



# Tamil Catholic Association of USA

December 16, 2012

## Welcome to the New Executive Committee

Dear Members of TCA USA,

On behalf of our Executive Committee, I welcome you all to our grand TCA Christmas celebration of 2012.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the tri-state Tamil Catholic community thru our esteemed organization for the past two years! In the past two years, we have seen significant growth in membership (existing and new members), member participations in activities, priest involvement, and kids' involvement thru many charity work and Tamil Class. I am confident that TCA is in a great position to grow and achieve great success in the future.

As per our by-law, three of our executive members are retiring this year including myself - Gerald Sebastian & Maria Gaspar. I would like to sincerely thank all of them and especially their families on behalf of each one of you for spending their time and talent for our association.

With immense pleasure I want to present the new executive committee. I thank all the new EC members who volunteered to serve TCA USA. Good Luck to my successor! I'm confident that he would take this organization to even greater heights. Continue to provide your support to the new committee this coming year.

I thank the Almighty, our previous president Mr. Francis Xavier, Rev. Fr. Guna Arachy and all TCA members for this golden opportunity and continued support throughout my tenure. My heart-felt thanks to my team members who are the back-bone for the growth in 2011 & 2012.

## The New Executive Committee 2013

President:	Mr. John Lawrence
Vice President:	Mr. Stephen D. Alex
Secretary:	Mr. Terryne Edwardraj
Joint Secretary:	Mr. Joseph Cruz
Treasurer:	Mr. Raja Maria Antony
Financial Secretary:	Mr. Anthony George
Counselor:	Rev Fr. Albin Roby
Board of Trustees:	Mr. Agnel Bestus
	Mr. Christian Mahipan
	Mr. Clement Antonysamy
	Mr. Francis Kennedy
	Mr. Ilangoraja Rethinam
	Mr. Vinod Benzigar
	Mrs. Nirmala Arokiasamy



Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thomas Amutharasu

President - TCA USA

Account Status (As of 12/12/12)	General A/c	Long Term A/c
Opening Balance	\$7,780.21	\$977.36
Revenue	\$5,904.20	\$100.44
Expenses	\$4,816.96	\$15.00
Closing Balance	\$8,867.45	\$1,062.80

**Our Next Mass**

**On February 10th 2013**

**Saint Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church**

**10 Kingston Ln Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852**



## HIS NAME IS IMMANUEL

(Mt. 1:23)

When we read the Bible very carefully, we come to know the number of names and titles that have been attributed to Jesus.. such as Good Shepherd, the Christ, the root of Jesse, the Alpha and the Omega. Every name or title reveals very special nature of his humanity and divinity. During Christmas season, we hear the name *Immanuel* again and again. "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name **Immanuel**, which means '**God is with us**' (Mt. 1:23)." Doesn't it mean that God has never been "with us" before Jesus was born? What does it mean to us today as we are far away from our own country, families and friends in the land of opportunity?

God has been with the humanity from the day of creation. In fact, the whole creation reflects his presence. When we read the bible very carefully, we begin to understand how people of Israel felt the presence of God on several occasions in different ways. They understood it was God who delivered them, through Moses, from the Egyptian slavery. It was he who led them through the red sea and saved them from the hand of Pharaoh (Ex. 14:13-30) and gave them *manna*, bread from heaven, in the desert (Ex. 16:13-17).

The people of Israel saw the glory God appeared in the clouds (Ex. 16:10). "The Lord was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people" (Exodus 13:21-22). God was with them during their ups and downs when they travelled through desert, the hills and valleys to the promised land. But what does it mean to us in today's context?

The promise of God stated in the Bible thousands of years ago never changes. *Listen to the LORD who created you...the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. And through the river, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you" (Isaiah 43:1-2).* It doesn't matter where you go and how far you go, God is with us.

One of the best of the many good stories that are told of our President Abraham Lincoln, runs as follows: During the civil war, at the close of a scientific convention in Washington, the members called upon the President. One of them said: "Mr. President, we trust during this time of trial in which the nation is engaged, God is on our side, and will give us victory." The noble Lincoln replied: "**Sir**, I know God is with us, yet I am more concerned whether or not, in all our doings, are we with God."

