



Tamil Catholic Association

Issue #13, February 8, 09



A Message from our President

World Marriage Day Prayer

"Father, as we celebrate for World Marriage Day, we thank you for your tremendous gift of the sacrament of Matrimony. Help us to witness to its glory by a life of growing intimacy. Teach us the beauty of forgiveness so we may become more and more one in heart, mind and body.

Strengthen our dialogue and help us become living signs of your love. Make us grow in love with our church so we may renew the Body of Christ. Make us a sign of unity in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and brother. Amen"

Dear TCA USA Members,

I welcome you all for the first meeting of our Association. World Marriage Day is being celebrated today, Feb 8th 2009. Marriage is one of the most vital institutions in our society and can be the bedrock for stable and loving families, so essential to human life. It is a formal commitment between two people who promise to love and care for each other for a lifetime. The relationship between a husband and a wife is like no other, creating a united entity out of what was once two separate lives. As Pope Benedict described, Marriage based on exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and His people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love"

There are many research findings on marriage. I want to highlight a few:

- Parental divorce reduces the likelihood that children will graduate from college, and achieve high-status jobs.

- Children who live with their own two married parents enjoy better physical health, on average, than children in other family forms.
- Married men earn between 10 and 40 percent more than single men with similar education and job histories.
- Married people, especially married men, have longer life expectancies than otherwise similar singles.
- Married mothers have lower rates of depression than single or cohabiting mothers.

Marriage is the only institution that allows two people to establish a very strong and enduring relationship that is fully backed by the law and society as a whole. While we celebrate the World Marriage Day, I wish all married couples of our association a long and happy married life.

Francis Xavier

President, TCA USA

Themes for TCA Gatherings

By now, you all would have noticed that TCA has a theme for today's gathering, 'Couples'. We wish all couples in TCA and pray for all. Thanks to all those who worked hard for this specific gathering. We will have more themed meetings that you can look forward to. We appreciate all your time and participation in making our gatherings enjoyable. If you want to volunteer for any of our activities, please contact the EC members. Best wishes to all members of the TCA family.



**Welcome to our
new EC members!**

President:

Mr. Francis Xavier

Trustees:

Mr. Gerald Sebastian

Mr. John Lawrence

Mr. Thomas

Amuthurusu

RAP

**RAP is a prayer group
for women, organized
by TCA. We meet
monthly on the first
Saturday for
reflection and prayer.
If you are interested
in joining this group
or want to know more
about it, please
contact an EC
member.**



Attention TCA Members

Please remember to pay
your member fee!

**THANK YOU to all for
sponsoring tonight's
dinner! Appreciate your
cooperation!**

Editor's Note

Hi everyone! I hope you
enjoy this 'Couples' themed
issue! The newsletter
committee is open to all so
please feel free to join. If
you would like to help in
any other way or give
comments, please e-mail
me at
tcanewseditor@yahoo.com.

--- Sibyl Medabalimi

St. Ludmilla, the Grandmother of St. Wenceslaus



A very good number of Saints have been priests or religious, living their lives in penance and sacrifice for the good of the Church. But there are married couples called to holiness as well.

One among them was the Holy Martyr Ludmilla, daughter of a Slavic Prince. She was married to Czech Prince Borivoy, and both were baptized by St. Methodius, Archbishop of Moravia and Enlightener of the Slavs.

As Christians, they showed concern for the enlightening of their subjects. With the light of the true Faith, they built churches and invited priests to celebrate the divine services. Prince Borivoy died at the age of 36. As a widow, St. Ludmilla led an austere, pious life and continued to work for the Church during the reign of her son, Spitignev who died two years later and was succeeded by Vratislaus, another son of Borivoy and Ludmilla.

Prince Vratislaus married the Princess Dragomira with whom he had a son, Wenceslaus. After the death of Prince Vratislaus, eight

year old Wenceslaus came to the throne. Taking advantage of the inexperience and youth of her son, Dragomira began to introduce anti Christian manners and customs in the country.

St. Ludmilla opposed this, and Dragomira came to hate her mother-in-law. When St. Ludmilla moved to the city of Techin, Dragomira secretly sent two boyars to murder her. While St. Ludmilla was praying, the two assassins entered the house and carried out Dragomira's orders.

The relics of the holy Martyr Ludmilla were buried in Techin in the city wall. Numerous healings occurred at her grave. Later, Prince Wenceslaus transferred the body of St. Ludmilla to the city of Prague and placed it in the church of St. George. She is venerated as one of the patrons of Bohemia, and her feast is celebrated on 16 September. Prince Wenceslaus himself is venerated as a Saint.

