

# KCWFNA 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

## Faith, Fellowship, and Empowerment Shine in Cancún, Mexico

Written by Maria Kaitharam, KCWFNA Secretary

### A Historic Gathering in Paradise

The Knanaya Catholic Women's Forum of North America (KCWFNA) celebrated a milestone with its **5<sup>th</sup> Summit and first-ever international gathering** in Cancún, Mexico.

Hosted at the beautiful **Moon Palace Resort**, women from across North America came together for four unforgettable days of **faith, culture, learning, and sisterhood**.

### Day 1: A Warm Welcome in Cancún

*Faith and Fellowship Mark the Start of the Summit*

The excitement was palpable as attendees arrived at Moon Palace Resort, greeted with smiles, welcome packages, and the Caribbean breeze.

The summit began with a **Syro-**



#### Committee:

- Chair: **Riya Kottoor**
- Choreographers: **Jeni Thundiyl & Julie Vennalasseril**

The much-anticipated **Cultural Program** featured **12+ regional teams** presenting beautifully choreographed performances celebrating Knanaya heritage.

Local Women's Forum Executives were honored with **tokens of appreciation** for their service and dedication.

through **salsa lessons** and leisure time at the resort, embodying KCWFNA's mission of **empowerment through faith, knowledge, and fellowship**.

### Day 3 Evening: A Glamorous Finale in Cancún

*Banquet Night Celebrates Achievement and Sisterhood*

The summit's **Banquet Night and Closing Ceremony** was a grand celebration of unity, elegance, and gratitude.

"This night was pure joy and gratitude," said one member.

### Day 4: Farewell, Gratitude, and New Beginnings

*KCWFNA Members Depart Inspired and Rejuvenated*

The summit closed with a **thanksgiving Mass** at the resort chapel, where members gathered to give thanks for a blessed event.

Farewells were filled with hugs, gratitude, and reflection.

"I'm leaving feeling refreshed and empowered," one participant shared.

KCWFNA extended heartfelt appreciation to its **partners and sponsors**:

- **Moon Palace Resorts**
- **Focus Productions** (Photography & Videography)
- **HV Travels** (Official Transportation Partner)

#### Sponsors

- **Diamond Sponsors:** *Nick Chakungal and Soman & Elsa Kottoor*
- **Platinum Sponsors:** *Bridget Kulangara & Indira Karottukunnel*
- **Gold Sponsors:** *Punnoose & Prathibha Thachet and Cyriac & Siju Koovakattil*
- *All other sponsors*



**Malabar Pattu Qurbana** celebrated by **Fr. Boban Vattampurath**, setting a tone of reverence and unity.

The **inaugural ceremony** featured the **Canadian, American, and Indian national anthems**, followed by the prayer song *Marthoman*. A **candle-lighting ceremony** officially opened the summit, led by:

- **Danny Pallattumadam**, KCWFNA President
- **James Illikal**, KCCNA President
- **Fr. Boban Vattampurath**, KCCNA spiritual director
- **Dr. Susan Thengumtharayil**, KCCNA Joint Secretary
- **KCWFNA Executives**

The evening continued with **inspiring remarks**, the **Empower Her Raffle Draw**, and a vibrant **performance by the New York Women's Forum**.

Fun **icebreakers** ended the night, sparking laughter and connection.

"The joy and energy in the room were contagious," shared one participant.

### Day 2: Faith, Culture, and Connection

*KCWFNA Members Unite Through Prayer and Celebration*

The day began with **morning Mass** led by **Fr. Boban Vattampurath**, followed by an unforgettable **flashmob** that filled the resort with excitement!

Special thanks to the **Flashmob**

Evening time brought units together for moments of fellowship and laughter.

"Each performance reflected the spirit of our community," said one participant.

The evening began with **opening remarks** by **KCWFNA Secretary Maria Kaitharam**, followed by a **fashion show** coordinated by **KCWFNA Treasurer Reshma**



### Day 3: Learning, Inspiration, and Joy by the Sea

*Workshops, Wellness, and Sisterhood*

The day began serenely with a **rosary**. Educational and wellness sessions empowered attendees with knowledge and inspiration:

- **Breast Cancer Awareness**—*Riya Kottoor*
  - **Digital Safety & Online Empowerment** — *Keerthi Joseph Kudasseril (Naduparambil)-&-Ann Luke Vettickal*
  - **Healthy Boundaries in Daily Life** — *Dr. Divya Vallipaddavil&Manju Philip-Nedumakel*
- "These topics remind us to care for ourselves—mind, body, and soul."

After the sessions, laughter echoed

**Kochupurackal** featuring participants from across North America.

**KCWFNA President Danny Pallattumadam** delivered a heartfelt **presidential address**, recognizing past leaders, sponsors, and committees for their dedication.

Guests enjoyed a **four-course dinner** while celebrating the week's achievements. Entertainment highlights included:

- **Group Medley** – Led by *Brenda Edukuthara*
- **Comedy Act** – Led by *Biby Vertikkatt*
- **Salsa performance** - by *Moon Palace*
- **Summit Highlight Video & Flashmob**

A **vote of thanks** by **RVP Sephy Muprapallil** and a lively **DJ dance party** concluded the evening on a high note.

KCWFNA also thanked **KCCNA, local KCS units, and Women's Forum Executives** for their unwavering collaboration and encouragement.

As attendees departed, one message echoed throughout: **gratitude and hope**.

The Cancún Summit may have ended, but the **unity, empowerment, and friendships** built here will continue to shine—lighting the way for KCWFNA's bright future.

KCWFNA – Empowering Women Through Faith, Culture, and Community

"The 1<sup>st</sup> International Summit was more than an event—it was a celebration of faith, empowerment, and enduring sisterhood across North America."



# KCWFNA 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT - (PHOTO FEATURE)



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