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MCA-EC

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Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast, USA

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



From Our President

Once more to new creation Awake,
And death gain say,
For death is swallowed up to life,
And Christ is risen today!
-George Newell Lovejoy

Easter is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ: foreshadowed in the Old Covenant, symbolized in Jewish Festivals, fulfilled at Calvary, proclaimed to all mankind, and reaching out to the ends of the earth, until He comes. The Birth of Christ marks the center of the world's calendar, but 33 years later, three days in Jerusalem became even more significant. What happened then forms the fulcrum of eternity.

To Jews at the time, it was just another Passover Festival; they missed its crucial significance, one that applies to every person who's ever lived. It marked the start of what has become known as 'Easter' and is the fulfillment of God's provision of redemption for a lost sin-sick world.

We live and die; Christ died and lived!
-John Stott

I wish all MCA-EC members, well-wishers and their families, a very Happy Easter. God Bless and Long Live MCA-EC!

Steven Aranha
President MCA-EC, 2012-2013



From Our Priest

"If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Dear Friends,

The death of Christ had discouraged the apostles, and every follower of Christ. When Christ was with them, the apostles were side heroes. They enjoyed the company of Jesus because of His healings, miracles, teachings and the popularity that He gained all over Palestine. They identified their self-worth in Christ, they had nothing to worry when the 'bridegroom was with them.' Everything came to a halt at Gethsemane. Crucifixion of Jesus seemed so cruel and so harsh, and so final that the apostles could not accept the vulnerability of their Master on the Cross. All their hopes got turned into fear, confidence into insecurity, and they were left all by themselves with 'boats and nets, tax collection tables'-devastated.

The news women brought on Sunday morning about an 'empty tomb' was confusing and shocking. Then the song was, Alleluia, Jesus is Risen. The Apostles recovered their hope and confidence more than ever because they were the witnesses to the Resurrection of Christ. They received the Hope of Easter which powered them to carry out the mission of Christ to preach the good news, baptize and build the Church. The resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian faith. It is the greatest of the miracles, for it proved that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. Let the Resurrection of Christ surround us with the same spirit that covered the Apostles. Let us be well assured that we can do everything when we place total trust in Christ.

I wish you all a Grace filled Feast. May the promise of Easter fill your heart with peace and joy.

Fr. Arun Lobo
Capuchin
1 Spiritual Director MCA-EC, 2012-2013

WALKING BY FAITH: THE MEMBERSHIP BOARD

Faith in Jesus Christ is a firm conviction that He is who He says He is and that He will help us when we seek Him. Faith in Christ means trusting in Him, remembering Him, and following His teachings. It is a conviction that He is the Son of God, "The way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

Faith in Jesus Christ leads us to do good works. This does not mean that we can be saved by good works, for no amount of good works can cleanse our souls of even a trace of sin without the power of Christ's sacrifice. But those who have genuine faith in Christ will want to follow Him and do the kinds of works He did, such as helping the poor and needy, caring for the sick, visiting the lonely, and showing good will and love to all people.

As we follow His example and live according to His words, we will feel our faith growing until it becomes an active force in our lives, helping us repent of our sins and deal with our challenges. Faith in Jesus Christ isn't a simple declaration of belief—it is a source of power that we can renew every day by studying His words, praying, and by trying harder to follow His example.

Wishing each and everyone at MCA-EC a Joyful and Blessed Easter!

-John D'Souza, VP of Finance, 2012-2013



Centuries ago Moses came down from Mount Sinai with tablets that contained God's Ten Commandments. As we fast forward from the Old Testament to a few years ago, some guy called Steve Jobs introduced us to another tablet that swept the world by storm. These digital gadgets did a whole good but it also helped negate some of those Ten Commandments. In today's digital era, some parents follow their kids on Twitter waiting on tweets to see what their kids are up to, or "friend" their own kids on Facebook to get their wall updates. Such parent /child conversations are more frequent online or via text messages and seldom at the dinner table. To turn these communication gaps around, it would be nice to see parents break these technological barriers and reach out to their kids by having a good family time along with an open dialogue. It is imperative that such communications happen now more than ever before. The landscape around us in this country is changing at a rapid pace. Strong cultural tides in favor of same sex marriage, the media blitz on Catholicism, and political debates highlighting Obamacare is bad, while Guns are good and the list goes on. Too many moving parts and some without a right or wrong answer.

