

## BAY AREA TAMIL CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

இனிய தமிழால் இறைவனில் இணைவாம்

AUGUST 2011



## THE ASSUMPTION

PRAY TO MOTHER MARY

"Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. Amen.

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT - PLEASING GOD NOT MEN

**O**ur tongue is the most dangerous weapon we have in our body. For us Christians we should use our tongue in a disciplined manner. The Bible warns that believers who do not bring restraint to their tongue and speech have been deceived and without such control over their words, their religious acts are worthless and hypocritical.

**If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless** (James 1:26).

**The stroke of the whip maketh marks in the flesh: but the stroke of the tongue breaketh the bones** (Sirach 28:17).

The bridle is one which placed on the horse's mouth to control it. In the same way we must ask Holy Spirit to bridle our tongue so that we are not breaking anyone's bones by our words and be the true followers of our religion.

Jesus tells us below we are accountable for each and every word we speak and we will be judged by our words. **"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned"** (Matt. 12:36-37).

If we feel our tongue is out of control let us ask God to forgive us and to change it. Let us pray as King David did. **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, o LORD, my strength and my Redeemer"** (Psalms 19:14).

It is very important that our words are pleasing God not pleasing human beings. We all like to look good and have the approval of others, but looking good to others is not what God wants. While we all want to be the limelight of every occasion let us not forget that it is not as important as walking humbly and simply with our Lord.

Let us meditate the following bible verse and try our best to practice them.

**For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ** (Galatians 1:10).

As servants of Christ, we must always be careful that our motive and our aim is to please God, not men. If we look for the approval of men, eventually we will become disappointed.

As Jesus said if we want to receive rewards from God our aim should be pleasing God not men.

**"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven."** (Matthew 6:1)

When we compete for the best position let us examine ourselves whether we are trying to please God or men. In the same way let us examine ourselves our words and actions are going to get us reward from God or men.

Yours in Christ  
Leenus Rich

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## SANGAMAM

BATCC's Sangaman will be celebrated on August 27, 2011. Below are the details

**Time : 2:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Date : Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**Venue: Our Lady of Peace Church,  
2800 Mission College Boulevard,  
Santa Clara, CA 95054**

## CHILDREN'S RETREAT

**Date : SEPTEMBER 10 & 11, 2011**

**Time : 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**Venue: St. Joseph's Church, Mountain View**

## BATCC PRAYER GROUP

**Date : SEPTEMBER 10, 2011**

**Time : 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM**

**Venue: St. Joseph's Church, Mountain View**

## IN THE NEWS

## BATCC ELECTION

You are encouraged to make a difference in the governance of our community by participating in this year's BATCC election. We will send out details explaining the election process and open positions soon.

Your support is needed to help our community elect motivated community members.

Sincerely,

BATCC Board.

Interested in contributing to the newsletter?  
Please contact [board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)

## PRAYER

Summer is over and it is the beginning of a new school year. For some, especially for moms, it is once again the time for routines after a relaxed summer schedule. In the midst of our routines and the excitement of the new school year we must remember to pray. Prayer is essential for our faith life. A person who prays grows in spirit and life.

We Christians learn to pray through Jesus. Jesus himself prayed. He prayed for guidance in quiet places early in the mornings (Mk1:35). He prayed for his believers and his disciples (Jn17:20-21). He did prayers of thanksgiving (Mk14:22). He prayed before choosing his disciples (Lk6:12). He fasted and prayed for forty days in the desert before taking his cross to Calvary (Mt26:39). Jesus loved his Father very much. He communicated with him often. He asked His Father for wisdom and guidance in his ministry.

Jesus also taught us to pray through the "Lord's Prayer". The Lord's Prayer offers us the grace of Jesus, provide us what we need, gives strength to face the difficulties of life.

Holy spirit is the great teacher of prayer. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles to strengthen them from their weakness. In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray (Rom 8:26). On the feast of the Pentecost Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily "Come, Holy Spirit! Enkindle in us the fire of your love! We know that this is a bold prayer, with which we ask to be touched by the flame of God; but we know above all that this flame -- and only it -- has the power to save us. We do not want, in defending our life, to lose the eternal life that God wants to give us. We need the fire of the Holy Spirit, because only Love redeems".

Scriptures also teaches us how to pray. Moses prayed for his people who are hungry and weak (Ex15:11-13). King David prayed to God by praising. His prayers are found in the books of Psalms. Holy spirit teaches us to pray through the people in the scriptures. By imitating them, our life of prayer can grow strong.

Life is not easy. It is a daily battle. We are too busy. We are chasing the time. Each day we face new challenges either in the school or in the family. By the end of the day we are too lazy to pray. Sickness, failures, fear, false promises can crush our spirits. Prayer is the only tool we have through which we face these challenges. Yes of course you will be tired after the long day. But why wait till the end of the day when you have time while waiting for your kids in the soccer field or in front of your piano teacher's house while your children taking lessons. You can pray a simple prayer of thanks giving or you can pray for someone whom you came across needs a prayer. You can read a passage from the Bible, read a Psalm or say a decade of rosary. You can also pray for Yourself. You can pray for wisdom and knowledge to face this new school year.

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus (1Thess 5:17-19)

Yours in Christ,  
Agnes P. Raj

## SOMETHING TO PONDER FATHER & SONS

A father had a family of sons who were perpetually quarreling among themselves. When he failed to heal their disputes by his exhortations, he determined to give them a practical illustration of the evils of disunion.

One day he told his sons to bring him a bundle of sticks. When they had done so, he placed the fagot into the hands of each of them in succession, and ordered them to break it in pieces. They tried with all their strength, and were not able to do it.

He next opened the fagot, took the sticks separately, one by one, and again put them into his sons' hands, upon which they broke them easily. He then addressed them in these words:

"My sons, if you are of one mind, and unite to assist each other, you will be as strong as this fagot, uninjured by all the attempts of your enemies, but if you are divided among yourselves, you will be broken as easily as these sticks."

## TWO BROTHERS AND THE CARPENTER

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict.

It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labour and goods as needed without a hitch. Then the long collaboration fell apart.

It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?" "Yes," said the older brother.

"I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence -- an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place anymore.

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped.

There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge -- a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all -- and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers met at the middle of the bridge, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have so many more bridges to build."

Are we building bridges or fences?

Unforgiveness will make you a slave..... Forgive and Forget....

