

## UPDATE

BATCC, wishes to thank our departing Chief Financial Officer, Joseph Raja for his contributions to our community. Joseph has been a key volunteer leader over the years. We wish the best of luck to this wonderful friend and we sincerely thank him for all his volunteer service.

We also welcome Arokiaraj Michael, our new Chief Financial Officer as BATCC look forward to continued success. Arokiaraj is very excited about taking responsibility and we are sure his enthusiasm and talent will carry our community forward successfully in the coming years.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUG 26, 7 AM TO 2 PM HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

St. Joseph's Church, Mountain View, CA

### SEP 29, 3 PM TO 9 PM SANGAMAM

BATCC's 9th anniversary celebration at Our Lady of Peace Church, Santa Clara, CA

### OCT 12, 6 PM TO 8 PM AN EVENING WITH MOTHER MARY

St. Elizabeth Church, Sequoia Dr, Milpitas CA

### OCT 27 SPORTS DAY

Location and Timings to be decided

## Forgiveness

**Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Matthew 18: 22**

Forgiveness is the hard part for any human being. It is very easy to say to others but when it comes to us we all know what are all the excuses we say, what are all the conditions we put together and what are all the workarounds we do to bypass or escape from the forgiveness.

Jesus tells us how forgiveness is very important to us by the excellent parable below:

**"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**

"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

"At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

**"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I**

**cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.**

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (Matthew 18:21-35)

As we read above forgiveness comes from God. Even though we go to confession every day God forgives us only when we forgive others.

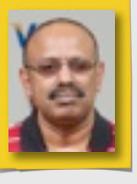
We are often hurt when others talk against us or do against us but in our daily life we fail to realize that how many times we hurt others by our words and actions.

Jesus did not tell this parable only for others. He also practiced it in His life. Even in the dead-bed He prayed for the forgiveness of those who were killing Him.

Being a human it is very hard for us to forget and forgive. Human mind will rehearse again and again whatever happened in the past even for years. It is very hard for us to forget everything and forgive immediately as Jesus did but let us try our best effort to come closer to each other day by day by keeping aside our bitterness and differences. Otherwise God will say to us "you wicked servant, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'"



- Leenus Rich



### இம் மாதத்தின் புனிதர்

புனித மோனிக்கா 332 இல் வடக்கு ஆபிரிக்காவிலுள்ள Tagaste என்ற இடத்தில் ஒரு கத்தோலிக்க குடும்பத்தில் பிறந்தாள். சிறு வயது முதல் கடவுள் பக்தி நிறைந்தவளாக விளங்கினாள். அவள் பிற மத சமயத்திராண பற்றிசியஸ் என்பவரை மணந்தாள். ஆனால் பற்றிசியஸ் தமது தீய கோபக் குணங்களால் மோனிகாவை சித்திரவதை செய்தார். ஆனால் மோனிக்கா யாரிடமும் இதனை கூறாமல், இடைவிடாமல் அவருக்காக பிரார்த்தனை செய்தாள். அதன் பயனாக பற்றிசியஸ் 371 ஆம் ஆண்டு கத்தோலிக்க மதத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டார். 372 ஆம் ஆண்டு இறக்கும் தருவாயில் திருமுழுக்கு பெற்று நன்மரணம் அடைந்தார். இதுபோலவே பற்றிசியஸ்ஸின் தாயாரும் மதம் மாறினாள். இந்த மகிழ்ச்சியில் திளைத்த மோனிகாவுக்கு ஒரு துயர் செய்தி கிடைத்தது. அது தம் மகன் அகுஸ்தினார் கத்தோலிக்க மதத்திற்கு எதிரான வாழ்கிறார் என்பதுதான்.