So where do we start in this communication process? Wouldn't it be good to begin highlighting our stand, our faith and our culture within our households, Vados & organization? It would be great to teach kids a lesson or two on respect & tolerance. No matter on which side of the political spectrum we belong, Liberal or Conservative, kids will eventually grow to make decisions of their own. We still owe them that direction in this dynamic world on our faith, culture, belief and togetherness.

During this Season of Lent it was heartening to see our MCA-EC kids leading the stations of the cross in some Vados. Credit goes to all parents that saw value in these gatherings and drove those miles with their kids to inculcate our culture and faith. The families hosting these stations and the Gurkars need to be applauded for initiating these gatherings. Let us give them all the support year after year. The bonds within the families of MCA-EC are stronger than ever before. The MCA-EC kids and youth now have the platform the previous generation did not have in this tri-state area years ago. Let's keep the momentum going. Easter gives us hope and encouragement. So let's do our part and give the next generation that hope and encouragement by working together.

As we celebrate the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, may the blessings of peace, gladness and hope fill your heart and home. On behalf of my family, wishing you all a Happy Easter!

-Roshan D'Mello, VP of Public Relations, 2012-2013

"We walk by faith not by sight," 2 Corinthians 5:7

By talking to God (Prayer) we can keep our faith alive. Prayer can be in silence when you are in public to settle down your feelings. We can also pray in private for as long as we want or as hard as you want. Keeping faith alive is a struggle during difficult times. God is always there with us during every step of our journey. Prayer is the main tool that keeps our faith alive. With our eyes we can see a lot of materialistic things. This can take our attention away from God. The never ending desire to become rich and not being satisfied with what we have can distract us from being close to God. That is why we should walk by faith not by sight. Praying in groups is a good way of keeping our faith alive which can inspire & transform our younger generation. Stations of the Cross, that we had through our Vado's is an example of this.

During illness, tragedy, painful events or unavoidable circumstances, our faith can be questionable, even for the strongest believers. We question God's existence by asking where He is or where was he when I needed him the most? We should not get discouraged. We can increase our faith by talking to our family or friends. Even though they cannot give a solution to our problems, they can support us & lift up our spirit. Also we can go to Church for mass on Sundays, take advice from a Priest or Clergy, or Community leader, and read the Bible. God will not give us anything that we cannot handle. He knows our strengths & weakness. We should always look at others & see what they are going through. If our problems are bigger, theirs might be worse. Give thanks to God always for the wonderful things that he has done in your life & keep praising him to keep the faith alive. May the Risen Lord Bless You All & Happy Easter Everyone!!!

-Merlin Mendonca, VP of Programs, 2012-2013



Growing up, prayer was mandatory and I can't remember missing a day of family prayer. Like they say, routine helps, and prayer was part of the routine growing up - if were not home for rosary by 8pm, expect a long lecture or get ready to stretch you hand. Something else came out of the box with prayer - Faith. Even though the term "faith" was not clear, looking back I would say faith was something that you always had in you and that was due to prayer. Defining faith: not sure if growing up someone explained what it really meant - a "strong belief in a supernatural power or powers that controls human destiny". I would say, without explaining it, it was in me growing up.

Every day going for the morning mass, fighting to get there early so I could serve as an altar boy, taking the front row seat and concentrating - all in the name of faith that something good will come out it. Something going wrong or unexpected put that fear in me that my faith in the supernatural power was fading. Parents would quickly recognize this, and going for confession or attending a camp offered by the local church was the only option to get back on track.

I would say things haven't changed much today. As Jesus said to Thomas "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" - is what is keeping me in faith in the supreme power of our Lord Jesus. Little things that go wrong even today bring in me the same fear and guilt about some unforgiving sin – but you have the Grace to keep you up and move forward. This is a good sign of growth in the faith we believe in and helps keep us on track and one step closer to God every day of our life.

Faith is what has brought MCA-EC into existence. Started small, but we can see for ourselves where we stand as one large group today 7000 miles away from home. It's a privilege I don't take for granted to be part of the board of such an amazing group, which stands under one faith in our Lord Jesus. I wish you all a blessed Easter.

Bore fest magtaun.

-Arun Menezes, VP of Membership, 2012-2013





MCA-EC Mangalorean Stars



Newton Duarte as Petronius, a Roman Officer, with his sons, Nathan as the Apostle Peter, Nevyn as the Apostle John, and Nolan as a Young Jewish boy

Q. Tell us about your background in acting. What was the inspirational moment or story behind getting yourself and your family involved in performing?

