

▶1-2 *Presidential & Spiritual Messages*  
▶3 *The Membership Board: Q & A*

▶4-12 *Quarterly Vado News*  
▶13 *In Memoriam*

▶14-16 *Youth Corner*  
▶17 *Financial Statement*  
▶18 *A Final Word*



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# MCA-EC

## Quarterly

Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast, USA

Editor-in-Chief: *Diana M. Lewis* ([mca.eastcoast@gmail.com](mailto:mca.eastcoast@gmail.com))

## From Our President

It gives me immense pleasure to thank all our MCA-EC families, volunteers and board members for the completion of a successful Monthi Fests event on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in Piscataway, NJ. We had a record turnout. Also, we received very positive survey feedback and for that, the credit for the success goes to every MCA-EC family that attended the event.

We have a very committed group of board members and we have a wish list of exciting things that we would like to do for this association. Every effort takes time and dedication. We are confident we will reach our end goals through strong teamwork and dedicated community spirit. This job is not easy and it is voluntary but with our dedication, we will ensure that we will take this association to greater heights. We are blessed with dynamic Gurkars/Gurkarns, Vadyaagars and volunteers who come forward and assist the Board and this association event after event, a big 'Thank You' to all of them.

We all would like to see this association grow further and also ensure that every family sees the value-add of being MCA-EC members. In order to keep the momentum going, the Board will conduct a strategy session as early as the 3rd week of October 2014. This brainstorming strategy session will help the current Board and the attendees of the strategy session to chart a roadmap of high priority targeted goals to reach a wider audience. We have nowhere to go but up to scale new heights, new avenues and new milestones. Our goal will be to leave this association stronger for the next Board and MCA-EC members.

Our next event is the Christmas Gala on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you and your families at this event. God bless you all and God bless the MCA-EC.

**Roshan D'Mello**  
**President MCA-EC 2014-2015**



## Mary the Mother and Disciple of Christ Fr. Augustine D'Souza (Capuchin)



Ole was the only man who was still Pagan in a little town of Christians. That was okay, but the neighbors had a problem with his barbequing beef every Friday. Since they couldn't eat meat on Friday, the tempting aroma was getting the best of them. Hoping they could do something to stop this, the neighbors got together and went over to talk to Ole. "Ole," they said, "since you are the only Pagan in this whole town and there's not a place of worship/sacrifice for many miles, we think you should join our church and become a Christian." Ole thought about it for a minute and decided they were probably right. Ole talked to the pastor, and they began the process.

The big day came and the pastor had Ole kneel. He put his hand on Ole's head and said, "**Ole, you were born a Pagan, you were raised a Pagan,**" and he said as he sprinkled some water over Ole's head, "**now you are a Christian!**"

Ole was happy and the neighbors, too, were happy. But the following Friday evening at suppertime, there was again the aroma of grilled beef coming from Ole's yard. The neighbors went to talk to him about this and as they approached the fence, they heard Ole saying to the steak: "**You were born a beef, you were raised a beef,**" and as he sprinkled salt over the meat he said, "**and now you are a Vegetable!**"

As Christians, we must always bear in mind that it is not enough to be baptized in the Church to become Disciples of Christ. Jesus tells us that there are three conditions to become his disciple:

- "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14: 26)
- "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14: 27)
- "None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions" (Luke 14: 33).

This is no small order. To become Jesus' disciple, to enter into his kingdom, is not a cake walk. It requires a DECISIVE CHOICE. One has got to be willing, as Jesus says elsewhere, to "pluck out one's eyes," "to cut off one's hands" if that's what hinders to follow him (Mt 5:29-30). We have got to be willing even to lose our life, because it is only the one who loses his/her life who will find it again in God (Mark 8:35).

The teaching of Jesus is pretty concrete and leads to an examination of conscience. Do we love Jesus more than everyone else? Do we prefer him to parents, to friends, to children, to our own life? Do we love him with "all our heart, soul and strength" or does something else get our heart, soul and strength? One of the great temptations of the devil today is what I like to call the "Jesus is part of my life" spiritual cancer. We think that all Jesus wants is our religious commitment, to be part of His church.

We have ample examples in the Gospels about the people who were deeply religious, but did not meet the requirements which Jesus made to become His disciples. In a way Pharisees were the perfect religious group. They knew the Law of God pretty well, they gave alms to the poor, tithe support to religious functioning, prayed regularly, kept the Sabbath faithfully and lot more. But in the eyes of Jesus, they knew very little about God, for God is love (1 John 4: 8).

