



# MCA-EC

## Quarterly

Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast, USA

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## From Our President

It is a great honor and privilege for me to assume the role of President of MCA-EC for the year 2013-14. One thing I did not pick up from my management school but did from our Lord, is what it means to be a Leader. It is clear and works very well – To Lead, you first serve. Over the last 4 years that I've been with MCA-EC, it's been about serving. Our last 4 presidents have set the right path for the future leaders like me – the path of leading by serving.

What is up for this year? With the last 4 years behind us, we have reached the tipping point of the S curve of MCA-EC's 1.0. For us to move to the next phase, we had to introduce some technology. For the last picnic registration we tried to launch version 1 of the portal. As I mentioned in my introductory speech at the picnic, my term is going to be all about self-service. We just released the enhanced version of the portal which includes the membership registration and renewals. New reports were added for the board to have information at their fingertips. New standards and procedure are put in place, so the hand-over to the next board will be easier. This theme of self-service will continue to take priority for the rest of this year.

To pick up on growth, even though introducing the Long Island's St. Joseph Vado did not take off the way we expected, the PA/DE's Bhagevonth Kutam Vado did all the magic. This vado held a kick-off get together for the folks in the area and almost 125 folks were introduced to the MCA-EC. My term will focus on the existing membership count and serving them while putting the house in order, before the growth strikes a huge linear peak in the future.

The word "Involvement" has been key and dear to my heart, especially as I lead MCA-EC to the next phase. MCA-EC is all about "US" and not "ME". So involvement from everyone to get us to the next level is a key. My team is working closely with the Gurkars/Gurkarns to get the local folks involved and help drive the volunteer force in order - shout out all the Gurkars and Gurkarns for their amazing support.

The previous presidents have steered the association along this dynamic road and have done so in a responsive and measured way, ensuring appropriate adjustment and continuity in associations' affairs. Many people have contributed to this outcome, far too many people to mention here by name. However there is one individual I must recognize—Steven Aranha – Former President and my mentor, for his leadership, guidance and friendship – Thanks, Steve.

In conclusion - Why do geese fly in a V? Because it conserves their energy and makes it easy to keep track of every bird in the group. Each bird flies slightly above the bird in front of him/her, resulting in a reduction of wind resistance. The birds take turns being in front, falling back when they get tired. In this way, the geese can fly for a long time before they must stop for rest. Our past 4 presidents along with their teams had taken that front position and have assumed that position for me and my executive board members to steer us through the next phase of MCA-EC. On behalf of the rest of the board members, I can assure that we will provide all the required support to help us keep flying.

Dev Borem Korum

**Arun Menezes**  
President MCA-EC, 2013-2014

## From Our Priest



I'm just few days old in this country, as I have just arrived at New York's Holy Cross Church on 42nd street to do my Master's degree in Spiritual Direction at Fordham University. Fr. Arun Lobo called me and spoke about MCA-EC in this part of the US. The association itself speaks about our deep affinity and love with the age old rich tradition we possess. Wherever we go, whichever part of the world we live in, we can't be separated from the roots that are holding us together.

I congratulate all the veterans of this organization for taking trouble and making this a reality to bring our people together. Certainly all the members and the office bearers have joined their hands together and without counting the cost, labored sincerely in order to build unity among the Konkani speaking Catholics of South Kanara.

On this occasion I would like to exhort the present team to remember that all we have acquired and achieved so far is a gift from God. Our faith speaks loudly that nothing has been accomplished or could be accomplished without the grace of God and His guidance. Therefore, as the Association brings out the quarterly magazine, in order to let one another know about our activities, all the concerned members of the Association should think like St. Paul "I boast in the Lord" (2 Corinthians 12:5).

Let me also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Monti Fest. May the blessings of our Mother Mary enable us to build the Kingdom of the Father, as taught by Jesus.

**Fr. Augustine Claude D'Souza, OFM Capuchin**

# NEW MEMBERSHIP BOARD Q & A

**D.L.:** It's great to have your new faces on the board (Eric Fernandes, Michelle Fernandes, Neeta Mascarenhas). Tell us about yourself, so that MCA-EC can get to know you a little better.

**Eric:** I have a vast financial and accounting background and when the past president asked me if I could volunteer my services for the position of Treasurer, I agreed to send in my nomination as I think that I can use my knowledge to help our association.

