

Issue 1
January 2025
Published by
National Team 7



**know.
love.
serve.**



DYA monthly

Featuring

Detroit RT Orientation
Phoenix RT Orientation
DYA Bible in a Year
Synod



CONTAGIOUS *grace* in 2025

Dear Friends,

Grace is contagious! In Numbers 11:23-30, we see this when the Lord asks Moses to gather seventy elders around the tent of meeting. As the Lord descends in the cloud, He takes some of the spirit that was upon Moses and bestows it upon the elders. What happens next? They begin to prophesy! The Spirit of the Lord is not limited to one person but spreads freely to those who are open to receiving it.

Through Baptism, we have received this same grace—an indelible mark that makes us children of God and members of the mystical Body, the Church. This grace is not meant to be kept to ourselves. It is meant to overflow into the world, transforming hearts and drawing others into communion with Christ. This is the same grace that our Blessed Mother recognized when she told the servants at Cana, “Do whatever He tells you”—a call to trust in the Lord’s abundant generosity. When we live in this grace, we too become witnesses to its contagious power.

As we begin this new year, the Diocesan Youth Apostolate (DYA) is embracing this contagious grace with renewed vision and mission. After much prayer and discernment, National Team 7 and I have sought to understand what the Lord desires for DYA in 2025. While DYA is the official youth apostolate of our Eparchy, it has sometimes felt like a “cult” for a select few rather than a home for all. Yet, from its founding in 2009, DYA has been a labor of love—leaders have poured their time, energy, and prayers into building a community where every young person is welcomed and formed in faith.

CONTAGIOUS *grace* in 2025

Now, as we enter a new era, we are called to, as St. Paul says, expand our reach and embrace all youth, just as Christ embraces us. With this in mind, I am excited to announce our theme for 2025:

“The Glory of God is Man Fully Alive” – St. Irenaeus

God’s glory is not meant to remain hidden—it is meant to fill our lives and spread like wildfire. The grace we receive is not stagnant but alive, dynamic, and contagious—drawing us into deeper communion with Christ and one another. This year, DYA will focus on rekindling the fire of past initiatives while also launching new efforts to strengthen our community and involvement.

Some of our upcoming initiatives include:

- **DYA Intercession:** Join us **every third Monday from 8-9 PM (CST)** for a time of prayer, meditation, and devotion, uniting as one Body in Christ.
- **DYA Podcast:** Launching this **Lent**, offering engaging conversations to inspire and strengthen our faith.
- **DYA Finance Ministry & Ministry of Reconciliation:** Providing young people with spiritual and practical tools to navigate life faithfully.
- **DYA Media:** Expanding our digital presence to keep you informed, inspired, and connected.

The Lord has a dream for each of us and for our Eparchy. My prayer is that, through His grace, we will not only receive this gift but share it, allowing it to spread like contagious fire among the young people of our Church.

Let’s set this new year ablaze—not for our own sake, but for the glory of God!

In Christ,

Fr. Melvin Paul

Director, Diocesan Youth Apostolate

Regional Team Orientation



In early January, Detroit had the honor of hosting the DYA Regional Team orientation, welcoming our upcoming leaders for a time of preparation, fellowship, and cultural immersion. The event provided the perfect blend of learning and connection as the young adults embraced their new roles while experiencing the rich Syro-Detroit culture.

The weekend was packed with meaningful activities, including a visit to the Solanus Casey Center, a tour of a local Chaldean church, and an exploration of vibrant downtown Detroit. Each moment fostered a sense of community and inspired the team to reflect on their mission.

It was truly a heartwarming and fruitful time for everyone. We are deeply blessed to have such compassionate and dedicated youth leaders stepping forward to serve our community.

Let us continue to keep all the Regional Team members in our prayers as they begin this journey and work toward making an impact across the country!

DYA Bible in a Year



"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him on the last day." (John 6:44)

With this profound verse, we begin our exciting journey of reading the Bible in a year. It's an invitation to deepen our faith, reflect on God's word, and grow together as a community.

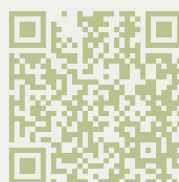
As we set out on this path, we want to make it as easy and encouraging as possible for everyone involved. Here's what you can expect from this group:

- Weekly Polls – To help you stay on track with the daily readings, we'll be posting a poll each week. It's a simple way to check in and see how everyone is doing.
- Daily Links – Every day, we'll provide the links to the day's reading, making it easy to follow along no matter where you are.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite others from your parishes or missions to join us. It's still early in the year, so there's plenty of time to get started. If you know someone who might be interested, encourage them to join the group. Together, we can all grow in our understanding and love of God's word.

Let's take this journey together, supporting one another and growing in faith as we read the Bible in a year!

Join us!



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JhmeWrwhWOr05bBH8SguNy>



Synod

Twice a year, the 54 bishops of the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church come together to discuss important issues facing the church. The first synod of the year took place from January 6 to 11 in Kerala, India. It is during these gatherings that new bishops for various dioceses are chosen. At this synod, Bishop Joseph Pamplany was elected as the apostolic administrator of the Ernakulam Diocese.



RT Orientation in Phoenix

"Go and make disciples of all nations." - Matthew 28:19

Some of our new Regional Team members had the opportunity to attend orientation at the Holy Family Syro-Malabar Catholic Church in Phoenix, Arizona. It was a great weekend of fellowship, growth, and a chance for our new members to discern what they want their next two years to look like. The team learned about their mission, spent time exploring Phoenix, and even visited a local Byzantine Catholic Church!

A huge thank you to all of the amazing parishioners, particularly the youth and young adults, as well as to Fr. Dels!

Please keep our Regional Teams in your prayers!



UPCOMING

DYLG on Feb 14-17

**QOC at UTD on
Feb 19**

QURBANA ON CAMPUS



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27
5:15 PM

@UNIVERSITY
CATHOLIC CENTER
633 GAYLEY AVE,
LOS ANGELES, CA
90024

Celebrant: Fr. Melvin Paul

**QOC at Univ. of
Penn. & Drexell
Univ. on March 29**

JOIN US FOR THE

Syro-Malabar Diocesan Eucharistic Congress

MAY 23-25, 2025 | SOMERSET, NJ

TRACKS FOR:

High school, College,
& Young Adults

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.smeucharisticcongress.us



University of Texas at Dallas
**QURBANA
ON
CAMPUS**

Wednesday, Feb 19th at 7:00pm

UTD University Catholic Center
2105 WaterView Pkwy,
Richardson, TX 75080

Dinner and social to follow afterwards!

For more info contact:
Joel Sanil: 361-443-6370 / Kevin Thomas: 214-603-1330

Get connected!



stthomasdya.org



[@SyroMalabarUSA](https://www.instagram.com/SyroMalabarUSA)



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Blessings from our beloved bishop and clergy!

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and the Diocesan Youth Apostolate National
Team 7

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of
Chicago