*Monthi Fest* is an opportunity for us to contemplate the person of Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus who was the perfect disciple of Christ. She believed and trusted in the power of God. She accepted the message of God by saying "Yes" (Luke 1:38) to the Will of God to became the first perfect Christian. However, it was not overnight that Mary reached the peak of perfection. As Simeon prophesied about the sign of contradiction, she underwent all the hardships of daily life even to the foot of the Cross, and bore everything in her heart for the greater glory of God.

Let the faith of Mary help us to accept the commands of God, thus to give life to the Word of God. As Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth, and brought fullness of joy to the house of Zechariah, today, let us invite her to our families. When Mary visited Elizabeth, the Holy Spirit was present in her, the Word of God had already begun to dwell in her womb through flesh and blood. The happiness that comes from Jesus and the Holy Spirit is expressed by Mary through her loving service. Let us take the life example of our Mother Mary and offer a fitting place to the Holy Trinity in our heart to become true Disciples of Christ.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP BOARD Q & A

**Diana Lewis:** It's great to have your new faces on the board (Harry Pinto, Naveen Sequeira, Gladson Cardoza). Tell us about yourself, so that MCA-EC can get to know you a little better.

**\*Harry Pinto:** I was born and brought up in Mangalore with Pangla's jasmine culture. I am passionate about my work. Some of my hobbies are sports, gardening and acting. By nature, I am a shy person but I believe in striving persistently towards whatever I endeavor into and creating lasting relationships with everyone I meet.

**\*Naveen Sequeira:** I am very glad to share that I was born and brought up in Ferar Parish in Mangalore; I graduated in Business Management from St Aloysius College followed by PG Diploma in Computer Applications. I am very lucky, as I have cherished the beautiful traditions, culture and religious practices followed by our elders. Besides working for the Information Technology industry, I want to serve the needy and lonely wherever I can. It gives me immense happiness.

**\*Gladson Cardoza:** I joined the MCA-EC association during the Monthi Fest event in 2011 and since then I've always been an active member of this association. Joining this association has given me a chance to make new friends who speak the same language. Also, I am passionate about music which led me to pursue DJing as a hobby.

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

**\*Harry:** Growing up, I was actively involved in youth groups and stage shows. It is this upbringing that instilled in me a passion for my community that is the main reason I wanted to be a part of the Board this year.

**\*Naveen:** Being away from my native homeland, it is a blessing to be in the midst of fellow Mangalorean Catholic brethren. The love, support and family feeling I got from our MCA-EC members and leaders has been very inspiring. We are all now members of the MCA-EC family. Who does not want to serve his own family?

**\*Gladson:** I was inspired by the amazing work done by the previous board members and how this association has grown over the years. In the last two years I have been involved with the association events and felt by joining the board I would be able to support the association more effectively.

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

**\*Harry:** I want to connect more people and promote our rich Mangalorean culture and take our legacy into the next generation. I also want to spread our cultural fragrance to each and every Mangalorean living in the Tri-state area.

**\*Naveen:** As a VP Regional Coordinator, I would like to be part of different Vado level activities and help vado members do better and better as one family. After all, we belong to one family (i.e. MCA-EC). Our Association has progressed tremendously thanks to the hard work of our leaders. The same desire to contribute to the association has to be sown in every member.

**\*Gladson:** This role is already providing me a good hands-on experience in effectively managing larger scale events for our association. I would like to see all the events conducted successfully and would like to see new members actively participate and help grow our MCA-EC association.

**D.L.: What did you most look forward to during this past Monthi Fest celebration?**

**\*Harry:** I was happy to see the participation from the members of multiple vados. I also liked seeing people showcasing their talents and making more interactions and meaningful connections amongst all members as one big MCA-EC family.

**\*Naveen:** Monthi Fest is a family celebration with all members of the family coming together at one table to thank the Lord for the wonderful blessings he has showered upon us. This is celebrated through the first fruit of the land. It is the desire in my heart that every MCA-EC family that attended this celebration honored our Blessed Mother and received her blessings.

**\*Gladson:** This Monthi Event was approached differently, where we had activities for everyone attending the event. I hope all the members enjoyed this event and spread the word around to grow our association.