அகுஸ்தினார் 354 ஆம் ஆண்டு நவம்பர் மாதம் 13 ஆம் நாள் Tagaste என்ற இடத்தில் பிறந்தார். சிறு வயதிலேயே மிக்க அறிவுடையவராக விளங்கினார். அகுஸ்தினார் கல்வியில் சிறந்து விளங்கினார். அதே வேளை ரொம்ப பிடிவாதக் குணத்தை கொண்டிருந்தார். பாவ வாழ்க்கையில் ஈடுபட்டார். மோனிக்கா வழக்கம் போல் கடவுளிடம் அகுஸ்தினாருக்காக அழுது புலம்பி வேண்டிக்கொண்டாள். மோனிக்கா அகுஸ்தினாரை அடிக்கடி மனம் திரும்ப அறிவுறுத்தினாள். அதனால் அகுஸ்தினார் மோனிகாவுக்கு தெரியாமல் ரோம் நகருக்கு சென்றார். ஆனால் மோனிக்கா அவரை தொடர்ந்து அங்கே போனாள். ஆனால் அதற்குள் அகுஸ்தினார் மிலான் நகருக்கு சென்று விட்டார். மோனிக்கா இத்தாலி நாட்டிற்கு சென்று மிலான் நகரை அடைந்தாள். இவ்வாறு பயணம் செய்து கொண்டு இருந்தாலும் மோனிக்கா அகுஸ்தினாருக்காக செபம் செய்ய தவறவில்லை. மிலான் நகரில் புனித அம்புரோஸ், அகுஸ்தினாருக்கு முன்மாதிரிகையாக இருந்தார். புனித அம்புரோசின் பிரசங்கம் மற்றும் போதனை அகுஸ்தினாரை சிந்திக்க வைத்தது. அவர் மனம் திருந்தினாலும் கத்தோலிக்க மதத்தை தழுவ மறுத்தது. அவர் தம்மால் இனி தூய வாழ்கை வாழ முடியாது என்று நினைத்தார். ஒரு நாள் தற்செயலாக இரு மனம் திருந்திய கத்தோலிக்கரின் பேச்சு அவர் காதில் விழுந்தது.

அவர்கள் வனத்து அந்தோனியாரின் (St Antony of the desert ) வாழ்க்கை வரலாறு அவர்களை எந்த அளவுக்கு மாற்றியது என்று பேசிக் கொண்டார்கள். அதனை கேட்ட அகுஸ்தினார் வெட்கம் கொண்டார். உடனே தோட்டம் ஒன்றிற்கு சென்று அங்கு மனம் வருந்தி அழுதார். "இன்னும் எவ்வளவு காலம் ஆண்டவரே? உடனே எனது பாவ வாழ்வை விட்டு விலகுகிறேன்" என்றார். அப்போது ஒரு குழந்தை "அதனை எடுத்து வாசி" என்று கூறியது கேட்டது. ஆண்டவரே அவருக்கு அப்படி கூறியதாக எண்ணி உடனே விவிலியத்தை எடுத்து திறந்தார். அதில் புனித சின்னப்பர் ரோமையருக்கு 13 ஆம் அதிகாரத்தில் பாவ வாழ்வை மறந்து கிறிஸ்துவை போல் வாழ கேட்டு கொள்வதை படித்தார். இதுவே அகுஸ்தினாரின் வாழ்வில் திருப்பத்தை ஏற்படுத்தியது.

387 ஆம் ஆண்டு அகுஸ்தினார் புனித அம்புரோசினால் திரு முழுக்கு பெற்றார். 391 இல் குருவாக நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். விரைவிலேயே (395 இல்) மேற்றாணியாராக உயர்த்தப்பட்டார். அவர் கத்தோலிக்க மதத்தின் நிபுணராக சிந்தனையாளராக விளங்கினார். பல புத்தகங்களை வெளியிட்டார். இதனால் புனித அகுஸ்தினார் அச்சு தொழில் செய்வோரின் பாதுகாவலராக போற்றப்படுகிறார். அவர் அகுஸ்தினார் குரு மடத்தையும் நிறுவினார்.

