



# Tamil Catholic Association of USA

October Newsletter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

★ **Oct 25, 2015** – Special Retreat - By Divine Mercy Healing Center (Catholic Charismatic Retreat)-

St. Cecilia Catholic Church  
10 Kingston Lane,  
Monmouth Junction,  
NJ 08852  
(1:30 PM - 6:30 PM)  
- Confession,  
Preaching, Worship,  
Holy Mass, Holy  
Eucharist Adoration.

★ **Nov 8, 2015**- All Souls Day Mass, Organized by SriLankan friends.

★ **Nov 22, 2015** - Newark Archdiocese Multicultural Ministries - Vesper and Concert Cathedral Basilica of Sacred Heart  
89 Ridge St, Newark, NJ 07104

★ **Dec 6, 2015**-Christmas Celebration. Grand Holy Mass, Cultural, Santa Gifts  
St. Philip the Apostle Church  
488 Saddle River Rd,  
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

## President's Message

Dear Members,

On behalf of all our TCA members and Executive Committee,

I would like to extend our best wishes and congratulations to Fr.Theesmas Pankiraj and Fr. John Berchmans on their 25th Anniversary of their priesthood. We are dedicating this mass to both of our beloved priests. Their support and help to our association is priceless. We wish and pray for them for their continued journey on their religious life. Our September mass was celebrated on Sept 13th by Fr. Theesmas with meaningful homily. The mass was dedicated to all of our school children and they received special blessing. Also the kids participated and had so much fun in the games during general body meeting. We are having a special half day retreat on Oct 25th. The retreat will be led by Rev. Fr. Thomas Sunil and team from the Divine Mercy Healing Center, Washington NJ. The service will be in English and open to all Catholics. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend. This is our first attempt to have such a service. We will try to do this once a year going forward. The service will be held at St. Cecilia Church, 10 Kingston Ln, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852.

Regards,

James Rethinam

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Thank you for those who pledged for Christmas celebration. We are looking for more volunteers for the event and pledge, please contact any EC members. We are also looking for sponsors who can support us and can put a booth during the event. Please help to find any businesses that may be interested. Please contact the coordinators or EC who may be able to help you to make your kids participate in the cultural events.

# CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. THEESMAS PANKIRAJ AND FR. JOHN BERCHMANS



Fr. Theemas



Fr. Berchmans

On behalf of all the members of TCA, congratulations Father Theemas and Father Berchmans on celebrating 25 years as priests. Thank you for all the things you have contributed to TCA especially with your homilies and presence. May the Lord bless you your whole life, through the ups and downs and may he bless you with the Holy Spirit. Congratulations again!

### **Prayer for Priests:**

Risen Lord Jesus, you love us with all your priestly heart. Hear my heartfelt prayer for my brother priests. I pray for faithful and fervent priests, for unfaithful and tepid priests, for priests who labor home and abroad, for tempted priests, for lonely and desolate priests, for young priests, old priests, sick priests, dying priests, and for the souls of priests in purgatory. Merciful Jesus, remember that we are but weak and frail human beings. Give us a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love. I ask that, in our loneliness, you comfort us; in our sorrow, you strengthen us; in our frustrations, you show us that it is through suffering that the soul is purified. Eternal high priest, keep us close to your heart, and bless us abundantly, in time and in eternity. Amen.

25 - ஆம் ஆண்டு அருட்பணி வாழ்வு நிறைவில்....

அருட்பணியாளர்கள் - தீஸ்மாஸ் பங்கிராஜ், ஜாண் பெர்க்மான்ஸ்

அருட்பணியாளர்கள் தீஸ்மாஸ், ஜாண் பெர்க்மான்ஸ் இருவரையும் இந்த இனிய நாளில் மனதார வாழ்த்தி பாராட்டுகிறேன். இவர்களோடு ஒரு வருடம் இளையவனாய் குருத்துவக் கல்லூரிகளில் படித்ததும், இவர்களோடு இணைந்து ஒரே மறைமாவட்டத்தில் அருட்பணியும் சமூகப்பணியும் இணைந்து ஆற்றிட கிடைத்த வாய்ப்பை எண்ணி மகிழ்கின்றேன்.