# Quarterly Vado News

## Bhagevonth Kutam Vado of PA & DE: Picnicking Away in Patriotic Fervor By Amrith Rodrigues



It was a sunny summer day, with clear skies & a cool gentle breeze. A perfect day for a picnic in the park. The members of our vado celebrated India's 68<sup>th</sup> year of Independence on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August by picnicking together, playing lots of group games and enjoying a delicious potluck lunch. We had a great day and made so many happy memories.

We started the day by singing India's national anthem, Jana Gana Mana. We then enjoyed a round of delicious appetizers which fuelled us for the many games to follow, including many childhood favorites like Lagori, Cricket, Dodgeball, etc. that kept us busy and on our toes. Soon it was time for lunch and we had all built up a hearty appetite. We had such a delightful spread, while all of us enjoyed a relaxed afternoon lunch. After lunch, we participated in an Indian Independence Quiz which enthralled us all. We were transported back in time to our childhood days as we struggled to remember the leaders of the Indian independence movement. It was a fun thinking exercise: good food for thought after a hearty meal!! More games were played after the sugar high we had from dessert, followed by quiet time catching up.



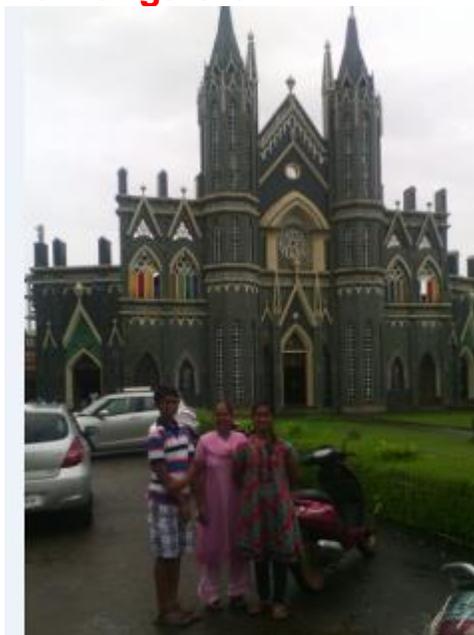
Oh! How time flies when you are having fun. Soon it was time to call it a day. All of our kids received certificates for their participation and we headed home happy & recharged. We thank all our core members for organizing this event & the families for their active participation, which really made the picnic a roaring success. It was nice to have Naveen Sequeira from the MCA Board join us for the day and update us on the activities of the organization. We are looking forward to our next vado event, a Rosary and fellowship in honor of Mother Mary in the month of October. Also, planning has begun for our Yuletide ball scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of December.

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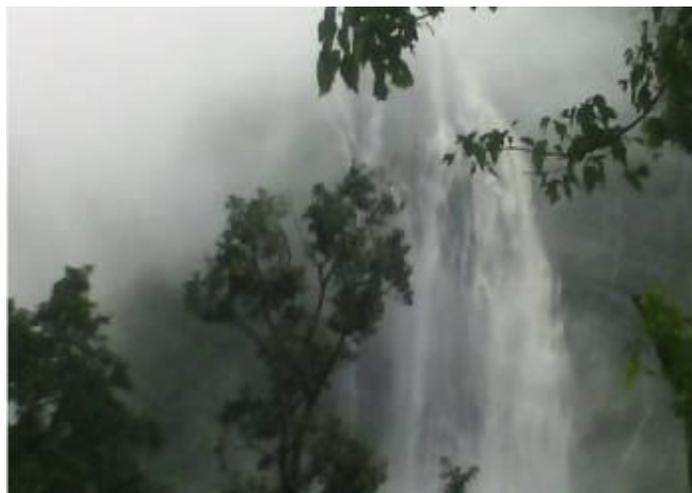
### **Bhagevonth Kutam Vado: Kids Corner**

The lazy days of summer brings out the creativity in all of us. Here are some of the creations done by our awesome vado kids. Thumbs up to our munchkins!!

#### **A Photo Travelogue by Arwin Sequeira, 14 & Arlene Sequeira, 13: Our Summer Trip Around Mangalore**



Arwin & Arlene spent this summer exploring the Middle East and Mangalore. They learned a lot from their travel experiences. These are some pictures that they shared from their trip in and around Mangalore. Can you guess the places above and below that were visited by Arwin and Arlene?