**Michelle:** I have been an active member of the MCA-EC association since its establishment four years ago and find it very enriching for my family to instill the culture that I thought I would lose being in America, as well as giving me new avenues to meet people who speak the same native language, I'm an enthusiastic mom of two, love to travel the world and have a passion for dancing. Call me a social bee but not a gossip queen.

**Neeta:** My fascination is to travel to new places and I especially, love to meet new people and make friends.

**D.L.:** What motivated you to join the membership board?

**Eric:** The thought of giving back to society always motivates me. I feel that using my talent and knowledge to give back to our very own association would give me a sense of accomplishment. I would like to see this association grow to the next level.

**Michelle:** I was actively involved in the cultural programs last year and wanted to contribute my talent and support more effectively, which I am able to achieve by being a part of the board.

**Neeta:** The Mangalorean cultural ties and the bonding which it gives our families and our kids born here so that our identity is not lost, that's the MCA-EC for us and that's the main reason I wanted to be a part of this board which strives so much to get all of this together and for our next generation.

**D.L.:** What do you hope to achieve in the next year for your individual role?

**Eric:** Incorporate the association in NJ. Make sure that the financial information is accurate, timely and transparent.

**Michelle:** Working towards the common goal to "Move Forward" and "Step Up".

**Neeta:** Getting more members to join the MCA-EC and to encourage more participation from folks of different Vados, especially those which are up and coming.

**D.L.:** What are you most looking forward to during our upcoming Monti Fest celebration?

**Eric:** I am looking forward to seeing the cultural events from the vados and would like to see more members take active participation in the association events and get to know other members. We have planned for success and I would like to see that all members enjoy the Monti Fest celebrations and that we see more new members attending next year.

**Michelle:** To having a faith filled celebration along with seeing new faces participate in the cultural programs, which I am very excited about this year.

**Neeta:** Going back to our traditional roots by organizing cultural and spiritual events is what I'm most looking forward in the upcoming Monti Fest celebration.

# Happy Grandparent's Day: September 8th

One of the most endearing highlights of the MCA-EC is how it magnificently brings together multiple generations of Mangaloreans. At every event, we rarely see just a child with parents, but grandparents together, as well, bringing along with them, rich traditions, language, culture and heritage. At the summer picnic, for instance, I was delighted to meet a grandmother who happily told me that she has children in the U.S., Singapore and the U.K. and that she regularly travels around the world to care for her grandchildren: what a blessing! In honor of ALL the grandparents of our association, who have gone the extra mile to not only care for their own children, but to bestow extra love, care and wisdom to their beloved grandchildren, a hearty thanks and blessings for all that you do! Happy Grandparent's Day! -D.L.



# Our MCA-EC Green Thumb Gardeners

Our MCA-EC gardeners prove that you can take the Mangaloreans out of Mangalore, but you can't ever take away their Mangalorean spirit of cultivating, growing, and harvesting! Enjoy these photos on the eve of Monti Fest and the blessings of novem.-*D.L.*



*Harry Pinto's Garden, NJ: Valchi bhaji, haldi kole, and flowers shown above. Also, chilies, cucumbers, and various flowers.*



*Lawrence Thomas Lewis' Garden, NY: Doodhi, shown above. Also, cucumbers, mint, grapes and figs.*



*Merlin Mendonca's Garden, NJ: Vegetables include okra, chili, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, mint, curry leave and aludento. Flowering plants are hibiscus, gladiola, roses, tulips, and marigold.*

# Quarterly Vado News

**Bhagevonth Kutam Vado of PA & DE: Forming, Storming & Performing – By Amrith Rodrigues-Lewis**



Amrith Rodrigues-Lewis

The Saturday of July 27<sup>th</sup> will be etched in memory for the members of the Holy Family Vado of PA & DE. It was the day 110 of us lived it up, drank it down and partied into the night. The founding members of our vado envisioned bringing together fellow Mangloreans residing in PA and DE under one roof to enjoy traditional Manglorean food, connect with one another and rock the dance floor. An all out effort was made by our awesome five-some (Archie Menezes, Sanjay Currie, Carmelina Abraham, Sunil Lobo and Dilip Lewis) to make this event a roaring success.

