

Happy Father's Day

May God bless our Fathers

One day to recognize our fathers who shower their love, care and affection in a unique way is not enough to thank and appreciate all that our fathers do for us. Fathers are a great role model who share their knowledge and guide children in many different ways. For the many responsibilities they shoulder in raising a family, let us celebrate this day to express our love and gratitude. Let us pray to God to bless our Fathers all the time. May all our Fathers, Grandfathers and Godfathers feel the meaningful, prayerful love in our families, in the presence of OUR LORD, OUR ALMIGHTY FATHER.

- Shanthi Raja

Thank you!

Thanks for making our Mother's day celebration on May 19, 2012 very special. I hope everyone who had the chance to participate in the Mass felt very happy. Sincere thanks to Fr. Christy for saying the Mass and blessing all mothers. It was very moving to see him present a rose to his mother.

I'd like to offer my appreciation to the children (Jessica, Manu, Roger, Oliver, Jessica, Danica, Rowena and Edwin) and Sudhahar (the only adult!) who had made special arts/write-ups for their mothers/wife. All these children's mothers will get a special gift. Their work has been posted on our [Facebook](#) page.

I would like to recognize and thank Buvana for handling the children's liturgy and giving an opportunity for the children to make lanterns for their mommies. Thank you kindly to Sudha for helping her.

I'd like to offer my appreciation for everyone's support, excitement and encouragement. Again, thanks to everyone for making this event so extraordinary!

- Joseph William

Come Holy Spirit

"They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke of the great things God had done, Alleluia." Acts 2, 4



In this past 3 months from February 22nd to May 27th, we have walked with Jesus to discover His deepest desire for us. Now with the celebration of Pentecost completed, how are we going to show our love for Him. Who is going to guide us in this new life? When Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away from Him. When Jesus appeared in the upper room after resurrection, He did not condemn them nor convict them, but convinced them that their lives will be blest, if they allowed the Spirit to breathe within them and through them. (Jn 20:22). He also told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them in power (Acts 1:8). So the apostles along with Mary and other women were in the upper room praying when they received the Holy Spirit. Immediately upon receiving the Holy Spirit the disciples went out to bring the new life. This was a special manifestation of the Holy Spirit that resulted in the birth of the Church.

It was not easy for the disciples to bring the new life. They faced a lot of trials in their journey. The Holy Spirit guided them and gave them the strength to face these trials. We also face so many trails in our life. The biggest trial may be when God ask : "Can you leave this _____ behind if I ask you to?" And the blank here can be filled by most hard earned position, or idea, or strength or talent or interest or . . . well the trials might go on and on before the glory of the Kingdom becomes possible in our lives. We need to remember that Holy Spirit will walk within us to lead and guide us to fulfill our mission as his disciples. I would like to share here how the Holy spirit

guided me in writing these articles for the newsletter.

I had the thirst of writing hidden in my heart for the past six years. Only the thirst was there but not the drive. Two thing that stopped me from writing. One is, I had no confidence in me. The next is I had a doubt who will read my article or who will publish my writings. So I did not move my fingers. On January 1st of 2010, I asked God for the gift of writing. I also asked the Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and give his guidance. I continued to pray when I went to India that summer. I attended the weekly prayer in the Arunkodai Illam, Trichy. When I came back from India, I saw in the BATCC newsletter an open call for anyone to contribute a 200 word article for the newsletter. So I thought of giving it a try. Before I did, I prayed to the Holy Spirit to guide me. My first article, coincidentally called 'The Gift' was published in the November 2010 newsletter. Praise and Thanks to God. The Holy Spirit who guided me will also guide you. Just give it a try and say this prayer with me.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

