

## Mt Tabor-like experience for Fr Mathew with Dr Mar Yulios at Sanaa Orthodox church

'Achen sanctifies people through dispensation of Word of God'



SANAA, Republic of Yemen -- Rev Fr Mathew Mathew, President/Vicar St Mary's Orthodox Church, Yemen hosted Ahmedabad Diocese Metropolitan HG Pulikkottil Dr Geevarghese Mar Yulios for 5 days from February 5-9, 2013.

Recalls Fr Mathew of his unique spiritual experience: "For me, personally, it was a Mount Tabor-like experience. (Mount Tabor is the site of the Transfiguration of Christ.) His Grace Dr Mar Yulios stayed with me in the church's parsonage and thus I could serve Him (Metropolitan) in all respects...."

The septuagenarian Vicar had completed Silver Jubilee of ordination as a priest in July last year. Fr Mathew who received compliments from the Diocese Metropolitan Dr Mar Yulios when he remarked that Achen enlightens and sanctifies people through dispensation of Word of God both in both in preaching and officiating Holy Sacraments.

Fr Mathew quotes from the scriptures: "O taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalms 34:8 and Isaiah 55:8 - "My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours, and my ways are different from yours. It was one moment in the life of the parish priest which he will savour throughout his life.

The Metropolitan's maiden Episcopal visit was doubtful till the last moment due to visa clearance problems. The green signal was obtained only on February 3 late evening and Dr Mar Yulios boarded an early morning Emirates flight from Kochi to Sanaa via Doha on February 5. Only it was due to the Grace of Almighty, Fr Mathews says, the visit was a reality and was successful purely and literally due to His abundant grace and blessings. Dr Mar Yulios was the chief celebrant at the 5th anniversary and harvest celebrations of St Mary's Orthodox Church.