The venue for the event was Royal India Restaurant, Malvern. The event commenced with a welcome speech by Dilip Lewis current Gurkar for the group. The M.C. was the spirited and effervescent Glenda Bastian who did a splendid job of organizing and getting everyone in a jolly mood. This was followed by a round of flavorful appetizers and the open bar. As people relished authentic Mangalorean appetizers like Gole Baje and filled their glasses with wine and spirits of their choice Glenda conducted three more games for the group. A stellar performance of live music was given by musician and singer Gerry Coutinho. The highlight of the evening was the musical duet of the Baila played by Archie Menezes on the guitar and Gerry Coutinho on the piano. The music and dancing energized the crowd and had them asking for more.



*Gurkar Dilip welcoming the guests*



*Emcee for the day: Glenda Bastian*



*Baila by Archie and Gerry*



*Rocking the dance floor*

The guests enjoyed a traditional meal comprising of all our Mangalorean delicacies. The dinner menu included all the must haves like fluffy sannas, pork bafat, chicken roce curry, mutton green masala, sweet pulao, vorn among other dishes. Roshan D'mello (VP-PR MCA-EC) urged the crowd to join the MCA-EC events like the upcoming Monti fest. We were very appreciative of our Event sponsor Live NRI- India real estate and NRI property management services company. Although the event was marked to close at 11 pm, we had the crowd rocking the dance floor past midnight. A sure indicator of the enthusiasm and vibrancy of the group. A prelude for many more wonderful events to follow!

## NY's Kursa Vado's 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013 Updates By Paul Quadras

It gives me an immense pleasure to be part of MCA-EC, as well as the Kursa Vado family. Each and every member of this family strives to promote the Mangalorean culture. Nothing can stop Kursa Vado, one after one, week after week, fun after fun. There is no end, as we get together almost every weekend to celebrate birthdays, wedding anniversaries or housewarmings. Now I can tell you without any hesitation that Kursa Vado really rocks as we have a couple of young energetic organizers to organize extracurricular activities like an annual picnic, bowling, prayer meetings, summer outings etc.



First and foremost we would like to thank Diana Menezes for being our Gurdarn for the past year. She is also a wonderful host and an awesome cook. Everyone in our Vado family likes her typical Mangalorean style Bangda curry and this fact I confirmed heard with one of our Vado member families in Mangalore. Also, we appreciate Sujatha Periera for volunteering to be a gurdarn for the coming year.



Below are some of the fun as well as sad events held in 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of year 2013, I would like to share with our fellow MCA-EC members.

1. Mrs. Hilda D'cunha, mother of Lavina Aranha, celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. It was really a surprise party for her and she didn't even realize until all the Vado family members gathered in Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. Her eyes filled with happy tears.



2. One of our Vado members, Mr. Stanislaus Lobo's Dads passed away on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2013 in Moodubelle, Udipi District, Mangalore. May his soul rest in peace and our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family. Memorial mass will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church, Jackson Heights, NY on Sep 14<sup>th</sup> 2013



3. A bowling event was organized by the Kursa Vado on August 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 at Woodside, Queens, NY. After bowling, we all headed out to Flushing Park where the kids enjoyed themselves, and the men played cricket and the women practiced for the upcoming Monti feast dance performance.

4. On August 16<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Kursa Vado family ventured out for an Annual picnic which was at Yogi Bear Jellystone park, Woodridge, NY. This was really an unforgettable event and was a fun filled moment for everyone. It was a unique experience for our kids, as some of the kids stayed for the first time in the woods. Some of our members mentioned

that the Yogi bear outing was fun for kids as well as the grown-ups. As I already mentioned, we have some awesome cooks who really prepare delicious Mangalorean as well as American delicacies. Everyone in the group enjoyed the awesome homemade food, as well as variety of drinks. Also, our organizers have already requested searching for a new venue for next year as an annual picnic spot. This shows the enthusiasm of our fellow Vado members.



5. Aston Jake Seravo, son of Anthony and Janice Seravo celebrated his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday on August 1, 2013 at their Yonkers residence. The celebration was combined with entertainment like fun games music, dances and mouthwatering delicious food and drinks.



6. Luke Menezes, son of MCA-EC President Arun and Reena Menezes celebrated his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 at their new residence in Ardsley, NY. The party started with snacks and drinks and went on with fun filled games for the children, as well as grown-ups, concluding with a home prepared dinner and a nightlong camp fire.