A. I enjoyed dramatics back home when in Don Bosco's High School, Lonavla. It was always a great experience to be part of the Annual play on Don Bosco feast and to compete in the inter-house dramatic competitions. I was excited when the piano teacher invited us to audition for the Passion Play back in 2008. I prepared a Shakespeare monologue from Julius Caesar and sang the Via Dolorosa.

Strangely even though we lived a block from the theater we had never been to see the Passion Play prior to this invitation. The boys prepared for the audition, too. I was excited when the three of us were accepted and Nathan was cast as an Apostle in his very first year. He was only 9 years old and looked like a very young Apostle.

Q. The Passion Play is America's longest running play, in its 99th season. Describe the roles that you and your family played, as well as your feelings about being part of such a historical performance.

A. This year was special since Nathan was asked to play the role of Peter and Nevyn was given the role of John. It brought joy to a father's heart because both Peter and John were called to serve the Lord, one as the rock and the other with his tender heart. Nolan as a young boy gets to hang out with Jesus as a buddy and a friend. As always, I was excited to don my six pack as Petronius... if only I could get that six pack in real life.

The fact that the Passion Play has been running for the past 99 seasons speaks to the reality that the words of Jesus are ever alive and will change our lives if we truly repent of our sins, partake of the eternal food at His Eucharist, and share in the power and victory of His Resurrection through yielding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Q. In light of us being in the Easter season, acting in this play must have been particularly special. Have you felt a stronger sense of faith while walking in the shoes of these spiritually significant people, and if yes, how so?

A. Our director Carl constantly reminds us to "Tell the story". As an actor this means going back in time and reflecting and reliving these last few hours in the life of Jesus. At the very minimum one cannot help but be dumbfounded at the gravity of the sacrifice on Calvary. Just when you think that the pain and suffering was more than any man could bear, you see a further and even more painful infliction of unimaginable torture. In a world of instant gratification, paying a price for our sins almost seems a fairytale. Yet reliving this true story through the enactment of the Lord's Passion serves as a reminder that each one of us is precious, that "I am truly a child of God" and the conviction that "GOD LOVES ME"

Q. How do you balance your professional life with your "passion" for acting?

A. The Passion Play is the only play we take part in as a family. It does involve taking time off, late night practices and home work being done till the wee hours of the morning. It is all worthwhile if even one soul goes home experiencing the sacrifice Jesus made on Calvary.

Q. What advice would you give to young Mangaloreans who would like to get involved in acting as a profession?

A. I would surely NOT be the one to give any advice on this subject as I am not doing this as a professional. As you can see we are in the Passion Play mainly due to our faith. When you speak to other professionals you generally hear advice such as "Follow your heart". During this Easter season, I would like to change this to "Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit in your heart."

Quarterly Vado News

A New Beginning -Bhagevonth Kutam (Holy Family) Vado, PA

By Amrith Rodrigues

I remember fondly the days when we were newlyweds and warmly welcomed into a group of Mangalorean Catholics residing in Singapore. It was much like a Vado, we called ourselves the "Singmangs". This group became our anchor, our family away from home. When we relocated to the US, we found ourselves searching for a similar companionship. The MCA-EC was our answer. Over the last 4 years we have gained the friendship of so many lovely people on the East coast and built lasting memories as members of the MCA-EC. But still, Yeh Dil Mange More. When the MCA-EC announced that they were interested in starting a Vado in PA, we felt called to the task.

Meet and Greet- 24th February at the residence of Dilip and Amrith Lewis: Our first meeting was an informal meet and greet session where we broke the ice and some bread at our home. It was a gathering of five families. We had familiarized ourselves with the families through email/social networking for a couple of months so it was a delightful feeling to see them in person. The group got in synch right away. Our ice breaker was a game where each person introduced themselves with an adjective in front of their name, starting with the same letter as their name. For instance, my dear hubby introduced himself as Dildar Dilip. Everyone was so creative and we got some witty combinations like Smokin' hot Sunil, Mastiwalla Merwin, Awesome Archie, Very Very friendly Victor to state a few. After a round of delicious appetizers, we voted on the name of our Vado. The name we selected by popular demand was Bhagevonth Kutam. After a scrumptious dinner of delectable entrees prepared by the ladies we discussed some more about what we wanted for the future of our Vado and also the dates for the next event. The highlight of the evening was Archie on the strings, strumming away the Baila and popular English/Konkani numbers. All of us greatly enjoyed the singsong session.