அருட்பணி தீஸ்மாஸ் எங்கள் மறைமாவட்டதின் மைந்தன் அன்றும் இன்றும்...இவருடைய ஆளுமைப்பண்பும், கம்பீரமான தோற்றமும், மேடைப்பேச்சாற்றலும், மறையுரை ஆற்றும் பாங்கும், இனிமையான குரல்வளமும், இசைத்துறையில் பாண்டித்யமும், மக்களோடு இனிமையாக, எளிமையோடும் பண்போடும் பழகுகின்ற பக்குவமும், எங்கள் மறைமாவட்டம் மட்டுமல்ல தமிழகம் அறியும்.

மேலும் அமெரிக்காவிற்கு வந்தபிறகும் இவருடைய அருட்பணிகள் புதிய கலாச்சாரப் பின்னணியுடன் சற்று வித்தியாசமாக தொடர்கின்றது. மேலும் நம்முடைய தமிழ் கத்தோலிக்க சங்கத்திற்கு அடித்தளமிட்டு ஆரம்ப நாயகனாக களமிறங்கி, இன்று வரை நம் எல்லோரையும் வழிநடத்தி வருகின்றார். அவருடைய அருட்பணி வாழ்வின் 25 –ஆம் ஆண்டு நிறைவில் வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.

அருட்பணி. ஜாண்பெர்க்மான்ஸ் - எளிமையான, அமைதியான, எப்போதும் புன்னகைக்கும் தோற்றம் கொண்டவர். எங்களுடைய மறைமாவட்டத்தில் பல பங்குத்தளங்களில் அருமையாக, ஆழமான அருட்பணிகளை ஆற்றியிருக்கின்றார். மேலும் படைப்பாற்றலோடு பல பணிகளை முன்னெடுத்திருக்கின்றார். குறிப்பாக, மறைமாவட்ட சமூகத்தொடர்பு பணிக்குழுவிலே தன்னை இணைத்துக்கொண்டு அருட்பணி ஆற்றியவர். இப்போது தொடர்ந்து நமது தமிழ் கத்தோலிக்க சங்கத்திற்கு தன் உடனிருப்பைக் கொடுத்து அருட்பணி ஆற்றி வருகின்றார்.

அமெரிக்காவிற்கு வந்தபிறகும் எளிமையால், பண்போடு, பக்குவமாக பழகுகின்ற பாணியால் அனைத்து தரப்பு மக்களையும் கவர்ந்து வருகின்றார். அருட்பணி வாழ்வின் 25 – ஆம் ஆண்டு நிறைவைக் கொண்டாடும் இவரையும் வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.

இவர்கள் இருவருடைய அருட்பணி வாழ்வும் இன்னும் இறையரசின் மதிப்பீடுகளோடு வளர, வளம் பெற வாழ்த்துக்கள்! இன்னும் தங்கள் அருட்பணி வாழ்வின் 50 – ஆம் ஆண்டு நிறைவையும் கொண்டாட வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.

# The People's Pope

*By Anusha Mathias*



Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born on December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. His grandparents and father were Italian immigrants fleeing the grips of the Mussolini's fascist regime. His grandmother, Rosa, nurtured Jorge's love of literature. Among his favorites is the Italian classic by Alessandro Manzoni's called, "I Promessi Sposi," or "The Betrothed". Jorge decided he was going to be a priest when he was sixteen years old. He was out with friends when he was overwhelmed by the need to go to the confessional in the local basilica in Buenos Aires. Cardinal Bergoglio said during a 2012 radio interview with a radio station in Buenos Aires, "I felt like someone grabbed me from inside and took me to the confessional." Although, Jorge first went to technical school and studied to be a chemical technician, before going to Diocesan Seminary of Villa Devoto. In March 1958, he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus. Jorge taught literature and psychology for three years in two different colleges. He then went to Colegio of San José to study theology and received a degree. Bergoglio finished his doctoral thesis in theology in Freiburg, Germany in 1986. Bergoglio was ordained a priest in December 1969. Twenty nine years later in February 1998, Bergoglio became archbishop of Buenos Aires. Three years later, in February 2001, Pope John Paul II named Bergoglio the cardinal-priest of Argentina. Bergoglio held that position for six years. After Pope John Paul II's death in April 2005, Bergoglio received the second-most votes in the 2005 papal conclave but Pope Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger) was chosen as Pope John Paul's successor. On March 13, 2013, at the age of 76, Jorge Bergoglio was named the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church and in doing so became the first citizen from the Americas, the first non-European and first Jesuit priest to be named pope. After becoming Pope, Bergoglio changed his name to Pope Francis, naming himself after St. Francis of Assisi of Italy.