## **Fatima Vado, Piscataway - A Beach Memory Stored Away!**

The sun was shining. The waves were just right. It was the perfect beach day for the Fatima Vado. The families of our Vado enjoyed a peaceful day with laughter, stories, boogie boarding, splash attacks, lots of food, but best of all, we had each other. Some of us tried things that we had never done before. We learned the meaning of trust and to trust one another. People had to face their fears but new comfort would find them in these people who were like family. It was a full day outing where we were able to spread our culture and faith with each other. As our feet touch the chilling water, a rush of adrenaline ran up our spine and no one could resist the call and urge to jump in. Each family brought their delicious homemade food and



meals that could be served at a five star restaurant. In fact, it was so good that the aroma made the rest of the beach stare with awe. We kids enjoyed the fun waves as it splashed and pushed us onto the shore. We could not resist the cold water crashing into our bodies. For some people, it was just a fun day to enjoy at the beach, but for all those there, it was more than that. It was the best day of our lives. Every time I close my eyes I can still hear the wind blowing, the waves crashing onto the shore, the adults booming with laughter, and us, kids, singing and splashing in the water. People can walk on the beach, feel the sand slip away from them just like the moments spent there but we can never forget the memories made there, especially those made with our Vado.

### **Meet our Vado Newsletter Editors:**

#### **Susanna D'Souza and Leann Rego:**

Our young and bright editors of the Fatima Vado have compiled this newsletter for the Fatima Vado.

We are all very proud of them!



## MORIYE VADO ATHLETE PROGRAM

**Description:** Beginning on Sunday, July 14, 2013 at 8:00 AM, our Moriyé Vado met weekly to get athletic. It was decided that our annual Moriyé Vado summer athletic training sessions would meet at JFK High School in Iselin, NJ. After this first successful meeting, we met on every Saturday at 8:00 AM, learning the sports of soccer and volleyball until the sessions ended at 9:30 AM. Unfortunately, the sessions had to culminate on August 24, 2013, as the summer came to a close.

**Highlights of the Event:** From its onset, Moriyé Vado's athletic program was a great time, allowing family and friends to get together and have a good time while keeping fit and keeping busy over the summer. As it's often said, "the family that plays together, stays together." This hour-and-a-half long meetings weekly really strengthened our Moriyé Vado family's bond this summer. All athletes were given the choice to join the volleyball team, coached by our own Harry Pinto, or the soccer team, coached by our very own Kevin D'Costa and Vijai Furtado. Although the children of the Moriyé Vado were signed up for the teams, the adults of the Moriyé Vado joined in too, either learning the sport or helping to coach. The participation from the members of the Moriyé Vado made the events successful, as you can see in the picture below, from our session on Saturday, July 20. All-in-all, it was a great idea, and it really did help us members of Moriyé Vado learn or practice something new this summer, keep in shape, and have fun with one another while doing it.



## Rest in Peace: Joseph Colaco



Joseph Colaco died on Friday August 23, 2013 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. He was 59 years old. Mr. Colaco was born and raised in Mangalore, India. He came to the US in 1980 and settled in Flushing, Queens, NY. He later lived in Parlin before moving to South Brunswick in 1984 and finally to Monroe Township in 2005. He was currently employed as the vice president of business development for OHM Laboratories, Inc./Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals in Princeton where he worked for over 30 years. He was a member and mentor of MCA-EC and was a parishioner of Immaculate Conception RC Church, Spotswood.

He was pre-deceased by his parents, Harold and Assumption (D'Sa) Colaco and his two siblings, Gerard, and MaryLou.

He is survived by his wife of over 33 years, Purnima (Sheth) Colaco of Monroe Township, two children, Premal Joseph Colaco and his fiancée Kieran Jayne of Philadelphia, PA, and Christine MaryLou Colaco of Hoboken, four siblings, MaryAnn Sequeira and her husband Eric of Denver, CO, Michael Colaco of Abudhabi, UAE, Philip Colaco and his wife Vijaya of Wantagh, NY, and Eugene Colaco and his wife Tina of Fort Lee, and many other extended family members.

For those who desire, memorial contributions may be made in Joseph's name to the charity of one's choice.

# Member Contributions

## **BACK TO SCHOOL: COLLEGE PREP TIPS FROM TWO VADO MEMBERS**

**\*\*\*The Proper Way to Navigate the Journey Ahead for College!\*\*\***

Interview with Kevin Eddy

conducted by Susanna D'Souza and Leann Rego of the Fatima Vado:

**Q: At what age or grade level do you say is important that children should start preparing for college?**

A: I believe the most important grade level for them to start preparing for college is the 9th grade. The earlier the better.

**Q: Is there any website or application where we can earn grants and scholarships from?**

A: If you fill the FAFSA website (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>), you can get need based help or you could go to your school counselor and ask him for applications.