Way of the cross-March 9th at the residence of Sunil and Divya Lobo: Within a span of 2 weeks our group grew, so when we met for the Way of the Cross we were already a gathering of 7 families. We started the evening by relishing a cup of tea and some warm homemade cookies. During this time the kids were allocated their stations and we practiced the hymns. The entire way of the cross was conducted by the kids of our Vado, the older kids conducting 2-3 stations while the younger kids did 1-2 stations each. Our kids leading the prayers, the images of Christ at the various stations, the hymns and music together with the fellowship of one another was for me a positively uplifting and peaceful experience. The euphoria of the evening stayed on as we attacked a round of savory appetizers and a mouth-watering Lenten meal. It is true when they say that "Nothing brings people together like a wonderful meal".



Future Activities:

- 1) A Pilgrimage to the national shrine of our lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA on the 20th of April.
- 2) A get-together and art Exhibition by the Children of our Vado, May 11, at the residence of Neeta and Manoj Mascarenhas.

PS- The PA Vado FB site now has a total of 33 members. The MCA-EC board has kindly agreed to host on boarding kit to help many of the members to join the MCA-EC: <http://mcaec.drupalgardens.com/content/member-boarding-guide> We hope to see many new members during the upcoming activities.

Kursa Vado, NY

By Arun Menezes

NY's Kursa vado is just dynamic like any other NY teams – Yankees, Giants – you name it. Our faith has brought us all together and has kept us as one, till date. We meet very often, but below are some events that come to mind that I would like to share with fellow MCA-EC members

- I. Christmas 2012: First things first - let me start with the basics – Christmas without kuswar is like gasless soda. Our hostess who also one of the gurkarns put together a dozen different items – see picture below.



Santa made a special appearance and look at the excitement with the kids and the grownups – Just take a glance below.



Our two gurkarns had to take a picture with our own dear president Steven Aranha – Diana Menezes and Sujatha Pereira, in a close-up with Steven.



- II. Lent gathering 1 - 02/23/2013: Diana and Stany Menezes hosted the first lent gathering with a bilingual (Konglish) way of the cross in Konglish – with the kids reading the stations in English and the Adults in Konkani. The gather was closed with some delicious vegetarian food.
- III. Lent gathering 2 – 03/17/2013: Saritha and Stany Lobo hosted the second lent gathering. Again, the hosts we have in NY are amazing – the gathering ended with some uruda tarakaree vanas – Manglorean style Veg meals.
- IV. Easter: Paul and Monthi Quadros will be hosting our Easter party. Scheduled to start at noon, but as usual can't tell you when it will end. With NYC kids out from school on spring break, this might go into Monday morning.
- V. Some exciting events are in play for the month of May with an exclusive men's fishing trip.

Fatima Vado, Piscataway, New Jersey

March 2013

During the 2012 strategy meeting, the MCA-EC organization brainstormed about dividing areas into smaller like-minded groups called “vados”. Since the season of Lent was around the corner, a few families in the Piscataway and South Plainfield cities of New Jersey then came together for prayers and so, the Piscataway vado was born. In that year, the vado had two gatherings. The first one was for the Stations of the Cross in March and the second, for Mother Mary’s prayers in the month of May.

A year later, the vado was officially baptized as “*Fatima Vado*”, dedicated to our dear Lady of Fatima. A new Google group “Fatima-Vado@GoogleGroups.com” was created, to make it easy for all vado families to communicate with each other. The vado families and friends continue to grow, with sixteen families and counting.

This year, the vado continued the same tradition and started off its first set of family gatherings for prayers during the season of Lent. The fellowship met every weekend after Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday, with increased gusto and vigor. A simple potluck dinner followed after every gathering.



Every family participated in reading the stations, including the wonderful children. There was a particular section for “*Children’s Reflection*” in each station, which made it easier for each child to relate to the prayers. The vado families got together and sang a mix of hymns in “English” and “Konkani” that reminded most of the adults about our cultural traditions. The Stations of the Cross concluded on the evening of Palm Sunday with personal prayer requests and intercessions for families and friends – all praying together as one large family. This was indeed, very divine.

