

# **NORTHEAST AMERICAN DIOCESE MMVS**

## **Rockland / Upstate NY Regional Meeting Bible Study/ Food Drive/ Hair Drive**

**Area Coordinator: Mrs. Alice Thukalil  
Area Representative: Mrs. Lipsy Mathews**

The Rockland and Upstate NY region MMVS members assembled together at St. Peter & St. Paul's Orthodox Church, Tappan, on Mother's Day (May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015) for their first regional meeting and Bible study as well as charitable activity. The meeting was attended by Rev. Fr. Thomas Mathew (Vicar, St. Peter and St. Paul's) and Rev. Dr. Varghese M. Daniel (Vicar, St. John's) and members from different parishes. Sophie Kuriakose (secretary of MMVS, St. Peter & St. Paul's church) welcomed the participants. The Central Committee members, Sarah Varghese, (General Secretary), Dr. Ammukutty Paulose (Charity Coordinator) and Mary Ennacheril (Leadership Training Program Coordinator) updated the audience on MMVS activities. Secretaries and representatives from each parish spoke about the planned activities for this year.

Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas conducted the Bible study based on the Epistle of St. James. The members found the class very useful. The area coordinator Alice Thukalil thanked the hosting parish, the priests and the MMVS members who participated in the event. She also described the following charitable activities planned for the area:

- 1) Food drive for "People to People" (already bought and ready to be delivered)
- 2) Visiting a nursing home and giving prizes for Bingo - June 2015
- 3) Volunteering at the soup kitchen - September 2015
- 4) Helping abused women - November 2015

Alice also spoke about the area's idea to hold a talent night. She requested the members to help in the planning and conducting of this event.

The meeting ended with prayer by Rev. Dr. Varghese M. Daniel.

The food items for the "People to People" charity were already purchased for donation and did not need packing like the prior year. Therefore, the group proceeded to hold the Hair Drive. The hair drive was also done in a novel way this year. The area decided not to spend money on a beautician; rather, Moly

Poulose from St. Peter & St. Paul's volunteered to cut the hair. The members who wanted to donate hair were asked to bring in either their cut hair or have Moly cut their hair. Moly Poulose had already collected 27 pieces of hair from her friends and colleagues. These donors chose to remain anonymous. The group thanked Moly for all the work she did. Kunjunjamma Kuriakose, Sophie Kuriakose and Chinnakutty Raju from St Peter and St. Paul's brought hair to donate as well. They also received two hair pieces from Elizabeth Boarded through St. John's. Sincy Laiju and Nigi Varughese from St. John's had their hair cut at the event. They collected 34 pieces of hair altogether, 8 inches and more to be donated to "Children With Hair Loss".

Ajith Vattasseril, Alias Thukalil, Ammukutty Paulose and Alice Thukalil took the food to "People to People" in Nyack on May 12, 2015. The food items bought were enough to feed 100 people for one day (breakfast, lunch & dinner). These food items were bought according to the list given by the "People to People" Organization. The donation was received by Diane Serratore, the Executive Director and Guadalupe Fishman, the Office Manager. The donated food weighed 405 pounds and was worth \$1134 based on their assessed value. The region spent \$412.87 to purchase the food.



The MMVS group with Rev. Fr Mathew Thomas and Rev. Dr. Varghese Daniel



Moly Poulouse busy cutting the hair and Nigi Varughese happy to donate!



Carload full of food for donation.





At " People to People", Nyack with the executive director Diane Serratore.

\*\*\*\*\*