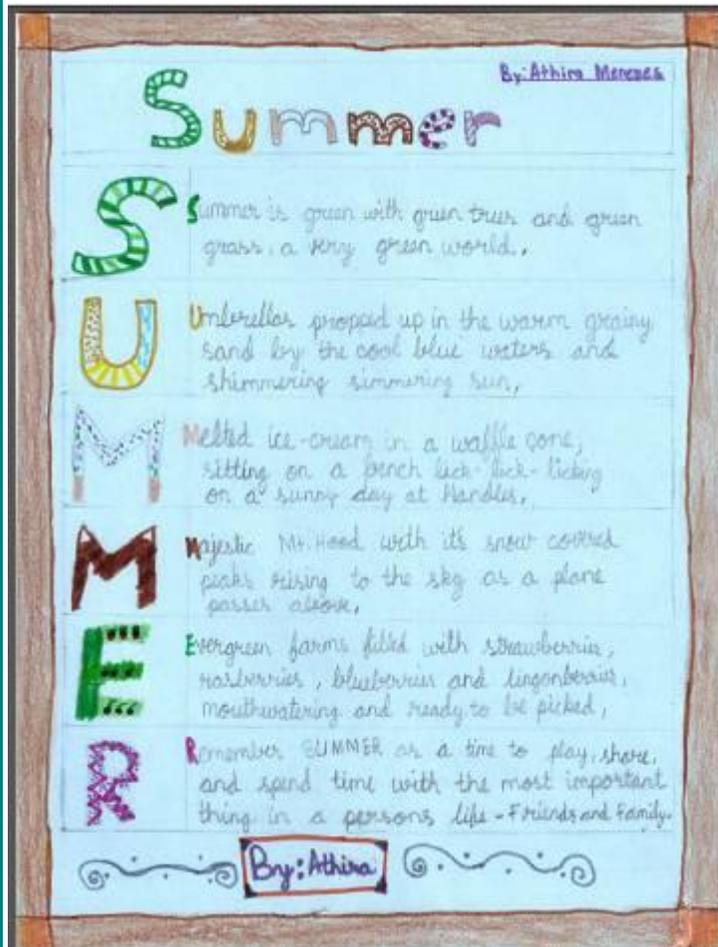
**Painting by Simona Coelho, 16  
(right)**



**Poem by Athira Menezes, 10  
(below)**



**Footprint Lobster- Artwork  
by Josh, 3 with help from  
older brother Aaron  
Lewis, 10 (below)**





**By Paul Quadros**

Outings are often family-oriented but can also be an intimate occasion between two people or a large get-together. It is also sometimes combined with a cookout, usually a form of barbecue. When having regular family outings, family members get the chance to spend enough time together and get closer. Regular family outings allow family members to spend quality time together. Most of the Kursa Vado joined for a summer outing at Christopher Morley Park, Long Island on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We had a good time in the swimming pool, while enjoying barbecue and games.



**Good Spot**



**birds of the same feather flock together**



**Smells good**



**smile plz**



**Play well**



**Christopher Morley Park**



**Atithi Devo Bhavah:** It is said that God comes to a house in the form of guests. This summer, we were blessed to have with us three of our religious friends: Fr. Dolpy Pais, Capuchin (Provincial Minister of Holy Trinity Province, Karnataka) Fr. Henry D'Souza, Capuchin and Sr. Mary Magdalene, Cousin of Mr. Paul Quadras. We thank them for their fraternal visit and blessings.



**New Members:** Every child born in this world reminds us that God still loves the world. These two newborn babies have brought joy to our Kursa Vado. We warmly welcome Ivanka Menezes and we congratulate her parents Mr. Arun Menezes & Reena Menezes. We also congratulate Mr. Steven Aranha and Mrs. Lavina Aranha and welcome their newborn baba Samuel Aranha to our community.



Ivanka Menezes



Samuel Aranha

**Health:** Sanya is making steady progress and recovering. Our visits help her cope with the situation. Sanya, we love you, pray for you and wish you good health!



**Eternal Rest:** Mr. Maxim Fernandes, beloved brother of our member Florine Lobo passed away on 08/26/2014. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Florine Lobo & family. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

# MORIYE VADO

## GOODBYE SUMMER!

We've been busy this summer either mending our lawns, going on that long awaited summer vacay or firing up our grills for some BBQ!

Moriye Vado was off to a super start this Summer, thanks to the work of our vado members and our enthusiastic Gurkar.

## VADO DAY

The Annual Vado Day was organized by Violet Monis, Kevin D'costa and Ivan D'souza under the guidance of Ron.