The vado is planning to meet next, during the month of May, for Mother Mary’s prayers.

Beginning with this newsletter update, the Fatima Vado would like to start with the Spotlight section, where one family will be interviewed with simple questions. This will get everyone to know the family better, which is in-line with the MCA-EC motto “Connecting people, promoting culture”
And now a Spotlight on one of the Fatima Vado families...

Simon Rego, Sunitha Rego, Leann Rego and Ethan Rego

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself and your family?

<Sunitha> We are a family of four, kids aged 11 and 6. Both Simon and me were born and brought up in Mangalore. In the late nineties, we moved to Dubai, UAE and then a decade ago, we moved to New Jersey, USA. Simon is a vice-president in Lavinstar Logistics and I am a Cognitive Therapist by profession.

Can you tell us what you like to do with your free time, what are your hobbies?

<Sunitha> Outside of work, we love to spend time with our kids whenever we can, such as watch movies together or go out for dinner. That is a wonderful feeling.

How did you hear about Fatima Vado?

<Sunitha> We joined Fatima Vado last year, when we started out first Stations of the Cross.

Are you a member of MCA-EC?

<Sunitha> Yes, we are members of MCA-EC since the beginning, since 2009.

Finally, has the Fatima Vado changed anything in your life?

<Sunitha> It has been a wonderful sense of fulfillment and we are happy to be a part of the Fatima Vado. This has helped us, especially our kids, to learn and grow spiritually. We have made so many wonderful friends here who amaze me with their generous nature.

--- *Jaison Banji, Gurkar, Fatima Vado*

If any family reading this article, is interested and would like to join the Fatima Vado, please send an email to mca.eastcoast@gmail.com

Moriye Vado – Q1 News and Event updates

Introduction: Moriye Vado is a closely knit community of ‘Like Minded’ families not only from the town of Edison but also from far away towns like Hillsborough, Union City, and Morganville. The idea to form an MCA-EC organization was conceptualized by a few families from this Vado several years ago. Many individuals from this Vado have served as MCA-EC Board members. The depth of the talent in this Vado is enormous and you may have seen our youth, kids and adults participate in several MCA-EC events like Monti Fest and Christmas Musical. Eric Correa is the Gurkar since the inception of this Vado and was recently joined by a Co-Gurkarn to shoulder responsibility of this Vado.

Moriye Vado has a Co-Gurkarn: Anita Pinto was unanimously elected as Co-Gurkarn recently at our Vado gathering. Anita currently works for Eros International in NJ. She is quite talented like any alumni of Mithibhai College in Bombay. Many of you may have seen her multiple times at MCA-EC stage shows during Monti-Fest and Christmas usually with her supportive husband Harry Pinto as a co-star. Please join us in congratulating Anita!

Our Lenten Journey: This Lenten season, Moriye Vado conducted powerful Stations of the Cross sessions for 6 weeks at different churches within the Vado. An average of around 40 people met every Saturday of Lent at 3.00 pm in the church. The stations were led by all the Vado kids. We incorporated both English and Konkani hymns during the sessions. It was truly rewarding to see the children’s enthusiasm towards all the hymns. Children recited the Rosary together and they led the litany that followed, while the adults responded. After the sessions, we gathered at the house of one of the members for some delicious refreshments. After some energizing snacks and “cutting chai”, we attended mass together as one family at the designated church.



Easter Celebrations: As we conclude our Lenten season, we will once again gather to celebrate EASTER as one BIG family. We have 65 Vadyaagars confirmed for our Vado’s Easter Party celebration to be held in Edison, NJ on March 30th @ 10 pm.

The Cornerstone Retreat:-

One of the Stations of the Cross was held at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, Kendall Park, NJ. During the mass held after the Stations of the Cross, the Vado members were introduced to the Men’s Cornerstone Retreat via the weekly announcements. Kenneth Monteiro, one of our Vado members and a parishioner at the church, had attended the retreat in the past and encouraged fellow Vado members to attend. Mark Mendonca, Vijai Furtado and Eric Correa, our Gurkar heard the Lord’s call and joined Kenneth at the 2013 Cornerstone Retreat. When asked about their experiences, they all said that this was one of the best retreats they have ever attended. Eric said “It was a life changing experience. This retreat has helped me build a stronger connection with God and my family. This is a must attend for our Vado men and the men from the larger MCA-EC community at least once in their lifetime.” Cornerstone Retreats are held in various parishes across the US. Feel free to reach out to Kenneth Monteiro if you would like to attend the next one @ St Augustine of Canterbury in March 2014.