**Q: What subjects and topics should we review in order to obtain the best score in the SATs?**

A: If you already know the basics of Math and English you should be fine, however learn how to answer SAT questions.

**Q: What documents and scores make up a great application for college?**

A: It depends on the college you're applying to. For a top college you need a minimum of at least 2000+. It helps to be active in the school, to start your own club or start a sports team.

**Q: Are there any extracurricular activities that you recommend for high schoolers to participate in?**

A: National Honor Society, if not already Boy Scouts, sports.

**Q: Do colleges care about any activities and grades made in any grade before high school?**

A: Nope, they do not.

**Q: Which years of high school are more challenging in order for us to be used to college life?**

A: Nothing in high school can prepare you for college, in my opinion. If anything, senior year, because teachers treat you more as adults and don't remind you about things, and expect you to do it yourself

**Q: Any additional tips for those preparing for college?**

A: Don't procrastinate.



## \*\*\*College Preparation by Juanita Pinto of the Moriyé Vado\*\*\*

Although the four years of high school seem daunting with the preparations for college, the results are truly rewarding. Therefore, as I commence my freshman year of college, I would like to impart some knowledge regarding this process that I have gained through my own experiences and wish I was informed of when I began high school. The most obvious challenge of high school is the SATs. I would recommend that you start preparing for this test as early as possible (Don't wait till junior year!). You may also want to buy pre-books such as those from Princeton Review, Kaplan, etc. to guide your preparations. With the SATs it isn't only based on how knowledgeable you are, but rather on how well you understand what the SAT makers are looking for, and how well you use various strategies to overcome their tricky questions. Practice as much as you can and do your best.

In addition, most of us Mangaloreans, especially the parents have been educated in India and thus are not aware of expectations of high schoolers in US. In order to get into a good school it is essential that you volunteer in some form or another, be it libraries, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. all four years. It is also important to diversify your extracurricular which entails music programs (singing, dancing, instruments, and bands), sports and clubs in school. In any activity you do, try to participate in all four years of high school because colleges look for consistency and commitment. Also, try to gain leadership positions in these programs that you do, because it shows you can take initiative and handle responsibility. Furthermore, communicate with your teachers and your guidance counselors well because they are the ones who will write you recommendations for college and will offer you opportunities to participate in out of school programs.

Most importantly, know that your time in MCA-EC is valuable and very useful. MCA-EC counts as an out of school program and thus is great to put on college applications and other applications such as National Honor Society. Moreover you will be participating all 4 years of your high school and again colleges love consistency. Be sure to also participate in events hosted by MCA-EC. I personally was able to put the Youth Leadership program I did my freshman of high school in my applications and it helped me not only show that I had leadership experience, but also that I have participated in another major activity. Therefore, your participation in MCA-EC is highly recommended to benefit your education!

As for the parents, your role in these four years will be crucial to your child's success. No matter what activity the student does, it really helps if the parents talk to coaches, teachers, other people in charge and especially other parents so they, too, can be informed about upcoming events and their children's schedule. My junior and senior year I found it a great help that my parents found out all the information about colleges and especially looked online and other places for scholarship applications. My mom used to fill out all the application details such as names, contacts, experience, etc. and give them to me to do the essays for the applications. Amidst my busy schedule, this help really facilitated my ability to apply to various organizations. In addition, students often tend to get lazy or don't want to wake up early for an activity or would rather skip an activity for play time. It is at these moments that you need to encourage your children and really push them to participate. In the end, a student's success in academics is a reflection of their parents' dedication to towards their child and although we may not show it, we appreciate your time, efforts and especially your support in our education.

All things considered, I wish all students and parents of MCA-EC good luck with their high school experience and hope you enjoy these four years as much as I did.

## ***Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) Warrior- Mrs. Prabhavathi Shastry***

*Interview by Amrith Rodrigues-Lewis*

Sometimes in life you come across a person who not only inspires you but leaves you totally in awe of their personality & propels you to re-examine your life and goals. This is exactly how I felt when I met Mrs. Prabhavathi Shastry for the first time at one of our vado events. Mrs. Prabhavathi Shastry is the mother of Shilpa Menezes, our PA-DE vado member. She is an acclaimed Bharathnatyam dancer and teacher in Bangalore, India. The founder of Lalitha Kala Academy, Bangalore and Natya Kalakshetra (previously Gayathri Nrithyalaya), Bangalore and Chennai, she has trained many students over the years. In her recent visit to the US, she shared many smiles and experiences with our fellow vado members and even managed to dance in the recent 'Mangaloreans on the Coast' event. A true inspiration! I am truly appreciative of her for doing this interview and passing on her nuggets of wisdom to our community.

