

The Syro-Chaldean Church of North America

Statement of Mission and Vision

Adopted February 24, 1996

Mission

The mission of the Syro-Chaldean Church of North America is to know Christ, to make Him known, and to serve Him.

Vision

The vision of the Syro-Chaldean Church of North America is to be a servant church fulfilling her mission by carrying out the following:

Preparation for service

- Encourage personal devotion in a life of prayer and Bible study to deepen each person's own knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- Call for sincere self examination, self discipline and self sacrifice that each person may ever grow in fitness to serve.
- Worship God personally in spirit, mind and body.
- Encourage corporate devotion and joyful corporate worship, drawing upon the power of the Holy Spirit and the richness of the Church's heritage.

Service in the Church

- Carry out the sacramental work of the Holy Spirit in all aspects of the Church's life.
- Work towards unity among the many separated parts of Christ's wounded body serving as agents of healing and reconciliation whenever possible.
- Cooperate with other churches to further God's purposes.
- Care for, nurture, encourage and build up the people of God.
- Raise up each new generation to love and serve God with knowledge and maturity, discipling each individual to walk more deeply with the Lord and in turn to guide others.

Service in the World

- Reach out as a vehicle of Jesus' love to the downtrodden, the overburdened, the weak and those who mourn.
- Work to preserve and strengthen families which are the fundamental units of the Church and society.
- Rescue from the hands of the Enemy any in danger.
- Oppose abortion.

**Commentary on the
Statement of Mission and Vision
of
The Syro-Chaldean Church of North America**

Fr. Ben Torrey, February 24, 1996

Mission

The mission of the Syro-Chaldean Church of North America is to know Christ, to make Him known, and to serve Him.

To know Christ

We are to know Christ as Thomas, Apostle to the East and founder of our church knew him:

- With a deep personal love, devotion and commitment to the person of Jesus Christ as shown in the Gospel of John 11:16, “Thomas therefore, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with Him.’”
- With an absolute reverence for the Lord Jesus Christ as God, as shown in the Gospel of John 20:28 where Thomas was the first recorded to acclaim Jesus as God. “Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

We are to join with St. Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles: “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to his death” (Philippians 3:10)

To make Him known

We are to obey the Great Commission of Jesus: “Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

We are to make Christ known with the commitment demonstrated by St. Thomas who, as ancient tradition informs us, sold himself as slave to a ship’s master in order to travel and preach the Gospel, finally bearing the supreme witness in martyrdom in the land of India where he shed his blood to nurture the growth of this part of the Holy Catholic Church.

To serve Him

We are to serve Jesus Christ through serving His Church, that as a united people we may be an instrument of His precious love reaching out to all those whom He loves who suffer in this life and are lost in darkness.

Vision

The vision of the Syro-Chaldean Church of North America is to fulfill her mission as a servant church.

Our present vision, a continuation of the past.

The Syro-Chaldean Church, is a daughter of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of the East inheriting the tradition and apostolic lines of that ancient church.

Much as God preserved the line of David, King of Israel, through obscurity and suffering to bring forth the Messiah for the salvation of us all, so God preserved the apostolic line and tradition of this once great but now obscure church to bring forth in this day and in this land a servant church dedicated to its tradition of devotion, service and commitment.

The Church of the East has a long tradition of personal devotion to Christ and to the study of Holy Scripture. Her people have sought to know Christ deeply both personally and corporately and they have endeavored to bring that same knowledge to others.

The Church of the East has never been a church commanding secular authority. Her glory has been greatest when she has served most fully. Her monks carried the Gospel to the ends of the earth. They brought the gift of literacy to millions in the East. Her people have faithfully served earthly rulers throughout the centuries. The lands of the East have been soaked with the blood of her faithful witnesses who preferred suffering and death to the pleasures of this earthly life.

The Church of the East never took part in any of the great debates which have divided the Church of Jesus Christ from the fifth century on. From this position “outside” the debate, we are in a unique position to serve all branches of the Holy Catholic Church, seeking and praying for unity among her members.