This Christmas gives us a challenging message. We came to this land of opportunity with so many dreams. As the years pass by, we fall in line with the American way of life. The affluence of wealth, comfortable life and secular philosophical thoughts may distract and try to deviate us from our faith life and our practice of faith, just as they did with the faith lives of most of the American Catholics.

A baby is born. His name is Immanuel. He promised, "Behold I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt. 28:20). He is with us. Are We with Him?

- **Rev Fr. Albin Roby**

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# Year 2012... A Look Back!

## TCA தமிழ் மன்றம் - 2012 ஒரு பார்வை

யாமறிந்த மொழிகளிலே தமிழ்மொழி போல் இனிதாவது எங்கும் காணோம்...

தேமதுரத் தமிழோசை உலகமெலாம் பரவும்வகை செய்தல் வேண்டும்" - மகாகவி பாரதி

அன்பு தமிழ் கத்தோலிக்க சங்க உறுபினர்களுக்கு, தமிழ் பள்ளி சார்பாக கிறிஸ்துமஸ் நல்வாழ்த்துகள்.

"பைந்தமிழ் பூங்கா"வெனும் நமது தமிழ் பள்ளியானது பத்து மாணவர்களுடன் செவ்வனே செயல்பட்டு கொண்டு வருகிறது. மாணவர்கள் ஆர்வமுடன் தமிழ் கற்று வருவதுடன் நமது சங்க கூட்டங்களில் தமிழ் நிகழ்ச்சிகளிலும் பங்கு பெறுகிறார்கள். கடந்த 2011 கிறிஸ்துமஸ் கூட்டத்தில் தமிழில் கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பு நாடகத்தை மிகவும் அருமையாக நடத்திருந்தார்கள். இந்த வருட கிறிஸ்துமஸ் விழாவிலும் "தங்கலீஷ்" எனும் தமிழ் நாடகத்தை வழங்க உள்ளார்கள்.

தமிழ் நாடு அரசு நடத்தும் தமிழ் இணைய கல்விகழகத்தின் ([www.tamilvu.org](http://www.tamilvu.org)) அடிப்படை பாடத்திட்டத்தை மிகுந்த ஈடுபாடுடன் நமது மாணவர்கள் பயின்று வருகிறார்கள். வரும் 2013 மே மாதத்தில் கல்விகழகத்தின் அடிப்படை தேர்வில் பங்குபெறும் குறிகோளுடன் அத்தனை மாணவர்களும் தமிழை பயின்று வருகிறார்கள். மாணவர்களின் பெயர்கள் பின் வருமாறு.

(1) அதல்யா (2) ஏஞ்சலின் (3) அனுஷா (4) அவினா (5) சிறில் (6) ஜென்னோ (7) மரியோ (8) ரிஸ்லின் (9) ரோகன் (10) செரின். மாணவர்களுக்கு உறுதுணையாக இருக்கும் பெற்றோர்களுக்கும் தமிழ் கத்தோலிக்க அன்பர்களுக்கும் நன்றி.

வரும் கல்வி ஆண்டில் தமிழ் பள்ளியில் பிள்ளைகளை சேர்க்க விரும்பும் பெற்றோர்கள், தலைமை ஆசிரியரையோ (ஜேம்ஸ் ரெத்தினம்) அல்லது தமிழ் மன்ற பொறுப்பாளரையோ (ஜான் லாரன்ஸ் ஜேகராஜன்) அணுகவும்.

- ஜேம்ஸ் ரெத்தினம் - தலைமை ஆசிரியர்.

### TCA Youth Club

TCA Youth Club has been involved in ...

- ❖ Fund drive for Smile train during our Annual picnic and TCA donated 500\$ to Smile train
- ❖ Manna Basket Program – Program to distribute food to the soup kitchens
- ❖ Toy drive for kids during Christmas for kids in homeless shelters in NY and NJ area
- ❖ Coat drive for homeless shelter in NY and NJ area
- ❖ Volunteer work for TCA activities – Picnics, Annual Pilgrimage at blue army shrine etc.