**What have you learned from living with RA:** I retired recently from a very busy professional



life and let things slow down a bit. Over the years, I have learned to smile through the pains, not just the physical pain but also the emotional pain of losing my husband 12 years ago. And above all, I have learned to thank god for letting me take care of my children, seeing them grow up and have their own families and also spending time with my grandchildren. From being a provider to becoming a dependent is emotionally draining but I have learned to appreciate the good things. Cold is the worst enemy so, I have learned to keep my

sweater on me throughout the day and keep my feet warm. And now, my children hand me lighter plates and cutlery. My grandchildren know that I sometimes need them to help me with my slippers or the knee cap but I have learnt to deal with all of this on my own too.

**What would you like to tell people living with RA and their care givers:** Don't hide your pains. Don't postpone medication. Do your research but don't let it take over your life. Be patient with the medications. Start treatments and follow through. There is much more help available and recourse to RA today. Reach out to a support group. There is no one other than another RA patient who understands the pain that you have dealt with over the years and continue to deal with. As for the caregivers, please remember the pain is very real and intense. Do not try to hurry RA patients. We understand the delay but have no other way to deal with it. Make the home RA friendly. Things that we could do easily before becoming more and more difficult and restrictive each day. And we don't control them. Don't treat the physical restrictions as a mental slowness. We can still think for ourselves and can have intelligent conversations. We love to laugh, enjoy a cup of tea with good company but yes, we are just a little slow.

## **\*\*\*Mother Mary Miracles: Three Member Testimonies\*\*\***



### **Mother Mary's Blessings to Me and to My Family by Santhan Mendonca**

I have been a devotee of Mother Mary from my childhood and I have instilled these values to my children by saying a daily rosary, attending novena and celebrating Mother Mary's feasts. Because of innumerable blessings from Mother Mary to me and to my family, I have entrusted mine and my family's life to Her.

One of my prayers to Mother Mary was to send vocation to at least one of my three kids. My prayers were answered when my second son Walter Mendonca was ordained as the SVD priest in 1999. Today, he has evangelized people from Asia, Africa and Americas. Another prayer was to ask for good education for my children despite lack of funds to pay tuition. When my third child completed her 12<sup>th</sup> grade, I was expecting her to get a seat in Nursing. But, our application was rejected. I was discouraged, but never gave up my prayer to Mother Mary. My continued prayers were answered. Six weeks after the first day of school, there was a letter from the College of Nursing, Bangalore stating that my daughter had a seat in the college and to join immediately. I had no funds to make this decision. Two people came forward and gave me money to start my daughter's education. Soon, my first son got a job and my daughter completed her education in four years.

My message to you is simple: Mother Mary is always there to help us, if we reach out to her! There are many blessings I have received and I will continue to be a devotee for rest of my life.



### **The Power of Rosary by Mark Mendonca**

I was fortunate enough to experience the power of Rosary right in my childhood. Mathematics was one of the toughest subjects for me as a child. In fact, I used to fail in Mathematics. In the fifth grade, I got 12 out of 100 in Mathematics (against a passing score of 35). Knowing that I would fail in Mathematics, on the day of the exam, I used to act as if I was having a terrible headache so that my mom wouldn't scold me for failing when she saw the progress report later. When I was in sixth grade, I got 31 out of 100 against a passing score of 35. I knew that there would be a red underline in Mathematics in the progress report (a red underline is an indication that the student failed in that subject) and my mom would scold me for failing in the subject. My grandmother was uneducated and when my dad saw the red line he used to bluff to his mom that the "red line is for design." Well, since my mom was educated, I could not leverage my Dad's reasoning. So, I prayed hard, and said special rosaries early in the morning and alas, that time, my report card showed 35 instead of 31. Was that a mistake from the teacher who wrote the report card or was that a miracle? Only Mother Mary can answer this.

My life changed from that point. Mathematics became the most interesting subject for me. I started getting good marks. In 7th grade, I topped the school with the highest score in Mathematics in the entire school. In 10th grade (District level exam), I got 96 out of 100 in Mathematics and in 12th grade (State level exam), I got 100 out of 100 with the first rank in Udupi Taluk and South Kanara district. Was that a miracle? Only Mother Mary can answer this.

