

St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church Youth Movement
Annual Report 2007
Sajan Thomas, 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 Movement actively organized a variety of activities this year. Those ones that have to be mentioned are as follows.

In January, we conducted a bake sale. We served delicious Kerala dishes during this occasion. In March, we took leadership in organizing the parish retreat. Rev. Fr. Jobson Kottapuram was the main speaker. Youth Movement actively participated in organizing the church picnic. The registration was coordinated by us. In September, we organized a one day convention. Rev. Fr. Philip Zachariah was the speaker.

The month of September was blessed with the visit of H. G. Dr. Yuhanon Mar Milithos, President of the Orthodox Christian Youth Movement. Upon our request and invitation, His Grace came to visit our parish and our OCYM unit. Three Syrian Orthodox monks from Germany, being invited by the Metropolitan, also came, visited and joined us in all the programs scheduled. We celebrated the third anniversary of the consecration of our church and the third anniversary of our youth movement on this occasion. The OCYM unit at our church is one of the very few units in the American Diocese.

In October, the church celebrated Harvest Festival. 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. We also organized a 'Palacharakku Kada' in which many household items, groceries etc. were sold. Both stores were of great interest for all. OCYM took the leadership in conducting Christmas Carol this year and actively participated in the Christmas Eve Program with our special and different entertainment programs.

OCYM raised \$2063.92 through a variety of fund raising activities through out the year. The final income after all expenses is \$1386.79. Kitchen utensils worth \$1352 are donated to the church from the final income.

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 Alex Symon, Secretary Jerin Juby, Treasurer Anoop George and all other office bearers.

Grace of God has always been with us throughout these years, and in 2006 OCYM successfully completed its 4th 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.