It was well attended and everyone had a lovely time, as they waved goodbye to the summer and welcomed the Fall.

## VADO DAY PHOTOS



## MONTHI FESTH

The Prep for Monthi Festh started soon after the children started the Summer Break. Every weekend, all the participants and their families came together to work on their acting and dancing skills.

This year we tapped into the acting skills of our youth and they did a splendid job with mime! We should also note our tiny tots who charmed the audience with their Pearly Shells.

Kudos to the adults for putting together their skit regarding the modern bahu: it was a power packed 10 minutes!

Monthi Festh was a lovely time to meet one another and celebrate the nativity of our Mother. We are blessed to have a growing community.



## SPORTS PROGRAM

The Sports Program started on June 21<sup>st</sup> of June with a bang! It was conducted between 8am and 10am at Kennedy Park in Iselin

All the Vado members were encouraged each week by our Gurkar to join every Saturday.

The park provided a lot of options to train, learn and practice as it has a jogging track, tennis court, basketball court, cricket pitch and soccer field, too!

Ryan D'souza, Kevin D'costa, Harry Pinto, and Rowena D'souza volunteered every Saturday morning to train and teach all the participating kids and adults.

All in all, everyone enjoyed their Summer Saturdays and ended up being more fit and active!

The sports program eventually led to all the kids and adults playing soccer in the evenings and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the soccer players!



*Spot the Basket anyone?*

# FATIMA VADO

## Our Summer Picnic



~ **Susanna D'souza**

This year's Vado picnic was a very successful event with yummy food, close friends and marvelous weather. It was miraculous to have the picnic, as rain was pouring the night before. Everyone doubted that the picnic was on, but God answered our prayers and showed His wonders as the next day was sunny and bright, yet, not too hot to ruin the fun. Thanks to the meticulous planning of Anita Fernandes, Saritha Pinto and Michelle Fernandes, the Vado Picnic was a huge success. It was as if we were transformed into a different world. No worries, no grimace, just pure happiness, joy and love all around us that day. The teens and children played many games such as sneak water balloon attacks, doubling the fun as the summer heat was cooled by the splashes of perfect aim. The Fatima Vado Members ensured that we had enough food to provide us energy to last us the whole day, in fact, enough to feed an army! You could smell the aroma of grilled meats and flavorful fish from a mile away.

The charcoal roasted buttery corn waiting to be marinated in spicy lemon juice was the cause of many salivating mouths waiting to devour it. The adult Volleyball game was a hit, with many sore bones and muscles. The ladies swung their way through childhood memories of being on the swings, as they felt the crisp and humid air touch their faces. With blasting music setting a nice jolly tone and plenty of adventurous games for all ages, none of us realized how the time flew as it became dark. Nobody wanted to go home as we had such a great time in each other's company. We may not be related by blood or flesh but we are definitely related by love in God. We could all be placed in an empty room, but somehow end up having a great time just by catching up or joking around. What are the odds of an only child like me having such a large family in the USA? Not many, but I'm glad I beat the odds.



## Follow The Leader



~ **Leann Rego**

This summer has brought about some changes in our Fatima Vado. As we celebrate and welcome our two Vado babies, we also say goodbye to our dear Gurkar, Jaison Banji, who is a proud father and wants to spend time with his baby. Jaison was a wonderful leader and our Vado family has grown stronger and closer under his leadership. We will miss you, Jaison. We now look forward to a wonderful change, with Gladwin D'souza leading our Vado. We definitely believe that Gladwin will bring a change in our Vado and that more events will surely come up. We remember him being president of MCA-EC, so we know that he will make a great Gurkar! We would also like to congratulate Rodney Quadros, as he is now our assistant Gurkar! All of us know that these two will make a great team. The faith of the Vado is now in your hands!



## Beautiful Babies Have Bloomed

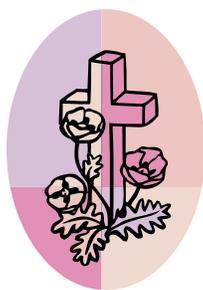


~ **Sahanah Sahay**

Two couples have been buying the perfect crib, the best pacifier, and loads of Gerber spinach and carrot baby food! All this adds up to only one exciting thing: BABIES! Yup, please welcome Sophia Banji and Ronan Quadros to our Fatima Vado! These two adorable babies have everyone's attention as they cutely burp and give big smiles to their extended Vado family. Their parents Jaison/Sharlet and Rodney/Joyline, have new but wonderful changes in their lives. As these two beautiful children grow, we send our prayers to guide them with the love of God, rooted with faith, filled with happiness and love from not only their parents but their Vado family as well. Someone once said, "A baby will make love stronger, days shorter, nights longer, bank balances smaller, home happier, clothes dirtier, the past forgotten, and the future worth living for." It definitely is true!