- Agnes P. Raj



இம் மாதத்தின் புனிதர்

பதுவை பதியரான புனித அந்தோனியார் லிஸ்பன் நாட்டில் 1195 ஆம் ஆண்டு பிறந்தார். அவரது தந்தை செல்வந்தராக இருந்தார். பெற்றோரின் விருப்பை ஏற்காமல் 15 ஆவது வயதில் புனித அகுஸ்தினாரின் சபையில் சேர்ந்தார். அங்கு அவர் 9 வருடங்கள் இறையியல் படிப்பில் முழு கவனம் செலுத்தினார். அவரது ஞாபக சக்தி வியக்கத்தக்கதாக இருந்தது. பாப்பாண்டவர் 9 வது கிரகோரியர் சொன்னது என்னவென்றால் "உலகத்திலுள்ள எல்லா விவிலிய புத்தகங்கள் தொலைந்து போனாலும் சகோதரர் அந்தோணி விவிலியத்தை எழுதித் தருவார்" என்றார். இந்த ஞாபக சக்தியின் காரணமாக புனித அந்தோனியார் காணாமல் போன பொருட்களை கண்டு பிடித்து தருபவராக போற்றப்படுகிறார். 25 ஆம் வயதில் பிரான்சிஸ்கன் சபையில் சேர்ந்தார். அங்கு அவர் பல உயர் பதவிகளை வகித்தார். போப்பாண்டவர் 9 ஆம் கிரகோரியாரின் தூதுவராக விளங்கினார்.

புனித அந்தோனியார் பிரசங்கம் செய்வதில் வல்லவராக இருந்தார். ஒரு முறை மக்கள் அவரது பிரசங்கத்தை கேட்காததால் மீன்களுக்கு போதனை செய்தார். மீன்கள் வந்து அவரது போதனையை கேட்டன. 1231 ஆம் ஆண்டு கடைசி முறையாக பதுவை நகரில் அவரது பிரசங்கம் நடந்தது. அது ஓர் மிகப் பெரிய மாற்றத்தை உருவாக்கியது. பதுவை நகரே ஏழை மக்களின் கடன்களை ரத்து செய்தது. அவர் இறக்கும் தருவாயில் அவர் ஓய்வு எடுக்க

சென்றிருந்த இடத்திலிருந்து பதுவைக்கு செல்ல கேட்டுக்கொண்டார். ஒரு மாட்டு வண்டியில் செல்லும் வழியில் Arcella என்ற கிராமத்தில் 36வது வயதில் 13 ஜூன் 1231 ஆம் நாள் இறந்தார். அவரது நாக்கு இன்றும் அழியாமல் லிஸ்பன் நகரில் இருக்கிறது. இது அவரது விவிலிய வாக்கு வன்மையை உணர்த்துகிறது. அவர் இறந்து ஒரு வருடத்திற்குள் அவரை புனிதராக அறிவித்தார்கள். இதுவரை இவ்வளவு விரைவாக யாரும் புனிதர் பட்டம் பெற்றதில்லை.

தமிழ் நாட்டில் உவரி புனித அந்தோனியார் கோயில் உலக பிரசித்திபெற்றது. 450 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன்னர் போர்ச்சுகல் நாட்டிலிருந்து வந்த ஒரு கப்பல் காலரா நோயினால் அவதி பட்டது. கப்பலில் இருந்த ஒரு தச்சன் மரத்தினால் ஒரு புனித அந்தோனியார் உருவச் சிலையை செதுக்கினார். அவர்கள் நோயிலிருந்து நிவாரணம் பெற்றதால் கரை சேர்ந்த உவரியில் ஒரு அந்தோனியார் குடிமை கட்டினார்கள். 1940 இல் ஊர் மக்கள் அதனை கோவிலாக உருவாக்கினார்கள். அங்கு அந்த உருவச் சிலை மக்கள் வழிபாட்டுக்காக உள்ளது. இன்றும் அங்கு பல பதுமைகள் நடக்கின்றன.

வரும் புதன் 13 ஆம் நாள் புனித அந்தோனியாரின் திருநாளை கொண்டாடும் நாங்கள் அவரிடம் நமது ஆன்ம உடல் நலன்களுக்காக மன்றாடுவோம்.