### Realty Awareness Program (RAP)

- ❖ RAP team organizes a spiritual meeting on 1st Saturday of every month with the following agenda:
  1. Holy Rosary & Prayer
  2. Discussion on Bible passages
  3. Personal Sharings
- ❖ We dedicated last November meeting to remember and pray for all the departed souls.
- ❖ We invite members for this event only through email.
- ❖ For any questions or general information about RAP, please contact Nirmala Arokiasamy or Daphne Lawrence.

### Editor's Note

Hello TCA members!

We hope you enjoy reading the TCA Newsletter. Thank you all for your contributions to this newsletter and encourage your children to continuously publish their articles in TCA newsletter.

**HAPPY CHRISTMAS & HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR 2013!**

## Christmas in Today's World

Looking around us, we see the bright lights, the sparkling trees, the ribbons and presents. All of these have come to represent the "Christmas Spirit" as we know it, but when you take away all the decorations and festivities, what is truly left? What sits at the heart of Christmas? Of course, we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. He brought hope and joy to the world with his coming, but what does that mean for you and me?

It is not the giving and taking of gifts, even though that is what we know today. Rather, Christmas calls us to look at our fellow human being, and open our hearts. As Jesus did for us, so we should do for each other. Here is the tale of a young girl who gave Christmas all her heart.

Once upon a time, in a very poor family, the father worked very hard to support his children, and it was Christmas Eve. Just a few days ago, he had been upset with his 5-year-old daughter for using up the family's only roll of wrapping paper, and money was tight. He had become even angrier when he saw that under the Christmas tree, there was a little shoebox that she used all that wrapping paper for. He was concerned about where she got the money to buy whatever was in the shoebox.

The next morning, the little girl, excited, brought her dad the gift with a smile, and said, "Daddy, this is for you!" As he opened the box, he was embarrassed for being so disappointed with her before, and smiled back.

However, when he opened it and looked inside, he became furious because the box was empty. He said angrily, "When you give someone a present, you're supposed to put something inside the package!"

The girl looked up with tears, and said softly, "Daddy, it's not empty; I blew kisses into it until it was full." The father was touched, and he reached down and hugged his daughter. He was sorry for how he reacted with his unnecessary anger.

This story shows the true spirit of Christmas, and the love that this season brings.



- Jessica Francis

என் கிறிஸ்துமஸ்  
கிறிஸ்துமஸ் ஆடு சிறுவனான நான்.  
இந்த நாளில் என்னுடைய அம்மா சோவகம்  
பரிசி வெய்வாள். என் குடும்பம் கிறிஸ்துமஸ்  
மரத்தை வைப்பார்கள். அப்பறும், நானும்,  
என் தங்கையம், கிறிஸ்துமஸ் தூத்துக்குட்டு  
ஆடு வெய்பர் எடுத்துவோம். கிறிஸ்துமஸ்  
நான் ஆடு மதிச்சீயான நான். அன்றைக்கு  
கோயிலுக்கு போவது மிகவும் சிக்கியம்.  
எங்களுக்கு புது துணி மந்திரம் பரிசுபொருட்கள்  
கிடைக்கும். இந்த மதிச்சீயை பதிர்வது எனக்கு  
மிகவும் பிடிக்கும். எங்கள் பந்திரக்கோயிலில்  
கிடைக்கக்கூடிய பந்திரக்கோயிலின்  
ருவிவில் பரிசு மரம் (Living Tree) வைப்பார்கள்  
அதில் பல விருப்பிய பரிசை எடுத்திவைப்பார்கள்  
அதில் ஆடு விருப்பத்தை எடுத்து வந்து, அந்த  
பரிசுபொருளை வாங்கி அந்த மரத்துக்கு  
மீண்டும் கொண்டு வரப்பது எனக்கு  
மிகவும் பிடிக்கும். இது ஆடு நூலை  
படிக்கலாக நான் என்னை கிறிஸ்துமஸ்  
அனை வருக்கும் கிறிஸ்துமஸ்  
வணக்கம், வாழ்த்துக்கள் கருமம்!

மிகக் நன்றி,  
- பெய்ரிஷியா ராஜ்

## Kids' Corner

