

CONSECRATION OF NEWLY BUILT WORSHIP FACILITY OF ST. PAUL'S MAR THOMA CHURCH, DALLAS

By God's grace, the newly built worship facility of St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas, located at 1002 Barnes Bridge Road, Mesquite, TX 75150, with a 600 seating capacity sanctuary, Sunday School class rooms, offices and fellowship hall was consecrated on Saturday, March 20th 2010, at 3:00 P.M. by our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa. The trustee, Mr. Oommen Koshy, read the contract, of transferring the ownership of the new church facility to the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church and furnished keys to the Church to the Diocesan Bishop. Approximately, a gathering of over 600 believers and respected clergy in the Dallas area, attended the sacred ceremony.

Public meeting started immediately after the dedication ceremony with an opening prayer by Rev. P.V. Thomas. Our current vicar Rev. A.P. Noble welcomed our Diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Geevarghese Mar Theodosius Episcopa, distinguished guests, clergies, invitees and members of sister parishes. Mr. Jacob Abraham presented a brief video presentation about our church and its history. Then our beloved Thirumeni, in his inaugural address praised the efforts of all the past vicars of the parish and all the members and urged everybody to work together for the spiritual growth of the church. Honorable Mayor of the City of Mesquite Mr. John Monaco, expressed his warm felicitations and presented the Proclamation by the City of Mesquite to our Vicar, Rev. A.P. Noble. The Proclamation declared the 20th day of March, 2010 as "The St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church Day" through out the city. Mr. Monaco closed his speech with a word of prayer. Later, the Honorable Mayor of Sunnyvale Mr. David Byrd expressed his warm felicitations to the Parish. Then, all the dear clergy present, Rev. Minoy Kuruvilla (vicar of Mar Thoma Church of Dallas, Farmers Branch), Rev. Johnson George (vicar of Marthoma Church Dallas, Carrollton), Rev. George Varghese, (vicar of Sehion Marthoma Church, Plano), Rev. George Joseph (Vice President of KECF), Rev. Mathew Joseph (vicar of Austin congregation) and Rev. Biju Simon (Youth Chaplain of NE region New York) blessed the occasion with their felicitations. Dr. John Lincoln (Sabha Council Member), Mrs. Leelamma James (Mandalam Member) and Mr. Aby Thomas, Diocesan Assembly Member also gave their felicitations.

The St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church choir graced the occasion with two special dedication songs written by Zachariah Thomas (Lay Leader) and Mr. John Thomas (Choir Leader). The English Choir and the Sunday school children also joined the occasion by singing two melodious songs. Mr. Saji P George presented a copy of the Souvenir for release by Thirumeni. Mr. Babu Mathew recognized the following Building Committee Conveners and members, Mr. Koshy Thomas (General Convener), Mr. Ipe George (Technical Convener), Mr. Sunny K. John (Project Manager), Mr. P.P. Cherian (Finance Convener), Mr. Mathew Thomas (Architect) and Edison K. John (Designer & Creator of The Thronos). Dr. Mohan Philip, the Vice-President, presented the general contractor, the conveners and above members with a plaque. The General Convener expressed his gratitude to all the members and especially the Building Committee. Mr. Phil Mathew, Church secretary, represented the parish and expressed his sincere thanks to everybody. The public meeting ended at 7:00 P.M. with the closing prayer by Rev. Jaisen Thomas and the benediction by the Diocesan Bishop. Mr. Soji Skariah was the Master of the Ceremony of the Public Meeting.

On Sunday March, 21st 2010, at 9:00 A.M., our respected Thirumeni led us in our First Holy Qurbana in Malayalam at the new church. Rev. Mathew Joseph, Rev. A.P. Noble and Rev. Jaisen Thomas assisted the Diocesan Bishop in the Holy Qurbana. A first communicant Service was also conducted and eleven First Communicants participated in the service.

Phil Mathew

Secretary, St. Paul's Mar Thoma Church, Dallas.