## *One Year Memoriam: A Loving Tribute to Joseph Colaco*



**By Eugene Colaco**

It is now over a year since my brother, and MCA-EC member Joe Colaco passed away on August 23, 2013. While congenial in his disposition, he was always witty and fun to talk to. He was dear to so many members of MCA-EC. He had served the association as a mentor in the past. He was a man with lots and lots of friends and no enemies. Those of you who attended his wake or his funeral will surely have experienced the outpouring of love at these services, which were well attended and can be attributed to his person and personality.

Joseph was born on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1954 in Mangalore. The eldest of 7 children he did his schooling at St. Aloysius in Mangalore where he excelled in studies and took active part in extra-curricular activities including NCC, marching band and sports besides being an altar boy at Holy Rosary Cathedral (Ruzai) in Mangalore. After his PUC he completed his Bachelor in Pharmacy from KMC School of Pharmacy in Manipal where he secured the first rank at the University of Mysore and was awarded the gold medal. In his memory, a dear friend of his has set up an endowment to award a cash prize to the best student passing from the School of Pharmacy every year. Joe then went on to Jamshedpur to complete his MBA from the renowned XLRI.

He started his carrier in marketing with Johnson and Johnson in Bombay. It is in Mumbai that he met and fell in love with Purnima. They were married on November 12, 1979. Being fully devoted to her husband, Purnima, who is a Gujarati, has fully assimilated into our culture and is an excellent cook. One who has tasted Mangalorean dishes would believe that she was born into a Mangalorean family.

After moving to USA in 1980, they initially settled in Flushing, NY before moving to New Jersey the next year. Having lived in Parlin and South Brunswick, they finally settled down in Monroe in 2005. They were blessed with two children, Premal Joseph, who is based in Philadelphia, PA and Christine Marylou, who is in Hoboken, NJ. Philip Colaco and wife Vijaya of Wantagh, NY and my wife Tina and I (Eugene) of Fort Lee, NJ are members of MCA-EC and we actively participate in activities. In 1981, Joe joined OHM Laboratories Inc./Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals. He worked there continuously since and was Vice President of Business Development until the end.

Having spent his entire carrier in marketing, Joe travelled widely and had many an anecdote about his experiences on these trips. He was very observant and took great pleasure in observing people, their customs, accent, body language and nuances. He was gifted with a very sharp memory which took in and retained everything that he observed. He could regale his friends with many a fascinating story and jokes over bottles of beer. I believe that this would be the memory we have of him and this is exactly how he would like us to remember and celebrate him.

# Youth Corner

## A Tribute to Mother Mary on Monthi Fest



*by Jiselle D'Souza*

Mary my Mother she's like no other,  
An angel appears to Mary  
At first it seems a little scary  
But when he gave her good news  
It knocked her out of her shoes  
Then Mary went to Jerusalem  
There she had Jesus, her son  
As Mary grew older, Jesus grew bolder  
When Mary heard the news of her son, she was heartbroken  
Jesus was hanging there on the cross  
Mary was crying for her loss.

Today, we celebrate Mary's birthday  
Hip Hip Hooray...We call it Monthi Fest  
Mary my Mother, you will always be the Best!



## Mary, Mother of Jesus



by Jordan Doss

From the time I was little, I've seen pictures and heard stories about Mother Mary. There isn't much about Mary in the Bible but we know from our Catholic faith that her life and role in history was prophesied in the Old Testament. Tradition tells us that she was the daughter of St. Joachim and St. Anne. She was most likely born in Nazareth and was presented in the Temple as a young girl. Her whole life, and ours, was changed when she was visited by the archangel Gabriel, who told her that she would become the Mother of Jesus. There are very few stories of Mary in the Bible but even those depict her as one of the first followers of Jesus. And although in all the pictures and statues we see of Mary, she seems kind, loving and sweet; I believe that Jesus probably got scolded at times, too. For example, when he decided to stay back in Jerusalem after the feast – my mom would have been furious. I can imagine Mother Mary saying to Jesus, "Yes, son, I know you are God, and you are the Most High, but you cannot ever go off on your own without informing me or your father."