The news spread in the neighborhood and Merlin Mendonca, my neighbor started coming to me for Mathematics tuition. We both followed the Bible verse "Love thy neighbor" literally. We promised each other to marry in six years and now we are married for the last 17 years. Well, 1+1 became a family of 4 with two lovely children Meldon and Melanie. Look at the power of the rosary and the power of math! Was that a miracle? Only Mother Mary can answer this!

### **How Prayers to Mother Mary Have Been Answered in My Personal Life by Neeta Mascarenhas**

We were on our way to board a flight to India two years back and we were already delayed due to traffic to board a flight in NY. My husband was at the check-in counter and I was watching the kids. The passports were in my hand. Unknowingly, I put it in the check-in bag and forgot about it, only to realize once the bags had gone that all of our passports went in that bag. Now, we were folks without any identity anywhere, neither could we board the flight to go to India, nor knew what to do in the U. S. I prayed fervently to Mother Mary to somehow get us out of this crazy situation. Out of nowhere, we were sent a Guardian Angel in the form of one of the Air India employees. He promised he would do something, even though it was next to impossible with so many bags in the loading area. Just an hour was left to board the flight and there was our Guardian Angel with our passport pouch in hand. We were all set to board the flight and we were the last passengers for whom the flight was waiting. If not for Our Blessed Lady, we would have been nowhere.

This is one of the many incidents which have happened in my personal life. There are many more but this space is too short for that. HAIL MARY.

# Youth Corner

## What Monti Fest Is to Me By Amelia D'souza

Monti Fest to me is like a celebration of Mother Mary. We shower bright color flowers on her. We say some prayers and sing joyful and beautiful songs to her. The children dance and sing and celebrate this enthusiastic day.

To me Mother Mary means “Queen of all Heavens”. She takes care of me, guides me and supports me with her love. I feel glad when I think of her and the grin on my face spreads widely and I feel happier.

### Monti Fest Art by Aaron D'Souza





# Financial Statement



Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast				
PICNIC 2013-REVENUE & EXPENSES				
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>6/8/13</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>				
NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
			IN US\$	
1	6/8/13	Event Fees thru Pay Pal	\$2,809.92	
2	6/8/13	Event Fees thru Checks	\$385.00	
3	6/8/13	Event Fees thru Cash	\$375.00	
<b>TOTAL &gt;&gt;</b>			<b>\$3,569.92</b>	
EXPENSES				AMOUNT
NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	IN US\$
1	6/8/13	FOOD	Bombay Grill (Uday Prakash)	\$2,300.00
2	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies	Various	\$138.78
3	6/8/13	Megaphone	Ebay	\$24.95
4	6/8/13	Trophies	Crown Awards	\$273.00
5	6/8/13	Picnic Game Supplies	Various	\$116.85
6	6/8/13	Volley Ball Net	Sports Authority	\$162.00
7	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies	Various	\$130.78
8	6/8/13	ICE	Quick Check	\$8.59
9	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies- Balloons	Dollar Plus	\$14.12
10	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies	Dollar Plus	\$12.84
11	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies	Walmart	\$106.32
12	6/8/13	Picnic Supplies	Costco	\$104.00
13	6/8/13	Water Cooler	Home Depot	\$23.51
14	6/8/13	Caution tape + cleaner	Home Depot	\$19.17
<b>TOTAL &gt;&gt;</b>				<b>\$3,434.91</b>
SUMMARY:			US\$	
TOTAL REVENUE			\$3,569.92	
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$3,434.91	
GAIN/LOSS			\$135.01	

# Behind the Scenes: The MCA-EC Portal

It brings me immense pleasure to share with all the MCA-EC families a little story on our web portal. Our association started small and with all the love and affection we grew in huge numbers. There came a time when the Excel spreadsheet was used to register people for membership. As years passed using the Excel spreadsheet for events became a huge challenge. Moreover, as Boards switched hands, so, did the Excel sheet's attitude towards its new masters. By then we knew it was time to tell Excel thank you & goodbye for all the good times. With so many IT people in our association it was a no brainer that we needed a portal designed to handle our traffic for membership registrations and events, thereby automating the entire process. Moreover, there was an urgent need to pull reports at the drop of a hat and query how many people registered by the click of a mouse.