Pope Francis (also known as the "people's pope) is beloved by the whole world, believers and non-believers. People love the pope because of his humbleness. The pope has chosen to live in the Vatican guesthouse instead of the lavish apartments that the previous popes resided in, but his humbleness did not begin when he became pope.

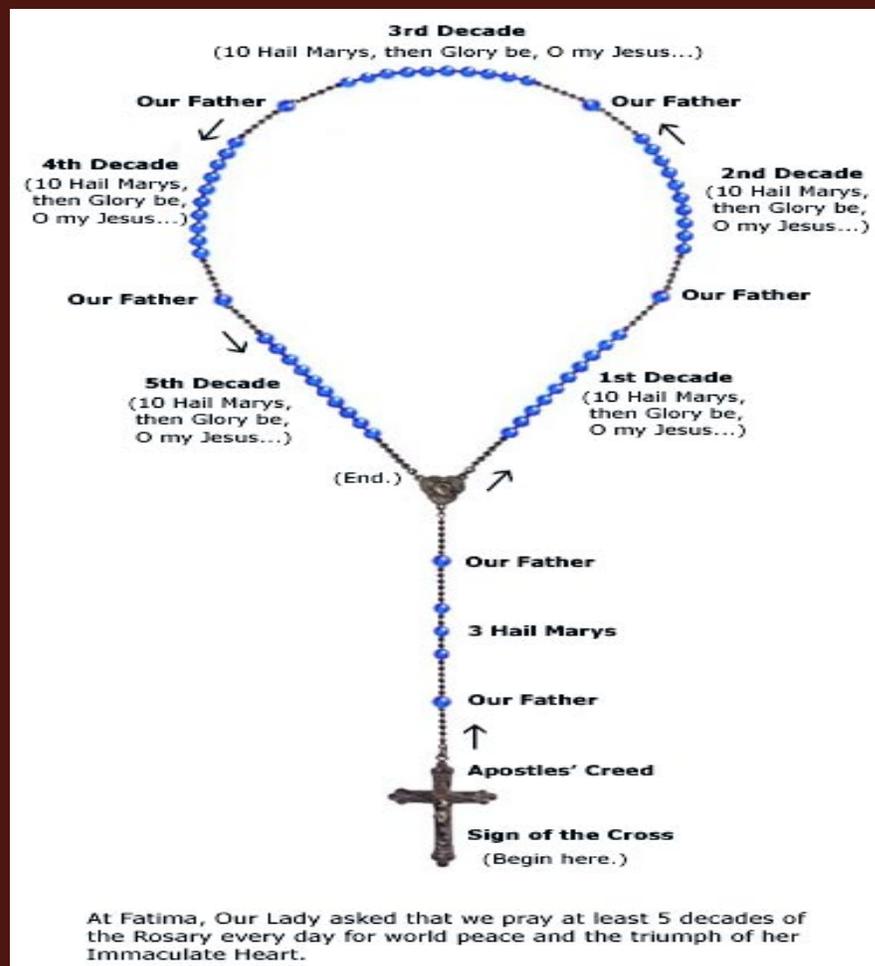
Many Argentines from his home country remember him as the priest that stayed in a small one bedroom house and helped the poor and prisoners. "The church asks all of us to change certain things," Francis said during one of his morning homilies, as he invoked a Scripture reading from St. Paul. "She asks us to let go of decadent structures — they are useless." The pope's morning masses always center around humility and poverty and they are usually attended by everyday men and women. The second aspect of the pope that the people love is that he loves the rejected. The pope has met with all kinds of people. The pope met with a man who was rejected by all because of a genetic problem that has affected his appearance. The pope also kissed the feet of many prisoners in a historical mass. Even as a pope, he goes out into the night to give the poor the Body and Blood of our Lord. These actions show that our pope is ready to do what the Lord commanded in Mark chapter twelve versus thirty through forty, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.", and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.' And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions." The third aspect of our pope that the people love is that he does not like money being spent on luxurious items but wants to spend it on the poor. The pope donated his Harley Davidson motorcycle to build a soup kitchen in Rome. When a new pope is elected all Vatican employees receive a bonus but Pope Francis took that money and gave it to a charity. The poor are whom we should shower our love upon says the pope. The Lord said that we have to love each other meaning we have to love and care for the lowliest of people and that is what our pope is doing. All in all, Pope Francis and his actions of humility, charity and love of the poorest of poor are appreciated and admired by all.

