6. Rev. Dr. Valsan Thampu, Principal, St. Stephen's College, Delhi.
7. Dr. Jaya Lal, Consultant, World Health Organisation.
8. Rev. Fr. John Sankarathil, Vice President, Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam.
9. Mrs. Accamma Paul, General Secretary, Marth Mariam Vanitha Samajam.