The Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church is pleased to announce a week long Summer Institute to be held at the Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center in Dalton, PA on June 3 – June 8, 2018.

The theme of this year’s Institute is “Syriac Liturgy: History and Theology.” This week long program is a unique opportunity to study and discuss the ancient liturgical tradition of the Syriac East.

The intended audience for the program includes theology and religious studies students at the masters and undergraduate levels, along with clergy, lay people, and undergraduates with an interest in learning more about Liturgy and Syriac tradition. Scholarships are available for graduate students focusing on related fields.

The main resource person for the program is Rev Fr. Dr. Baby Varghese, Professor of Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam, India.

**About Resource Person:** Rev Fr. Baby Varghese (Doctorate from Sorbonne, University of Paris, 1985) is Professor at Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam as well as professor of Syriac Studies at St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI). Fr. Varghese is recipient of Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship (Free University in Berlin), Burke Fellowship (Union Theological Seminary, NY -2004) and ISM Fellowship and Visiting Professor at Yale University (2013). Fr. Varghese is also a member of the Forum Syriacum of the Pro Oriente Foundation, Vienna Austria. Fr. Varghese has translated numerous prayers of the West Syriac Tradition into English and has authored numerous books and articles including:

- Baptism and Chrismation in the Syriac Tradition, SEERI Correspondence Course on Syrian Church Heritage, No.8, Kottayam, 1990 (pp.74).
How to Register: To register for the program please fill out the web registration form available at
  ➢ https://transfigurationretreat.org/events/summerinstitute

Registration Fees: $375 (make payable to “Northeast American Diocese”). Fees include accommodations and food for the entire time period. Please send registration fees to 1000 Seminary Road Dalton, PA 18414

Scholarships: Limited scholarships that cover the cost of registration are available for graduate students focusing on related fields. Please email Fr. Sujit Thomas, Diocesan Secretary (stthomas8@yahoo.com) for more information regarding scholarships.

Summer Institute 2018
Syriac Liturgy: History and Theology

Tentative Programs

Sunday, June 3
  • Check in Sunday afternoon between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.
  • Orientation and opening presentation will be Sunday evening after dinner.

Monday, June 4
  • Introduction to Syriac Christianity
  • Origins of Syriac Liturgy; Introduction to sources.
  • Inculturation in Syriac Liturgy
  • Important stages in the History and significant developments.

Tuesday, June 5
  • Baptismal Liturgy, Structure and Theology.
  • Eucharist- A Brief History of St James Liturgy.
  • Major Anaphoras and their characteristics; Theological importance.

Wednesday, June 6
  • Liturgical Year: A Brief History with theological Introduction.
  • Lectionary, Martyrology.
  • Daily Offices: Structure and Theology

Thursday, June 7
  • Theology of the Sacraments; Number of Sacraments; Syriac word rozo.
  • Marriage, Monasticism and other celebrations.
  • Liturgical Theology: Major orientations.

Friday, June 8
  • Syriac Spirituality
  • From the East to the West: Introduction of the Syrian Orthodox Liturgy in India.
  • East Syriac Liturgy: Brief History and theology.

Additional topics: Liturgical Canons; Liturgical reforms problems and possibilities. Art, Architecture and music.

Holy Transfiguration Retreat Center
Northeast American Diocese of the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church
1000 Seminary Road Dalton, PA 18414
https://transfigurationretreat.org  www.facebook.com/HolyTransfigurationRetreat