Our pope's mission is to bring the church, its, love and all to the lowliest of all people and the poor. He himself goes to the poor to help them and give them what they need. Two billion of the world's seven billion people live with two dollars a day and only two billion people own a washing machine, the other five billion wash their clothes by hand. There are so many gadgets that we use every day and take advantage of that *billions* of people have never seen or had access to. The pope's mission is not only for the Vatican, but for us to. We are the church, so go out today and donate some, food, clothes, and supplies to your local soup kitchen, church or shelter. Let us, the church, carry out and fulfill the pope's mission.

# OCTOBER

## Month of the Lady of the Most Holy Rosary

Mother Mary is the saint of the month of October. Mother Mary is our Lady and Mother in Heaven. We as children of God must seek her out for her grace because without the grace of Mother Mary we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. We are called to keep our hand in hers always and pray to her in times of trouble. Mother Mary shall intercede for us and ask Her son our Lord Jesus Christ to help us. A wonderful way to receive, Mother Mary's peace, love, grace and comfort is to pray the rosary. The diagram below shows how to pray the rosary.



# Happy Birthday...

Ajay Benno	9/11
Anbu Benzigar	10/31
Angel Ignatius	10/23
Anita Britto	10/30
Anto Inigo	9/2
Anton Fernando	10/31
Antony Palaniswami	10/29
Br. Dhanush Canisius	10/10
Calistus Mahipan	10/14
Daphne Christine Joseph	10/7
Francis Kennedy Joseph	9/25
Gerald	
Hannah Melner	9/10
Herswin Raj	9/26
Hyacinth Lawrence	10/30
Janita	10/24
Jehoash Melwyn Leo	9/27
Jenis Anbu	10/27
Jennifer Augastine	10/12
Jennifer Ligo	10/4
Jenocent Edward	9/7
Jessica Francis	9/28
Johan Fritz	9/17
John Thangaraj	9/10
Jonathan	
Kevin Antony	10/4
Kevin Titus	10/10
Lawrence Manickam	10/26
Lourdes Annie Nirmala Jayarayan	9/14
Mario Jayakumar	9/8
Mary Grace Francis	9/15

## Happy Birthday to...

Mary Lawrence	9/21
Birthday Michael Manoj	10/1
Michael Manoj	10/1
P Sebastian	9/30
J Xavier	10/26
Patricia Raj	10/11
Pradheeban	10/7
Precilla Raj	9/16
Raji Gabriel Pillai	10/4
Rev. Sahaya Justus	9/17
Rev. Theemas Pankiraj	10/30
Ricardo Stephen	9/22
Royce Arokiaraj	10/18
Ryan David	10/10
Ryan Vincent	9/5
Sahana Sahay	10/16
Salvina Peter	9/5
Shaffina Antony	9/6

## Happy Wedding Anniversary to...

Alex Amirtharaj	9/15
Anand Gaspar and Maria Dominique	9/10
Anton Ignatius and Anusha Ignatius	10/24
Antony Palaniswami and Linda Rose	9/8
Antony Rajan and Agnes Rita Rajan	9/4
Benno A Francis and Vijayanthi Benno	9/30
Eskalin Joe and Mary Vijila	10/17
Francis Kennedy Joseph and Isabel Francis	9/20
Peter Rajesh Selvaraj and Anitha Jayabalan	9/15
Ruban Soundrapandyan and Sahayarani Antony Dasan	9/10
Sahay Antony Rajan and Sherin Fernando	10/20
Vinodh Benzigar and Priya Vinodh	10/27