Talent within our Vado :-

- A. **Original Konkani song composition for Lent** “Talent is cheaper than Table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work”. This is exactly what our dear friend Vijai Furtado has proven. It is by his mere hard work and dedication towards music, that he was able to compose the lyrics and the music for this special song for lent “Darar tujea sorpodtam. We appreciate this huge talent from Moriye Vado. Please check out the link on MCA EC’s Facebook page.
- B. **The Duarte kids, Broadway style** The Duarte kids - Nathan, Nevyn and Nolan from Moriye Vado were cast members in America’s longest running play - 'THE PASSION PLAY'. The play completed its 99th season in Union City, NJ. The Duarte's have been part of the cast for 5 years now. Nathan and Nevyn were cast as Apostles while Nolan was part of the ensemble. Dad Newton played the Roman Petronius. 70+ MCA-EC members were present at a special 'family and friends' showing and witnessed them live on stage. Great show Duarte's. You make us proud!!!



Our Youngest Member:

We welcome with love, a gift from above! A beautiful little angel: Giselle Jeanice Cardoza. Born on February 22, 2013 to proud parents – Zeeta and Gladson Cardoza.

Join us:-

If you would like to join Moriye Vado, please email the MCA-EC Board (mca.eastcoast@gmail.com) for further details.

St. Joseph's Vado of Long Island Cordially Invites You To:

Mangaloreans on the Island

When:

Saturday, April 27 from 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM

Where:

Taste of Cochin, Bellerose, Queens
248-08 UNION TURNPIKE
Bellerose, NY 11426

About the Event:

We will sing, hum, dance and sway to Konkani, English and Konklish music by Oscar & Mithun of 'Rhythm Methods' fame, Stanley D'Souza & family of 'Eka Pakya Pondlin Gayana' fame, while we drink and eat till we drop.

We will connect, mingle and chatter in true Mangy style.

Come join us for an evening of of Mangy fun

Tickets: \$25 per person

Cash bar at discounted prices

Dress code: Casual

Contact the St. Joseph Vado:

Charles Rodrigues: charles.rodrigues@gmail.com; 212-960-3510

Vivian Kamath: vkamath55@hotmail.com

Jovita Crasta dr_crasta@hotmail.com

Philip Colaco: colacophil@yahoo.com; 516-221-2291





Financial Statement



**Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast
CHRISTMAS GALA 2012-REVENUE & EXPENSES
DATE:12/15/12**

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	REVENUE AMOUNT IN US\$
1	12/15/12	Event Fees thru Check & Cash (John)	\$2,195.00
2	12/15/12	Event Fees thru Cash (Arun)	\$315.00
3	12/15/12	Event Fees thru PayPal	\$6,139.05
4	12/15/12	Total Sponsorships	\$3,250.00
5	12/15/12	Raffle Revenue	\$655.00
6	12/15/12	Proceeds from GOLD CHAIN Sale	\$300.00

TOTAL >> \$12,854.05

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION	VENDOR	EXPENSES AMOUNT IN US\$
1		240 Adults x \$29	AKBAR	\$6,960.00
2		80 Children x \$14.50	AKBAR	\$1,160.00
3		Valet Parking	AKBAR	\$160.00
4		Tips to the Waiters	AKBAR	\$100.00
5		PORK DISH		\$200.00
6		Music Band & DJ & Lighting	Rhythm Band	\$2,250.00
7		Event Decorations & Kuswar	Party Zenith LLC	\$909.50
8		Raffle Prize- Tablet		\$79.99
9		Raffle Prizes & gifts for the event		\$315.00
10		Musical expenses	MERLIN	\$48.00
11		Flower Bouquets	STEVEN	\$70.00
12		Misc		\$0.00

TOTAL >> \$12,252.49

SUMMARY: TOTAL REVENUE \$12,854.05

TOTAL EXPENSES \$12,252.49

GAIN/LOSS \$601.56

MCA-EC BALANCE/RESERVE: US\$

Net Balance/Reserve as on 2/28/13 **\$8,832.81**

Member Contributions

Easter-A Second Chance

Growing up in a Catholic colony in Mumbai, the season of Lent and the rituals of the Holy Week played an important role in my life. I remember most, the Lenten missions conducted by the Redemptorist priests, the live way of the cross on Good Friday & the candlelit Easter Vigil service. Easter celebrations at our home were always a modest affair mostly due to the fact that we had our final exams around the time of Easter. My parents observed the no meat rule during Lent so on Easter Sunday we wolfed down fried chicken and pork sorpotel with gusto. When we were younger we would receive artfully decorated marzipan Easter eggs.