ஒரு நாள் அகுஸ்தினார் கடற்கரையோரம் தமத்திருதுவத்தை பற்றி சிந்தித்தவண்ணம் நடந்து கொண்டிருந்தார். எப்படி மூன்று ஆட்கள் ஒரே கடவுளாக இருக்க முடியும் என்று குழம்பினார். அப்போது ஒரு சிறிய குழந்தை தனது கையினால் கடல் நீரை ஒரு சிறிய குழியில் ஊற்றுவதை பார்த்தார். அகுஸ்தினார் அக்குழந்தையிடம் என்ன செய்கிறாய் என்று கேட்டார். அதற்கு அக்குழந்தை கடல் தண்ணீர் முழுவதையும் இக்குழியில் போடப்போகிறேன் என்று கூறியது. உடனே அகுஸ்தினார் இவ்வளவு பெரிய கடலை எப்படி இந்த சிறிய குழியில் இட முடியும் என்றார். உடனே அக்குழந்தையும் அதே போல்தான் உம்முடைய சிறிய முளையினால் தமத்திருதுவத்தை அறிந்து கொள்ள முடியாது என்று கூறி மறைந்தது. அது ஒரு தேவ தூதர் என்று உணர்ந்தார். கடவுளுக்கு நன்றி கூறிய வண்ணம் திரும்பி சென்றார்.

மோனிக்கா 387 ஆம் ஆண்டு ரோம் நகரில் உயிர் துறந்தார். அகுஸ்தினார் 430 ஆம் ஆண்டு ஆகஸ்ட் மாதம் 28 ஆம் நாள் விண்ணுலகம் சென்றார். புனித மோனிகாவின் நினைவு நாள் ஆகஸ்ட் 27 ஆம் நாளும் புனித அகுஸ்தினார் நினைவு நாள் ஆகஸ்ட் 28 ஆம் நாளும் கொண்டாடப்படுகிறது.

- ஜோ. நடட்டார்

### WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board ([board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. A# articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.

## Helping A Young Blind Man — from www.helpothers.org

The other day I was at Subway, grabbing lunch with some friends.

I received my order, sat it on a table, and went to the bathroom to wash my hands. On my way back I noticed a young man struggling to get his drink. He was spilling everything and making a mess. He was looking for the lids but reaching in the wrong trays and dropping straws and napkins everywhere.

As I got close to him I notice why. He was blind.

I saw that he had still not gotten his drink so I went over and offered to help. I asked him what drink he wanted. Then, instead of getting the drink for him, I took his hands and guided him through the process.

After we were done I took him by the hand and led him to the table. I asked him if he needed anything else and he said he was fine, so I left.

One thing I have learned through the quarter century that I have been on this earth is that there is no such thing as coincidence; I strongly believe that everything does happen for a reason. I also believe that wherever a person is at any given time is where they are supposed to be. I say this because after lunch I was going to leave the city and head back to my side of town but I decided to head to the community college that was only walking distance away just to socialize.

About two hours later I was heading to my car and the rain started pouring down. I took shelter under the canopy of a nearby building, and then I saw the young blind man again. He was trying to cross the street and using his stick to make sure that nothing was in his way. He pressed the button so the light would turn red and allow for

a walking signal. He was hesitant about crossing the street and just stood there.

I didn't have an umbrella and I had about an hour and half of driving to get back home so I knew I would be soaked for the ride back. But then I thought to myself, would I really let the rain get in the way of me helping this young man cross the street? The answer was obvious so, of course, I went to his aide.

I went up to him and said, "Hi!" He smiled and said, "Hey! You are the young lady who helped me back at the restaurant."

I smiled and said, "Yes." Then I took his hand and led him across the street. I asked him how he normally gets around and he said he does fine but he never crosses the street alone in the rain because he can never tell if a car is coming since he can't hear so well over the sound of the rain. I asked him how he knew I was the same person from the restaurant. I have heard before that when people lose one sense the others get stronger. So I expected him to tell me something weird like he could smell me, but instead he said that he remembered my energy! He said he could feel it just like before!

