

MAY 2011

BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவோம்



THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

PRAY TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

"Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL MASS FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Location:

Mission Church at Santa Clara University,
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053

When: Saturday, May 28, 10:30AM

Sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/3vs7nfr>

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL

St. Joseph International Festival is from May 20 - 22, 2011. BATCC, like last year will have a food booth. Volunteers are welcome to help out during the festival. Please click here to sign up as volunteers.

Location:

St. Joseph's School
1120 Miramonte Ave
Mountain View, CA 94040

When: May 20 - 22, 2011

LENTEN RETREAT - A LOOK OVER

Behold I have prepared my banquet,

Those who give their time and energy to God will be blessed abundantly. "The more you honor me, the more I will bless you". Our community made a retreat in the beautiful and serene atmosphere in St. Patrick's Seminary. Our hearty gratitude to Father Arockiaraj who made the retreat in this special place possible. This is the place where God prepares his chosen people to serve us.

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Joseph from Los Angeles was our chief guest and he led us on spiritual songs and themes such as God's love and Mercy and forgiveness. Rev. Fr. Chris Arockiaraj, Professor of philosophy and psychology, talked to us about family life and marriage. Father John Peter delivered a very moving message about the Eucharist and how we receive Jesus in the Eucharist. The children had separate sessions with the priests; Fr. Lawrence conducted a praise and music session with them.

The children also thoroughly enjoyed a session with Rev. Fr. John Peter who played games and kept the kids engaged as he ministered to them.

God blessed us with so many priests this time, who happily served our community at this retreat.

If you are not registered on our yahoo group kindly register following the URL <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BayAreaTamilCatholic/> to receive more info about our community.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - MOTHERS IN BIBLE

A mother is a special person and honored in a special way in the Bible. Mary and Elizabeth are the mothers who come to our mind when we think of famous Bible mothers. As we read in the Bible, Mary visited Elizabeth and helped her while they both were approaching motherhood. Though Elizabeth was going to be an older mom their age difference was insignificant as they found joy in helping each other.

Jesus Christ many times spoke about mothers. Few examples are listed below.

"Truly I tell you," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Luke 10:29-31

In another instance Jesus said we all can be His brothers, sisters or mothers. "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." Matthew 12:50

Jesus said to children "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Ephesians 6:1-3

If we take the life of Christ, He made arrangements to take care of His mother before His death.

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home". John 19:26-27

A mother's importance in raising her children is also given in Ezekiel 16:44 "As is the mother, so is her daughter."

We have seen few examples of mothers and how they lived. I hope all modern day mothers will be inspired by their living and the lives of their children.

While we shop around for the greatest and latest things to please our moms, let us not forget to pray for her good health, to raise her family with the fear of God and for a place to her in heaven. These are the everlasting gifts that any mom would imagine.

A prayer for modern mothers:

Heavenly Father we thank you for the gift of motherhood. Help us to seek your guidance for ourselves and our children. Give us patience, kindness, forgiveness, humbleness, wisdom, faithfulness and love. Grant us strength to do the will of the Father so that we all can be the mothers of Christ. Amen.

Wish you all a very happy mother's day.

Yours in Christ
Leenus Rich

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

LENTEN RETREAT

- By Fredrick Kumar (6 years old) on what he learnt at the retreat...

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn 8:12.

Light is essential for every living creatures. Without light no life exists. That is why we often associate light with Jesus. The light is the symbol for Jesus. The Psalmist and the prophet Isaiah spoke God as light. In Psalm 27:1 we read, "The LORD is my light and my salvation". In Isaiah 60:19 we read, "No longer shall the sun be your light by day, Nor the brightness of the moon shine upon you at night; The LORD shall be your light forever". In Isaiah 60:1 we read that the Messiah is the light, "Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you". When Simeon held the baby Jesus in his hand, he said, "A light for revelation to the Gentiles" (Lk 2:32). In John 8:12 and John 9:5, Jesus himself tells us that He is the light.

Light help us to see things. Jesus helps us to see our own life and where it leads us. Light guides us in our earthly journey. Jesus guides us in our heavenly journey. Light is needed for life to exist. Jesus gives us everlasting life. Light gives us warmth. Jesus gives us comfort. Light prevents crime. When we are in the light of Christ we cannot sin. That is why John writes in his Gospel, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world" (Jn 1:9). Easter helps us

overcome the power of sin. Holy Spirit gives us the Gift of Faith. Without this gift Easter has no benefit to us. On the feast of Pentecost, When the apostles received the Holy spirit, they were able to courageously come out of their hide out and were able to spread the good news. On June 12th 2011, on the Pentecost feast let us also ask the Holy Spirit to give us his seven gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety and fear of God). With these gifts we can be the children of light, so that we can reflect this light of Jesus to others in home, work, school and in church. Our good deeds will light the path for others. Let us start with simple things like saying a prayer for someone who is sick or in need of prayer. A simple phone call or a letter or email to someone who is lonely. This will brighten their day and they may glorify God. In this Easter season when we see the paschal candle let us remember the words Jesus spoke in Mathew 5:14-16,

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father".

Yours in Christ,
Agnes P. Raj

"God loves all of us, so we have to serve him, our Lord Jesus Christ. God will bless you, thank you for being at the Church for the retreat. We are all the people of God. We are the light of God. Jesus blessed us with our love. God always forgives. Without God, we would be useless. We praise and worship him. We never make fun of the Lord. Jesus is our shepherd. But instead of a hundred sheep, there is a billion people. God thinks we are precious. God gives us the path. Without God, we would get lost.

Jesus died on the cross because Adam and Eve made a mistake and Cain murdered the other brother. That's why Jesus died on the cross for us. Samson was a really strong man, because he listened to God. Okay! God cannot always protect us; try to do good choices like: pray! Do not do the seven deadly sins.

- Hate
- Anger
- Pride
- Sloth

Follow the ten commandments. Do not kill. Do not treat your parents bad. The retreat gives food for free. Please take the food, please do not feel shy to take the food. Without fathers, and parents and God, we will all die. God made the world for a purpose. And that purpose is Jesus. Jesus came not to give speeches, but to restore the word of our Lord."

A CAB RIDE

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked. 'Just a minute', answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

'Would you carry my bag out to the car?' she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb...She kept thanking me for my kindness. 'It's nothing', I told her. 'I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated'.

'Oh, you're such a good boy', she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'Could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly. 'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice'.

I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in soft voice. 'The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter.

'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl.

Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

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As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now'.

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

'How much do I owe you?' She asked, reaching into her purse.

'Nothing,' I said. 'You have to make a living,' she answered. 'There are other passengers,' I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. 'You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,' she said. 'Thank you.' I squeezed her hand, and they walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life.

I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID OR WHAT YOU SAID -BUT- THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

Mr. John Martin
<http://tib-et.blogspot.com>