- ஜோ. நடட்டார்

A Man, A Father, A Hero

A Man: God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. As we can read from the Bible, God created Man as the last creature so that he can enjoy all the natural wealth that God has already made for him. And, he made a woman to be the best companion for the rest of his life. The man was created to love and to be loved and honored for he is responsible for the happiness of the family in the same way God is responsible for the Happiness of the world.

A Father: The Christian father is really an instrument in God's hand. For the husband is head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church; and he is the savior of the body. A father's first responsibility is to acquaint his children with Scripture. The children always see dads as their role model. As the father is faithful in role modeling, the children will have a better chance to learn about God and that will put them in Good

standing throughout their earthly lives, no matter what they do or where they go.

A Hero: The Father's First responsibility is to build a strong base for his family. He works really hard to make a standard for his family so that his children can grow from a strong foundation and they can live their life with strong faith and great knowledge that they acquired from their father. There May be lots of super Heroes like Superman, Spiderman, Batman, Ironman that the children see and enjoy!...but Dads are the REAL HEROES for their children who shows what the life is like and helps them grow with confidence and good guidance. They are the light of the life...and children has a ready made roads for their happy journey..

Honor to Our Fathers: We enjoy this earthly life because of our father's hard work and their lots of sacrifices. as the children grow they need to realize how they are ready to sacrifice their

happiness for the sake of the children and his wife.

A beautiful reading from Sirach 3:

Listen to me your Father, O children, and act accordingly, that you may be kept in safety. For the Lord honored the Father above the children. Whoever Glorifies his father will have long life; and will be gladdened by his own children, and when he prays he will be heard. Honor your father by word and deed, that a blessing from him may come upon you. for a Father's Blessing Strengthens the houses of the children.

Let's Thank our Dads! Let's Honor the Fatherhood!

- Agnes James





Faith

Faith is the heart of our religion. Whatever we read in bible we believe them by faith because we never saw them. How do we show to others that we have faith? There come the faithful actions.

There are many examples given below how our faith should be shown in our actions and those actions can make our faith live or meaningful.

“My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, “Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!”? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

Someone might claim, “You have faith and I have action.” But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. It's good that you believe that God is one. Ha! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble with fear. Are you so slow? Do you need to be shown that faith without actions has no value at all? What about Abraham, our father? Wasn't he shown to be righteous through his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? See, his faith was at work along with his actions. In fact, his faith was made complete by his faithful actions. So the scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed God, and God regarded him as righteous. What is more, Abraham was called God's friend. So you see that a person is shown to be righteous through

faithful actions and not through faith alone. In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute shown to be righteous when she received the messengers as her guests and then sent them on by another road? As the lifeless body is dead, so faith without actions is dead.” (James 2:14-26)

As we read in the beginning faith alone cannot save anyone. Faith has to be supplemented by faithful actions to save us.

Is it making God happy if our faith lives only in words and not in our actions? If we look at Old Testament God the Father said to prophet Isaiah

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me

is based on merely human rules they have been taught” (Isaiah 29:13)

If we look at New Testament Jesus Christ said “Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

In the parable of Good Samaritan Jesus placed the Samaritan above of all the other people who passed by the wounded man because he was the only one who did the job. And Jesus said “Go and do likewise” (Luke 10:37). Jesus did not say “Go and say likewise”.

Let us examine ourselves whether we keep our faith alive by showing it in our actions or keeping it dead by practicing only in words.

- Leenus Rich

Altar Server Training

Thanks to all of you for taking your time to drop the kids for the altar server training on May 19th 2012. It was an informal gathering and the children had fun. We went through the mass and noted the important places where the Altar Server was involved in. We also had a trivia session and a word puzzle having catholic/mass related words. The children also enjoyed the snack time and mingled with the others. A big thanks from all of us at the altar server group to our President and the Board for providing us "BATCC Altar Server" T-shirts. I am sure the altar servers will pay back to the community with their dedication and devotion at the Tamil mass.

