

DEC 2010

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவோம்



REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY CONTINUALLY, GIVE THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Upcoming Special Mass

CHRISTMAS MASS - DEC 24, 7 PM  
NEW YEAR MASS - DEC 31, 11 PM

#### A small Favor...

We need help to transport our yearly calendars from India. If are traveling to India and wish to bring the calendars, please contact Leenus Rich.

Our Vice President Alex Rayan welcomed his second son Jason Rayan on Nov 12, 2010. BATCC wishes them the very best. Jaya Rayan, his wife and big brother Jonathan are doing great and enjoying the new bundle of joy!

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please send your writings to [board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)

### MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - LIVING IN PEACE

When we go to Mass, we sit with our friends and family members and we say "peace be with you" to our friends and family with whom we already have peace. Is it the meaning of real peace? Jesus said, "If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" Matthew 5:46-47

When we say "peace be with you" let us go to our enemy and say peace be with you. That is the real peace be with you and that is what God wants.

If we take life of Jesus, all His disciples left Jesus after He was caught. After rising from death, Jesus went and said peace be with you to His disciples. He did not tell them that they left him alone when I suffered or that Peter denied him three times. He never expected His disciples to apologize either.

Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Bible defines the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23, and peace is the third characteristic mentioned.

The Bible says that God blesses the peacemakers. According to Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Proverbs 12:20 tells us that there is "joy for those who promote peace." Psalm 34:14 advises us to "seek peace and pursue it." God wants us to "live in harmony with one another" (Romans 12:16; I Peter 3:8), which results in being peaceful with one another. "God is not a God of disorder but of peace" (I Corinthians 14:33).

As we read God blesses the peacemakers. So if we think we are not blessed by God then we are not the peacemakers. Let us examine ourselves whether we live in harmony with our own family members, our friends and relatives, at work and at worship places. If not, let us make every effort to live in harmony with one another and be blessed by God and be the sons of God.

Merry Christmas to all!

Yours in Christ,  
Leenus Rich



# FAITH

**I**n our day to day life, our faith and hope are put to test many number of times. We are depressed and angry when things do not go our way. We try to blame others. But we forget these words from Jn14:1” Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God”. During such difficult moments if we believe in God, He will be comforted. Let us see another passage from Lk18:35-43 (please read it)

When the blind man in Jericho heard that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!”. He did not stop shouting. He believed that Jesus will heal him. So in spite of people asking him to be silent, his faith made him to shout more (Lk 18:39).

When our faith and hope are put to test do we call out and surrender ourselves to God like the blind man did? No. We forget God. We are angry with God. “Why me?” is the question we raise. Our hearts are hardened. The sorrows of the heart doesn't allow God into it. As we continue to read Luke 18 Jesus said to him, “Receive your

sight; your faith has healed you.”  
Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God.

Like the blind man, if we also surrender ourselves to God and call out to Him and believe in Him we will also see the difference in our lives. God will answer us. We may not get what we want, but what God wants for us.

- AGNES P. RAJ

**“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them” Luke 18:8**



## CHRISTMAS FACTS!

- ★ The world's biggest Christmas tree (76 m high) was put up in America in 1950.
- ★ In India, they decorate banana trees at Christmas time.
- ★ Real Christmas trees are an all-American product, grown in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii.
- ★ The biggest selling Christmas single of all time is Bing Crosby's White Christmas.
- ★ "Silent night" was written for a choir when the church organ broke down.
- ★ The word "Christmas" comes from Cristes mæsse, an old English phrase that means "Mass of Christ."
- ★ More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.
- ★ An average household in America will mail out 28 Christmas cards each year and receive 28 cards in return.

## WE HAVE TWO CHOICES

Jerry was the kind of guy you love to hate. He was always in a good mood and always had something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!"

He was a unique Banquet manager because he had several stewards who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the stewards followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation. Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?"

Jerry replied, "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood". I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life.

"Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested.  
"Yes it is," Jerry said. "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. You choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line: It's your choice how you live life." I reflected on what Jerry said.

Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off

the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma centre. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body.

I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Want to see my scars?" I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place.

"The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door," Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live, or I could choose to die. I chose to live."  
"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.  
Jerry continued, "The paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the emergency room and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read, 'He's a dead man.' I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.  
"Well, there was a big, burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything. "Yes" I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, "Bullets!" Over their laughter, I told them, "I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead."

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live fully. Attitude, after all, is everything.

Be positive in your outlook and have a great life!

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