As the sun set, we were at a crossroads wondering who would invest hours of their personal time into this project and who would get the job done for free-ouch! In this day and age nothing comes free not even our night and weekend cell phone minutes. So the question was "How on earth could we find a couple of crazy persons to invest hours of personal time to build something remarkable for the association?" Then President Steven Aranha had a dream just like Martin Luther Jr. but a little smaller dream of seeing an MCA-EC portal up and running. When Steven heard that the portal would be his guardian angel that would fix all the Excel sheet woes he kept praying and praying. He prayed hard even at his work location at the JFK tarmac. Then one fine day God answered his prayers, Arun Menezes, who loves shuttling to Pennsylvania from New York, God knows why, was on a stroll in the PA woods. He met his classmate's husband Sunil Lobo. Fortunately for us, Sunil had no idea what he was getting into and so one day Arun, Sunil and I met under one roof. We ate some delicious Indian Chinese food and somehow our brain cells started kicking, we knew that we could get the job done but the task was humongous. We didn't need a team of many IT professionals. We just needed a few guys with the can-do attitude. And, so, started the journey of design, architecture, coding and testing. We kept praying for Sunil's health and happiness as our portal mastermind. We met at regular intervals to test this beast called Portal that we were building. It was as if we were building a spacecraft to land on Mars. The three amigos burnt the midnight oil: careful of fire hazards and so, we got our first version of the portal out in a ridiculously small window of time. People registered, liked it and blew a few kisses and they all went Sunil's way.

There comes a point in life when you got to take a bow to an individual for all the great work he/she did and so we bowed. Sunil Lobo has been one great guy to work with and both Arun and I couldn't thank him more. This July we added a few new features for member registrations and so, lo and behold Steven's dream turned into reality. We had fun and the hours and hours of time we spent together on this project was worth it. The efforts cannot be quantified, the money we got paid was zero but we walk with our heads held high that we did something for the association. We hope to see this baby grow big and help our association. It was a simple selfless act from our part that we know will put a smile on to many faces for years to come.

**Roshan D'Mello-VP of PR and Technology Office**

## EAST COAST MARIAN SHRINES

### NEW YORK

- [Our Lady of Martyrs, Shrine of, Auriesville, New York \(also known as the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs\)](#)
- [Our Lady of Mount Carmel, National Shrine of; in Middletown, New York](#)
- [Our Lady of the Roses, Mary Help of Mothers at Bayside, New York](#)
- [Our Lady of the Island, Shrine of; in Manorville, New York](#)

### NEW JERSEY

- [Immaculate Heart of Mary, National Blue Army Shrine of the; in Washington, New Jersey \(see Blue Army of Our Lady of Fátima Blue Army Shrine\)](#)

### PENNSYLVANIA

- [Our Lady of Czestochowa, National Shrine of; in Doylestown, Pennsylvania](#)

## SAVE THE DATE 2013 Christmas Gala



**When: Saturday, December 21st, 2013**

**Where: Jewel Of India-Ball Room  
999 US Route 1  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902**

## A Final Word

When our new president asked me to continue my duties, there was no answer to utter except in the affirmative. After all, the fun of the explosive growth that we are witnessing seems like it has just begun and this newsletter vantage point has provided an excellent panorama of this growth at a microcosmic level to complement the macrocosmic growth we have been seeing at recent MCA-EC events. Sitting at this computer, in this edition alone, we are collectively able to experience, first-hand, the great expectations of our new Presidency and Membership Board, the encouragement of our new Spiritual Director, the pride of our grandparents, the passion for cultivating from our local gardeners, the joys of fellowship from our motivated Vados, the mentorship wisdom of our new college freshman, the victorious nature of our health and technology warriors, and the tremendous power of faith by our Mother Mary devotees.

Yet, there are still new avenues to explore, new experiences to document and new ambitions to master. Just as it is with the association at-large, or the Vados on a regional level, the strength of the whole depends on the sum of the parts, and, so, too, it is with this newsletter. The level of depth can only be affected positively by the contributions of each individual, and so, as we enter a new year, I request that you all have the courage to share one of your personal stories in the upcoming editions, as some of our own members have so beautifully exemplified, above.

This September, as you fervently pray the rosary, and literally feast on the Novem Jevan, feast your eyes on a greater vision for this association: one full of grace, charity of heart and enduring love, no different from the shining example of the Mother of God, Herself. "O Mary, my Mother, I offer you my soul, my mind, and my heart. Make of me, God's instrument."

