

Mar Gregorious Orthodox Christian Student Movement (MGOCSM)

Annual Report-2007

Jacob Chacko, Secretary

MGOCSM conducted several programs during the past year. The highlights are given below:

MGOCSM Retreat: MGOCSM Area Lenten Retreat was conducted at our Parish from 9 am-3 pm. on Saturday, February 24, 2007. The retreat drew over 60 MGOCSM members from all over the Philadelphia Area, in addition to members from the Baltimore-Washington, DC area. The retreat featured a message by Father Victor Grodenchuk of the Russian Orthodox Church. There were also breakout sessions where Rev. Fr. Aju Mathews, Rev. Dn. Geevarghese John and Rev. Dn. George Mathew discussed topic such as the Jesus Prayer, Psalms, and Liturgical Hymns. Music ministry was arranged by our talented artists, and Achens were available for Holy Confession afterwards. The youth were able to reflect and take home a deep and fulfilling Lenten message.

MGOCSM Trip to Tikhon Seminary: Several of our youngsters under the leadership of Rev. Dn. Geevarghese John and Rev. Dn. Daniel Yohannan visited the Seminary on May 12th. It was a blessed and enriching experience for all the participants.

Stem Cell Screening

Trinu Thomas, a member of St Stephens Mar Thoma church, New Jersey was diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia. She was a married 26 year young lady. She needed a stem cell transplant to survive. A Screening Drive for Stem Cell donation was held on May 6th in our parish. Around 60 members from our parish volunteered. Unfortunately, she succumbed to her sickness, and was called to her eternal home. Regardless, our acts of caring will never go unnoticed by the heavenly Father. God will reward those who volunteered for this screening.

Coffee House

MGOCSM Coffee House was conducted from 6-10.30 p. m. on Friday, January 26, 2007. The night featured messages by Rev. Dn. Aju Mathews and Rev. Dn. Geevarghese John. It was also a night of devotional music, prayer and fellowship in a unique setting organized under the leadership of our MGOCSM. Over 300 youngsters, mostly teenagers from Philadelphia and the tri-state area were in attendance. Our youngsters conducted themselves in a very disciplined and orderly fashion befitting to a Christian atmosphere. A lot of preparation and coordination went into this program. The MGOCSM raised over \$1000 for the Church from this program.

MGOCSM One Day Conference: MGOCSM hosted a One Day Conference on Saturday, November 3, 2007. The speaker of the conference was Rev. Dn. Philip Mathew. This conference was open to the MGOCSM area of Philadelphia. This was an enriching experience for our youth to get a deeper understanding of our faith.

Harvest Festival: MGOCSM assisted with the Harvest Festival, which was hosted on Saturday, October 6, 2007. MGOCSM coordinated and organized the games as well as selling snacks and beverages. MGOCSM raised over \$1000 for the Church.

Church Activities: MGOCSM was extremely busy in coordinating activities for the church. MGOCSM helped decorate and coordinate for the ordination for Rev Aju Philip Mathews. MGOCSM showed their appreciation to all the mothers in the church by organizing an aerobics class at the church gym to celebrate Mothers Day. MGOCSM took some time to help clean up the facilities at church on Feb 10, 2007. MGOCSM also helped the youth to celebrate the joys of Easter by hosting an Easter party on April 27, 2007. This year was extremely busy for our MGOCSM which helped them to spiritually mature.