My boys have slightly different memories. They look forward to the Easter egg hunt organized by the church, breakfast with the Easter bunny and receiving a colorful basket stuffed with Easter candy and toys. We do not give up meat. Truthfully, I have tried but never succeeded to do the entire 40 days. Instead, we each select something important that we can give up. This year I gave up watching my favorite Hindi serial on Sony, the only serial I allow myself to indulge in on a regular basis. I know in my heart that this is really trivial. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days to give himself the strength to face his death. "It is finished" were his words. He died so we could have a second chance.

What does Easter mean to you?? For me the deepest meaning of Easter is about receiving a second chance. It's another chance at being a kinder person; a more loving mom; a more empathetic wife and a less judgmental person. A second chance at receiving forgiveness and starting over. I remember the words of my 9 year old after he received the sacrament of reconciliation. It was a hectic week day, we spilled into the house and before I could call out the orders he said gently "Mummy, I am spotless now. I want to stay this way. Please don't say anything that will make me answer back at you. I promise I will finish my homework on time". Little pearls of wisdom from my little boy.

Wishing you all a blessed and Happy Easter and May the peace of the risen Lord be with you.

Amrith Rodrigues

Youth Corner

Tips On How to Balance Culture and Faith by Susanna D'Souza

Life can take a toll on teenagers, it can be hard at times juggling school work, fun time, time with family and ME time. Sometimes it feels like the world is weighing on your shoulders. It feels as if you picked the melted orange mint chocolate out of a Godiva box and now it just a big goeey thing. As teenagers we sometimes act like a different person in front of our friends being all cool and at home a totally different person. You can all shake your head and say I'm wrong, but am I? Some of us would never have our friends meet our parents for the fact that they might say something about the real "me" and ruin the image your friends have of you.

It's not just our peers we try to impress, but our family and even society. You want people to have the image of you as the obedient, intelligent, helpful child who should be a role model or the fun, kind, comedian their child can hang out with. At the same time you want your parents to be proud of you but you don't want your friends to know the real you. Especially, that part of you, where your culture and true faith is concerned. Perhaps for most of us, some of our friends don't even know where we are from or where our actual roots in India are from, or even that we are a devoted Catholic. That's okay. Everyone goes through it. I'm not saying that you should be hiding this from your friends just because it could be that they too are hiding something about their background from you. What I am saying is that it's not impossible to manage your faith and culture, without making you look uncool or weird. Trust me. The process is very simple and easy.

In fact, it's so easy that it only takes four easy steps.

1. Start off, with dropping small and tiny hints about your faith and culture with your friends as you talk. Maybe start off by saying about the fun events you go to each year for example Monti-fest, or the Christmas party run by MCA-EC and explain what it means. By doing this it lets your friends know that you are Catholic from Mangalore, India and you are proud of your culture.
2. Living in America is a blessing but sometimes can be tough. Sometimes your friends might say or go to places that we as Catholics would never go. You can still be their friend and don't have to do what they are doing, as long as you set your boundaries. If your friends say a bad word/words to or about someone, don't chip in nor just stand there quietly but speak up. Say what you think is right and would make God happy because if you aren't making your Father in Heaven happy then what's the point? Those friends might actually value your opinion for speaking up and standing up for your belief & religion. While you're thinking how embarrassing that is, they are thinking how cool and lucky it is for you to have a religion you follow, understand and are deeply involved in. Who knows, maybe you might convert them into Christianity slowly by your example!
3. I have three easy words for you. Be Your Self. That is all your parents and friends ask of you. I have friends in school who aren't Indian, some are Caucasian and African Americans. At first, I used to never tell anyone my ethnicity. I thought that they would all be embarrassed and would think of me as different or uncool but I was wrong. My friends wanted to see if I could speak the language. When I told them yes they couldn't get enough of hearing me speak Hindi and they thought I was super cool to be able to speak an additional language. In fact, I think I scored more popularity by speaking Hindi than by not speaking it. The bottom line was that I was being myself and I had stopped being afraid of rejection.
4. Your parents love you for who you are. If you want to do something that you think they won't approve but haven't asked them then ask them because they just might prove you wrong. Matter of fact, they just might like the idea. As long as you are doing something that God would approve of then ask your parents because they too would approve. The key is to ask. Only if you ask will they know what you want. You have the key, no one else has it. Only you can open the door for yourselves, as long as you do the right thing.