The best known married Saint is our Blessed Mother Mary, the mother of Jesus. She provides the perfect role model of what it means to accept the Lord's will for one's life and to live out a holy life as a wife and mother. She is Queen of all the Saints. She is always ready to help us on our spiritual journey.

During this month when TCA honors its married members, it is my privilege to write about one of the married saints to set as an example for our Christian faith.

Florence George
Secretary.

Anniversaries

Jan-Feb

Jan-

- 1- Douglas Bealan
Subella Augustine
- 17- Thomas Samimuthu
Priya Udayam
- 20- Arokiasamy
Medabalimi
Nirmala Arokiasamy
- 25- Joe Vinod Albert
Nancy Augustian
- 31- Snowsson
Ratinasamy
Marian Francis

Feb-

- 5- Titus Leo
Venay Titus
- 6- Irudayraj Louis
Pushpakala
- Lawrence
Innasimuthu
Felista Lawrence
- 9- Charles
Arockiaswamy
Lakchoumi
Arockiaswamy
- 11- Doss Britto
Anita Britto
- 12- Vijay Arokiaraj
Stella Joseph
- 23- Vincent Raj
Vani Vincent



Prayer of St. Alphonsa

O Lord Jesus,

**Hide me in the wound of your
sacred heart.**

**Free me from my desire to be
loved and esteemed.**

**Guard me from my evil attempts
to win fame and honor.**

**Make me humble till I become a
small spark in the flame of love
in your Sacred Heart.**

**Grant me the grace to forget
myself and all worldly things.**

**Jesus, sweet beyond words,
convert all worldly consolations
into bitterness for me.**

**O my Jesus, Sun of Justice,
enlighten my intellect and mind
with your sacred rays.**

**Purify my heart, consume me
with burning love for you, and
make me one with you.**

Amen

Reflection: We are all called be Saints, though few are chosen to be declared holy ones. Saints are filled with the love of God and can be considered as mediators. St. Alphonsa is one such Saint, having the miraculous power of healing.

History of World Marriage Day

The idea of celebrating the sacrament of marriage began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, when couples encouraged the Mayor, the Governor and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentines Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day". The event was so successful, that the idea was presented to and was adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership.

By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "**World Marriage Day**", designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. WMD celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year.

If you can reflect on the prayer of St. Alphonsa, one sentence made me think very deeply. That is 'Free me from my desire to be loved and esteemed'. For every problem, war, terrorism, murder, jealousy, etc..., I see that this one thing, 'Need to be loved and esteemed' is the cause. If we are freed from this desire, we will have heaven on earth. You can derive your own reflection from this, but I thought I will share my humble opinion.

There are so many things we can learn from saints. We just need to recognize our call to holiness. There are enough opportunities, enough suffering, enough challenges and, above all, enough grace for all of us to be passionate about God as the saints are.

--Mrs. Nirmala Arokiasamy

Fun Page

Brain Teaser

Mr. Smith and his wife throw a party and invite four married couples. There are some of them who know each other, and some who don't. Those who do not know each other shake hands.

Mr. Smith asks all the participants of the party how many times they shook hands. He remarked that no two persons answered the same number.

Question: What number did Mrs. Smith say? _____

Hints:

- Everybody knows himself and his wife or her husband.
- If A shook hands with B, then this means that B shook hands with A as well.
- Mr. Smith didn't ask himself about the number of hand shakings.
- The number of persons in the problem is ten. five husbands and five wives.

Answer- Mrs. Smith said 4.

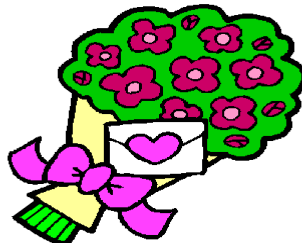
How many words can you make using the letters in VALENTINES DAY

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Valentine's Day Word Search

C D H P Y E F S R A Y S G U H
K H C E M G N T O M F E L K M
D A O D A U S N S K L S T U T
P N S C G R M L E I O S G X D
P O E G O T T N S W W I R X H
V C L I E L D D U C E K A C F
F E G Y R Q A C Q A R V O R O
W U L H Q F A T T X S O O Z H
C A N D Y R L T E T M O N L O
U J L Y D F I Z D S S G M G Q

candy
card
chocolate
cuddle
flowers
friend
heart



hugs
kisses
love
roses
smooch
snuggle