

St. Thomas OCYM Annual Report 2006

Jerin Juby, Secretary

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Christian Youth Movement is working as a frame of St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church, Philadelphia. All members in the church between the age of 18 and 45 are eligible to participate in the OCYM.

We meet every other Sunday after the Holy Qurbana in the committee room. Meetings will start with a prayer by Achen or an elder member, report of the previous meetings, a small speech by a member, and a brief session to discuss our activities. About 26 members attend the meeting regularly.

The year 2006, like the previous years, witnessed the active participation of OCYM in all church activities. The group successfully planned and completed a variety of projects. The ones that have to be mentioned are as follows.

In February, we sponsored and organized the Parish Retreat and Convention. Rev. Fr. Ninan George was the guest speaker. The function was a blessing to all the members.

Active participation of the OCYM members was seen in organizing and conducting the parish picnic. In August, we organized a Lancaster trip also for the church members.

In July, we organized a Diabetes Seminar, and two speakers from ACME Pharmacy taught the people about the very common disease. The seminar was very informative.

We conducted two Bible study sessions for the OCYM members in May and June, but the program got discontinued due to several reasons.

In July, we conducted a Food Collection Campaign. We collected can food and other items from the parish members. The food drive was for 5 weeks. The collected food was donated to the Food Bank of Philadelphia.

September was a great month for the parish and for the movement. The first anniversary of the consecration of our church and Harvest Festival was held on this month. We once again proved our unity. On the Harvest Festival, OCYM had a "Five Star Thattukada" and we served Kerala dishes like Masala Dosa, Dosa, Ney Roast, Kappa and Fish curry, and a lot more. All food was sold out before the expected time which proves that everyone enjoyed it. We also had a small store with household items. Associated with the Harvest Festival, the OCYM took leadership in conducting an entertainment program. The program was from 6pm to 10pm after the Harvest Festival.

The OCYM as usual had an important role in the Christmas Caroling. We conducted a VCD sale, a CD sale and a Poster Sale during different occasions.

I use this opportunity to thank our Dear Achen Rev. Fr. M. K. Kuriakose, the Church Secretary and Treasurer, the Managing Committee, the Board of Trustees, all OCYM members, all spiritual organizations and all parish members for their continued support in all the programs. Congratulations and best wishes to the incoming vice-president Binu Mathew, Secretary Sajan Thomas, treasurer Jaison Daniel and all other office bearers.

Grace of God has always been with us throughout these years, and in 2006 OCYM successfully completed its 3rd year in the parish. Love of Lord has unified us and His words have guided us throughout these years. One of the greatest gifts the Youth Movement has made to our church is that it has prepared and provided capable and excellent leaders for the future. We uphold the principle of worship, study, and service to create a frame work for social and spiritual activities for the growth of the youth in our parish.