

Karenni People Host Their Inaugural National Catholic Gathering

Dallas, Texas: Recognizing the challenges and opportunities presented by resettlement in America, the Karenni people, who are refugees from Burma, held their first nationwide conference to form an organization called the ***Karenni Catholics Association*** (KnCA).

Under the umbrella of the National Conference of Burmese-American Catholics (NCBAC), the Karenni Catholics Association will benefit all Karenni Catholic families living in the United States regarding various religious activities.

Its main goal is to serve as a bridge between the Karenni community and their churches in the strengthening and witnessing the Catholic faith. Simultaneously, the unique cultural heritage central to the Karenni will be preserved and promoted by the Karenni Catholic Association. There are an estimated 4,500 Karenni Catholics residing in the United States in 2014, living in about 25 states.

During the conference, representatives were elected to staff the positions necessary to carry out the vital functions of the newly established organization. Mentioned is a list of individuals elected: Mr. Francis Khun, President; Mr. Oo Reh Sor, Vice President; Mr. Francis Khoon, Secretary I; Ms. Mee Meh, Secretary II; Mr. Nge Reh, Treasurer; Ms. Bu Meh, Auditor; Mr. Thoe Reh, Youth Coordinator.

The 1st annual meeting and retreat of Karenni Catholics was held at St. Patrick Catholic Church, in Dallas, Texas, on August 30-31, 2014, with a strong involvement of over 100 dedicated participants from several states — Minnesota, Georgia, Tennessee, Michigan, Alabama, North Carolina and Texas. The retreat was led by Fr. Joseph Ku Reh, Church of St. Bernard, St. Paul, MN.

The Karenni Catholics Association (KnCA) is based in Dallas, Texas, and serves the entire Karenni community in the United States.

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