My family visits the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC, at least twice every year. I like to look at the different images of Mary there. She looks like a mother in each and every one of them. She always seems to be looking down at people as if to say "I love you, do you love me?" I imagine if I was to say yes, she would say, "Well then -- don't ever make my son sad by your actions. Love him more and follow his example."

In my family, Mother Mary has a very special place. My mom always wanted a little girl in our family. In 2008, when my little sister was born, we were thrilled because she was beautiful and so brave. My parents named her Jiya and to honor our Lady, gave her a middle name, Gloria-Mary.

So on Mother Mary's birthday, I'd like us to all to remember why she needs a special place in our lives. Without Mary, Jesus wouldn't have been born and without Jesus, there would be no eternal life for us. Happy birthday, Mama Mary!



## 2014 Summer Music and Movie Review



by Joshua Doss

This summer, a variety of albums, songs, and even amazing movies were released and entertained millions of people around the world. But, which movie or song of the summer stood out from the rest? Scratching your heads? You are about to witness the opinion(s) of the connoisseur of music and movies!! (kidding).

For those of you who know me, I am a big pop music fan and this article will focus on the summer hits in that genre. If you don't want to go cross-eyed by reading a WHOLE paragraph on pop music, you can throw this paper in that pile of junk people call a "garbage can." Anyway, to start, I've seen an amazing collection of music this year like "Rude," which is a spectacular combination of pop and reggae, and even though Iggy Azalea's "Fancy" was Billboard's top song of this summer, I tend to disagree. Don't get me wrong, it's a great song but I think singers with potential should be appreciated more. Sam Smith's debut album "In the Lonely Hour" included songs like "La La La" and "Stay With Me", songs that make you really admire his incredible voice. Arianna Grande's "Problem" and "Break Free" reminded everyone how high..high..high...her strong, soprano voice could go. I'm sure lots of vocal cords have been damaged trying to sing along with her. And how about the rock/pop band Fall Out Boy? They made a good comeback with songs like "Light 'Em Up", "Alone Together", and "Young Volcanoes". Songs by Nico and Vinz, Clean Bandit (a classical musician's treat!), Lorde (my favorite singer) and Taylor Swift came out with some pretty cool songs. But out of the entire 2014 summer pop music scene, the late summer song "All About That Bass" by Meghan Trainor really hit it out of the park, bringing in her deep, jazzy bass tune to convey her motivating message, "don't worry about your size... 'cause every inch of you is perfect from the bottom to the top." To round up this music review, the songs above made my summer fun and musically happy.

Although I am not a fan of classic movies, I love new movies. Summer is great for movies because my favorite comic book heroes come to cinematic life. The highly anticipated, "Amazing Spiderman 2" was a mixed bag for me. Although it did stay true to the comics at the end (don't worry, not giving out spoilers) it didn't seem to have that pizzazz. "X-Men Days of Future Past" was *Xhilarating*, with so many surprising moments in the past and future of the X-Men, the movie kept you engaged throughout. I was forced to watch "How to train your dragon 2" because we took my little sister to the movies (haha!). I did end up liking the movie even with one exception. I hated the fact that most animated movies tend to kill one parent or both – what's with that? Movies like Transformers, Godzilla, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes seem to have done well with audiences but in my mind, there can be only one clear winner – "The Guardians of the Galaxy". Marvel's new movie franchise, brought to life a relatively unknown comic book and obliterated the rest of the movies this summer. GOTG is funny, visually impactful and nostalgic with its 80s music. The idea that losers (*people who lost stuff* – get it? don't worry if you don't, it's a dialog from the movie!) can do something remarkable with courage and loyalty is an inspiring theme. And hey, you can't dismiss the movie after one of my favorite actors Robert Downey Jr. commented on it with this fun little analogy: *"It's like you have a great quarterback, and his brother plays for another team, and then you say: 'Look, this is their second cousin and we think he has a great arm and he should start.' And then he goes and wins the Super Bowl!"*

I'd like to end with a mention of the movie "God is not Dead". Although this wasn't a summer movie, I was surprised at how much I loved it. We are faced with tough choices in our world today and our responses reflect how much our faith shapes us. A special shout out to Gladwin Uncle and my Dad for taking a bunch of the Fatima Vado kids to see this movie.