I smiled as we exchanged introductions for the first time. We made it to the other side of the street and he told me he was safe now and could make the rest of the way on his own. So, we said good-bye and went our separate ways.

As I got in my car to go home I was soaking wet but on the inside I felt warm. I was glad that I was able to be in both places to help that young man out even if it was very simple. He helped me as well. He told me I had a positive energy and that made me feel great about myself. So wherever he is today, I hope he knows what a pleasure it was for me to have those two moments with him.

## Prayer, Our Constant Occupation

The technique is always the same. To rid our heart of its surrounding dross; to listen to it where it is already at prayer; to yield ourselves to that prayer until the Spirit's prayer becomes our own.

As a monk of the Byzantine period once taught: "Anyone who attends carefully to his heart, letting no other notions and fantasies get in, will soon observe how in the nature of things his heart engenders light. Just as coals are set ablaze and the candle is kindled by the fire, so God sets our heart aflame for contemplation. He who since our baptism has made our heart his dwelling-place."

Another monk of that period used a different metaphor to say the same thing. He was to an extraordinary degree a man of prayer,



someone absolutely carried away by prayer, which was his constant occupation. He was asked how he had reached that state. He replied that he found it hard to explain. "Looking back," he said, "my impression is that for many, many years I was carrying prayer within my heart, but did not know it at the time.

It was like a spring, but one covered by a stone. Then at a certain moment Jesus took the stone away. At that the spring began to flow and has been flowing ever since."

*Fr. André Lour*  
www.catholiceducation.org

**Little Ellie & The Olympian: The Kindest Race Ever**

-- by Huffington Post

He's a world record holding sprinter from South Africa. She's a spunky 5-year-old from Essex, England. In an inspiring series of images that have recently gone viral, the two strangers, united only by a stubborn refusal to let double amputations stop them, race each other in a friendly bionic foot race. Oscar "Blade Runner" Pistorious, 25, was just 11 months old when



doctors discovered he had no fibulas, requiring below-the-knee amputations of both his legs. Ellie May Challis lost both her hands and legs at 16 months, after contracting a severe case of meningitis.

Although Ellie was originally fitted with standard prosthetics, the toddler found them difficult to walk with. More sophisticated carbon fiber legs -- the kind worn by Pistorious -- were expensive, but Ellie's community rallied behind her, raising the \$15,000 needed for the replacements. In 2009, the 5-year-old became the youngest person ever to be fitted with carbon fiber prostheses.

Held at an indoor track in Enfield, North London, little Ellie actually bested the champion sprinter in all four of their 15-meter races, to the cheers of her twin sister Sophie, and older siblings Taila and Connor.

In a historic announcement, Pistorious, who runs using special

Cheetah Flex Footlimbs, was granted permission to race in the London 2012 Olympic Games, reversing a ban by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The International Association of Athletics had ruled Pistorious could not compete in the games because his Flex Foot limbs represented an unfair advantage. However, the Court reviewed evidence from two new (and conflicting) studies before making its ruling in favor of Pistorious.

Pistorious qualified for the semifinal heat of the 400 meter race on Sunday, but failed to qualify for the finals. His time, 46.54 seconds, was two seconds slower than the heat's winner, reigning world champion Kirani James of Grenada. In a show of respect and sportsmanship, James embraced Pistorious after the race and asked to exchange bib numbers.

"I just see him as another athlete, another competitor," James told reporters the day before the semifinal. "What's more important is I see him as another person. He's someone I admire and respect."

For his part, in an interview on the TODAY show, Pistorious said he will cherish his Olympic memories for "the rest of [his] life." As his 89-year-old grandmother watched from the stands, Pistorious said, "Hearing the roar of the crowd and knowing that there were so

many people behind me just made it that much more enjoyable.



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