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THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

കവിത ചെറുകഥ നോവൽ/നാടകം ലേഖനം SPORTS

LETTER TO EDITOR കട്ടുറുമ്പ് PHOTO GALLERY

വിവരണം സഹായകസംഗ്രഹം പാലകം റിയൽ എസ്റ്റേറ്റ് മതപരം മനുഷ്യാവകാശം ഉപകരണങ്ങൾ ആരോഗ്യവേദി ഇവരെ പരിചയപ്പെടുക സിനിമ

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uthupparampil Scaria, PhD



Historic celebration of the Syro Malabar Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC on Saturday, Sept 7th 2013  
Indian American Catholic Association, that represents Catholics from the Indian subcontinent including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as part of its Annual Pilgrimage to the Basilica in honor of Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni has organized the celebration of the Syro Malabar Rite Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC, fondly known as America's Catholic Church, on Saturday Sept 7th 2013, for the first time. The main celebrant for this historic event was Major Archbishop of Syro Malabar Church, His Beatitude George Cardinal Alencherry. Cardinal Alencherry celebrated the Syro Malabar Mass in English, along with His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, His Excellency, Bishop Jacob Angadiath and 20 other Priests from all over the United States. A 130 member Choir organized from different parts of the country came together to sing beautifully at the Mass.

The Choir was arranged by Fr. Joseph Palackal CMI and conducted by Mr. George Thaila. The pilgrimage began with a Procession from Mary's Garden outside the magnificent Basilica at the Nation's Capital. Thousands of Pilgrims from various parts of the United States participated in procession to the Great Upper Church of the Basilica holding banners of Saints from the Indian subcontinent, Kerala style ceremonial umbrellas (Muthukkuda), drummers playing Kerala style drums, Statue of Our Lady of Vailankanni wearing a beautiful Sari and singing Marian songs along the procession. Once the procession reached the Upper Church, Holy Rosary was prayed at the Church. After the Rosary, Solemn High Mass of the Syro Malabar Church was celebrated by Cardinal Mar Alencherry and concelebrants including Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop Angadiath and other Priests.

Msgr. Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, welcomed Cardinal Alencherry and other celebrants to the Basilica. The Pilgrimage was attended by about 5000 people, who packed the huge Basilica, which is the largest Catholic Church in the western hemisphere. Cardinal Wuerl preached Homily during the Mass and praised the strong devotion of the Indian Catholics for Our Blessed Mother. Cardinal Alencherry, in His Eminence's concluding remarks praised and thanked Cardinal Wuerl for his leadership in the Catholic Church and his ministry to the multicultural and multinational Catholic population that makes up the Washington Archdiocese. President of Indian American Catholic Association Puthupparampil Scaria, said vote of thanks to the celebrants and participants and pointed out the historic nature of the day's events. He pointed out that it is the first time Syro Malabar Mass is celebrated in the Great Upper Church of the Basilica of the

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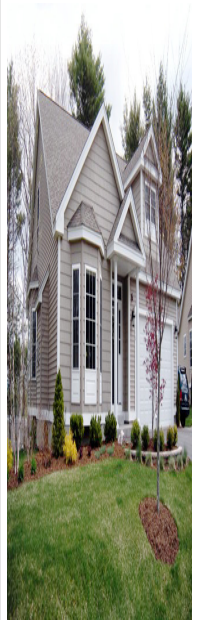
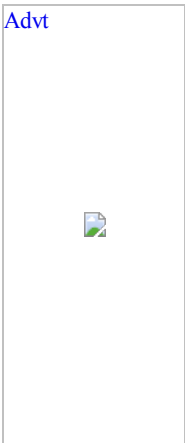
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National shrine and it is an honor and privilege to have Head of the Syro Malabar Church celebrate this Historic Mass. According to initial estimates, this was one of the largest gatherings of Indian Catholics in the Basilica, at the Nation's capital. A large number of Pilgrims participated in a reception after the service.

By: Puthupparampil Scaria, PhD

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