This world is full of judgmental people who are waiting to judge someone. It's not just in America or India but all over the world. Speak up for yourself and be yourself 'cause that's all anyone can ask of you. If your friends don't like the real you then they just aren't your real friends. Any time you are in a dilemma facing who to please and don't know which way to turn ask yourselves this, "If I did this would God be proud of me? "If God was in my position would God do this? "Do I represent a devoted Mangalorean Catholic by these actions?" All your answers will come from here because above all things, you should always remember to represent God in everything and never be ashamed of who you are. Be proud of your faith, you have what many kids want and wished they had.

Easter in Numbers

- *58 — Percent of Americans who plan to attend church on Easter Sunday this year.*
- *33 A.D. — Possible year of Jesus' crucifixion, according to the Bible and earthquake research reported in the International Geology Review in 2012.*
- *13th century — About the time people are first thought to have decorated eggs for Easter.*
- *180 million — Number of eggs Americans will purchase to dye and decorate this year.*
- *88 — Percent of American parents who make Easter baskets for their kids.*
- *76 — Percent of chocolate bunny eaters who go for the ears first, according to a survey by the National Confectioners Association.*



A Final Word

Just a few months ago, we were celebrating the birth of Christ with Christmas now here we are as a community and as a faith, celebrating the resurrection of Christ from the dead with Easter.

I remember someone telling me as a child that in spite of the magnitude with which Christmas is celebrated, that for Christians, Easter is actually the feast that should be celebrated with maximum zeal. After all, Easter is the miracle that trumps all miracles: Christ coming back to life, to give us life.

One practical way to stay in touch with the miraculous nature of this sacrifice is to recognize the small "miracles" that come to pass in our lives on a daily basis.

Let me explain: As a teenager, going through typical angst, I was once comforted by the words of a dear friend of my father, who we affectionately referred to as our uncle. Before he retired, he used to work for Air India, and on one auspicious day, he met someone whose simple advice changed his mindset and life. Seeing me fret over the inconsequential noise in my daily, frenetic, modern life, my uncle recounted his personal story to me.

The person he had met was the late, now beatified, Mother Theresa. In the few moments that my uncle shared with Mother Theresa, he relayed some of his personal distress, and requested her prayers. She prayed for him and advised him to put aside his larger concerns, and to have faith by acknowledging all the mini-miracles that occur from day to day. She said that focusing on this would shift his focus to God's greatness and eventually heal any shortcomings in his life. She explained that miracles need not be interpreted as turning water into wine or multiplying fish and loaves of bread, but that smaller, seemingly simple moments could also be described as miracles just as long as they demonstrated God's grace in our lives.

This pithy but powerful wisdom has carried me over some daunting thresholds. I try to acknowledge the small miracles in my life, and when I do, amazingly, the miracles tend to multiply.

As I compiled the content for this edition, it was revitalizing to see the visual evidence of the miracle of growth in this organization. Within 1 year of the "Vado" just being a concept, the MCA-EC now has multiple fully operational vados across three states, and the seven pages of content received on just their first quarter of progress only speaks to a tiny percentage of their actual interactions, real-life friendships, and fellowship. This is a blessing, and by Mother Theresa's definition, I believe this constitutes a miracle.

Over the next two months, consider keeping a miracle journal. Write down the moments of grace that touch your life. If someone says "I'm sorry," without you having to tell them to, that's a miracle. If someone gives up their seat to allow someone else to take their seat without prompting, that's a miracle. If someone smiles at you when you're particularly glum and having a terrible day, that's a miracle.

As Catholics, Easter is our "New Year," our renewed opportunity to make good on promises to ourselves, our families and God, to be a better, newer us. As we celebrate this Easter day, as well as the several weeks of the Easter season that lie ahead of us, may we seize the day, demonstrating our thanks to God for believing in us and having enough faith in us to sacrifice his own Son.

Let us not take the beauty and splendor of His ultimate miracle for granted.