I post the schedule and other related materials in the BATCCAS yahoo groups database. There are also links to various videos and photos for learning purposes. So it is essential you should join the BATCCAS group to be notified of important activities. You can register to join here: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/batccas/> In the next mass, we will award Certificates to those exceptional altar servers who served us the past year.

Again, thanks to the Parents, President and the Board for continuing to support us.

- Joe Natar

Our 'amen' expresses trust in Christ, Pope teaches

When Christians say “amen,” they are expressing their trust in the loving promise of God manifested in Jesus Christ, Pope Benedict said during his General Audience on Wednesday, May 30, 2012. “The Spirit, poured forth into our hearts, leads us to the Father, constantly making present God’s ‘Yes’ to us in Christ and in turn enabling us to say our ‘Yes’ – Amen! – to God,” the Pope told tens of thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square on May 30.

“Our use of the word ‘Amen,’ rooted in the ancient liturgical prayer of Israel and then taken up by the early Church, expresses our firm faith in God’s word and our hope in his promises.” Pope Benedict’s remarks continued his catechesis on Christian prayer with a particular focus in recent weeks upon the interior life of St. Paul. This week the Pope explored the Apostle’s Second Letter to the Corinthians where he writes;

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” This promise of comfort is not an exemption from suffering, said the Pope, but a plea not to let ourselves “be overcome by tribulations and difficulties.”

“We are invited to experience every situation in unity with Christ, who takes all the

suffering and sin of the world upon himself in order to bring light, hope and redemption.” Either by providence or planning, Pope Benedict seemed to touch upon with his own present suffering following the recent prosecution of his personal butler for stealing confidential documents.

“Our life and our Christian journey are often marked by difficulty, misunderstandings and pain,” he said, adding that “in a faithful relationship with the Lord, in constant daily prayer, we are able to feel the consolation that comes from God.” The source of this strength, he explained, is a relationship of mutual love between God and man. This is the thrust of St. Paul’s proposition to the Christians in Corinth – that the incarnation of Jesus Christ “is God’s ‘Yes’ to mankind and the fulfillment of all his promises” and that “through Jesus we say our ‘Amen,’ to the glory of God.”

“For Paul, prayer is above all God’s gift, grounded in his faithful love which was fully revealed in the sending of his Son and the gift of the Holy Spirit,” observed the Pope. Sadly, however, this faithful love of God is not always returned by man. Despite this, said the Pope, the “entire history of salvation is a progressive revelation of this fidelity of God’s, despite our own infidelity and our constant denials.”

The difference between human and divine love, he explained, is that when we are “faced with conflict in human relationships, often even within the family, we tend not to persevere in gratuitous love, which requires

commitment and sacrifice.” God on the other hand “never loses patience with us and, in his immense mercy, precedes us always and comes out to meet us.”

It is important, therefore, for humans to “enter into Christ’s ‘yes’ by following God’s will.” In this way we will be like St. Paul in being able to affirm that “it is not we who live, but Christ himself who lives in us,” Pope Benedict said. The “amen” of our personal and community prayer “will embrace and transform all of our lives.”

BATCC - CAMPING

On behalf of BATCC, we arranged for a two-day camping trip to Yosemite South, Coarse Gold during Memorial Weekend (26th May-28th May, 2012).

We had about 17 families on the Campsite for almost 2 days. We had more than 20 different kinds of tents. All the children and parents enjoyed well during stay. Almost every family brought some food, barbecued all kinds of meat and cooked different dishes. We had campfire where all the children spent most of the nights before going to bed. Adults had dumb charade and Antakshari on each night. We all had wonderful time praising God for giving us wonderful time with our families and also making the weather enjoyable. Their work has been posted on our [Facebook](#) page

- Michael Sekar



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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). 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.

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