I'll be back with my end of the year review, until then, over and out!



# Financial Statement



Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast PICNIC 2014-REVENUE & EXPENSES				
DATE:	6/14/2014			
REVENUE				
NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT IN US\$	
1	6/14/2014	Event Fees thru Pay Pal	2989.91	
2	6/14/2014	Event Fees thru Checks	585.00	
3	6/14/2014	Event Fees thru Cash	180.00	
		TOTAL>>	\$3,754.91	
EXPENSES				AMOUNT
NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	IN US\$
1	6/14/2014	Food	Paradise Biryani/Italian Sausages	3673.00
2	6/14/2014	Picnic Supplies	Costco/CVS	343.25
3	6/14/2014	Melzo the Clown		275.00
4	6/14/2014	Trophies		422.25
5	6/14/2014	Picnic Game Supplies	Dollar Store	83.62
6	6/14/2014	ICE	Quick check	29.92
7	6/14/2014	Picnic Supplies- Balloons	Dollar Store	21.00
8	6/14/2014	Paypal fees	Paypal	100.75
9	6/14/2014	Picnic ground permit	Duke Pavillion	250.00
10	6/14/2014	First Aid kit	CVS Pharmacy	9.99
11	6/14/2014	Fuel		40.00
		TOTAL>>		5248.78
SUMMARY:			US\$	
		TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,754.91	
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,248.78	
		PROFIT/LOSS	<b>(\$1,493.87)</b>	

**Please note: The adult cost for the picnic was \$22.00, but we subsidized it for \$15.00.**

**The kid cost for the picnic was \$13.00 but we subsidized it for \$10.00.**

\*\*\***SAVE THE DATE**\*\*\*

## 2014 Christmas Gala

*When: Saturday, December 20th, 2014*

*Where: Jewel Of India: Ballroom  
999 US Route 1  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902*



### *A Final Word*

*A few days before September 6th, my Ukrainian Catholic friend, whom I have known since my freshman year of high school, asked me what my plans were for the weekend. Typically, to save time, my text response would have been that I was planning to attend an Indian Catholic event, and I would have left it at that, but instead, I specifically mentioned that we would be celebrating Mother's Mary's feast. She was curious, and she followed up with a secondary question to find out what the celebration entailed. I told her that there would be a mass, which would conclude with a children's procession, with the kids tossing flower petals that they had eagerly collected the previous day, at an infant statue of Mother Mary. I mentioned the symbolism behind the new harvest, as well as the reception integrating an odd number of vegetarian specialties typical of the Mangalorean region, as well as the customary dessert of vorn/payasam made of coconut milk. She was clearly intrigued and impressed by the level of details, and as I described them to her, I, too, was impressed, as I found myself reflecting on what a long way I had personally come. In high school, this same friend was part of a strong association of fellow Ukrainian Catholics who had events throughout the year. She was always active in her cultural celebrations, and I always found myself wishing to be able to participate in the same fervent manner. However, at the time, there was nothing like the MCA-EC around, and so I dismissed my thoughts as wishful thinking. Fast forward to Piscataway in 2014, and a few weeks ago, we all had the collective delight of looking around a room of everyone beautifully dressed in Indian attire, taking out their iPhones and smartphones as they chased after their young ones to capture the perfect snapshot of their sweet children scattering colorful flowers in praise of their Marian faith and Mangalorean culture. If this circle of life is not a blessing, I'm not sure what is. For me, it was definitely a reason to say a few extra Hail Mary's in gratitude of this opportunity for our children to have a chance at being fully engaged with their culture and identity.*

*I'd like to conclude this edition with the Konkani words of a favorite hymn of my father's. As a child, I would often hear him randomly sing these lyrics, and while the song was melodious, I never took the time to understand the words until I was an adult. One day, as I mentally translated each word, I was humbled to realize just how much each word held such meaning and beauty. The song is a touching devotional to the Virgin Mother Mary, and a loving plea to remember our prayers and bless and grant us with her grace, a message that we can all relate to:*

*Aunkar saibini, Tu amchi raani, Visronaka ghe amchi magni, Kurpa di amanka, dukhani rodunchea, Amchi patka, ami somestani, Vinoti kar mai, Tujea puta laqi, Ami zodunchea, Sorginchi jinni.*

*Happy Feast and the choicest of blessings to each family of the MCA-EC family-at-large!*

*-Editor-In-Chief, Diana M. Lewis*

