



MCA-EC

Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast, USA.

Quarterly

MONTI FEST
SPECIAL - 2011

NOVENA
SIOZANA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

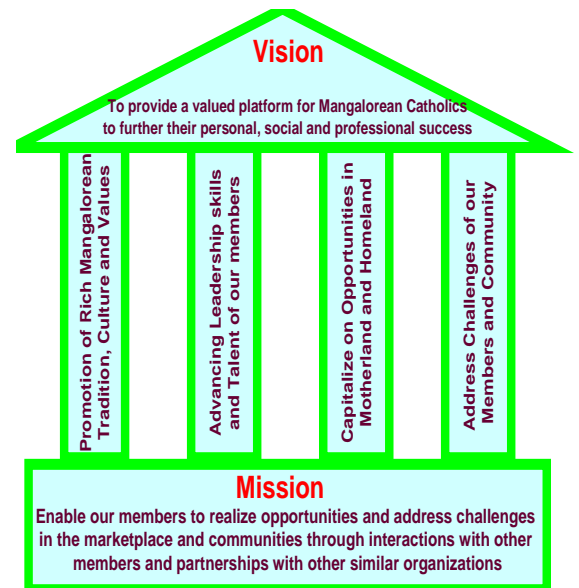
Dear Members of MCA-EC,

With great pride I would like to welcome you all into the MCA-EC club membership period of 2011-2012. It is not only an honor to be leading an association of this magnitude and vibrancy, but a great responsibility to carry on the torch from the previous President and MCA-EC board, into the year 2012. I would like to thank Mark Mendonca and the previous Board members for the awesome year 2010-2011. Also, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the new Board members to all of you. They have already shown tremendous commitment and support in hosting our first event of the year the Monti-Fest Celebrations on September 18th 2011.

Not only has the MCA-EC grown in number, it has also manifested a sentiment of "Togetherness" within the community and has touched out hearts to embellish the warmth of sharing and caring. The undaunted efforts of the pioneer members have made it a possibility to congregate together and commemorate the festivities of our beautiful culture and I hope to do justice to the efforts of all members involved. With that being said, I would like to thank you all in advance for reinforcing the fact that MCA-EC is here to stay for many more years to come and encourage all of you to be with us and partake in the coming revelry. I am truly excited about the opportunity bestowed upon me and my board members to lead us into yet another year of fun filled activities.

God Bless and Cheers!
Gladwin Raymond D'souza

MCA-EC's Value Proposition



RECENT EVENTS: MCA-EC's PARTICIPATION IN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE, OAK TREE, NJ



The two most important events in India's modern history that helped shaped its future are Independence Day and Republic Day. Every nook and corner of the country celebrates this day with verve and enthusiasm. Patriotism is deeply rooted in the hearts of every Indian. Although we're miles apart from our nation, our hearts and minds are always connected to it. This was perfectly exemplified during the India Day Parade at Oak tree Road, New Jersey.

A rainy Sunday afternoon would be the perfect time to sit at home and relax, watch movies or take a short nap. But, it was a different story on August 14 this year. Incessant rains, thundering or lightning could not deter our patriotism. The streets of Oak tree road were packed with people. Many organizations participated in the parade, one of them being our very own MCA-EC. President Gladwin D'souza and Vice President-Public Relations, Diana Lewis, Ex-president Mark Mendonca carried the banner with pride. Though initially only few members were present, the numbers grew slowly and as we paraded more MCA-EC members joined us. The show-stealers however, were our kids! Clad in little ponchos, displaying the Indian tri-color with great fervor, they were a delight to every eye. Not to forget, our MCA-EC elders were also active participants. No rain, no distance affected them. Patriotism filled the air. Everyone seemed so refreshed after the parade that we all gathered at Ex-president Mark Mendonca's house to practice for the upcoming Monti-Fest.





THE NATIVITY FACTS

- The Catholic Church celebrates the birthday of only two saints directly linked with the birth of Christ: Saint John the Baptist (June 24) and Mother Mary.
- The feast originated in Palestine at the present basilica of St. Ann.
- It was spread to Rome by the Eastern monks.
- Around the 13th century, the feast was celebrated in different parts of the world though on different days.
- This feast is celebrated exactly nine months after the feast of the Immaculate Conception.
- The birth of Mary is seen as a significant link between the old and new testaments: Mary, the representative of people of the old covenant of whom was born the Savior of the world.

ON MONTI FEST

- A typically Mangalorean festival, it was initiated by Fr. Joachim Miranda at Monte Mariano church, Farangipet (presently in South Karnataka)
- Most Mangalorean catholic families were farmers and Monti Fest was then combined with the festival of harvest.
- While the *de-facto* ruler, Tipu Sultan seized all catholic churches around 1784, he spared Monte Mariano church due to his father Hyder Ali's friendship with Fr. Miranda.

A dedication to our Mother on the occasion of Monti-Fest

My li'l friend

*Oh tiny little chains of beads,
You were Her gift to draw us from life's recedes.
When I look at you, I wonder how,
A tiny little you can brimful blessings endow.
Oh li'l guide, Oh comforter in strife,
I wonder without you what would be my life.
Perhaps that's why She gave you to us,
So that life does not absorb us in its fuss.
Astonished at your magnificent power,
I'm certain, never in life will I falter.*

[It's my testimony to the amazing power and blessings that abound through the Rosary. Just hold it, and you will feel the PEARLS!]



Noven Jevana Vishen.

New harvest is called 'noven'. Noven Jevan or the harvest festival is usually a family feast where the family members usually gather and thank God for the rains and the plentiful harvest. Crushed noven is then mixed with milk/roce and distributed to family members. Only vegetarian meal is cooked in odd number of dishes: 1,3,5,7,9. The meals are served on a *Shirothi* (Plantain Leaf). The common dishes accompanied by Rice or *Sanna* are as follows:

- *Allu Dento* (Colocassia Stems)
- *Bhenden* (Okra),
- *Channe* (Black Gram),
- *Gosalen* (Ridge Gourd),
- *Karathen* (Bitter Gourd),
- *Moog* (Green gram)
- *Padvalen* (Snake Gourd)
- *Sango* (Drumstick),
- *Tovshen* (Cucumber)

Some other specialties include *Vorn*, *Pothrade* (Colocassia leaf cakes) and *Kobu* (Sugar- Cane) juice. Family members who cannot participate in the festivities are sent 'Noven' through mail. As a part of our customs this meal is eaten only with hand. (We can leave the fork/spoon aside just once a year!)

Bhagi Monti Festache Ullas Tumka Soglyank

INFORMATION FOR YOU

ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS!

**YOU ARE THE TORCH-BEARERS OF OUR
TRADITIONS & VALUES.
DO NOT LOSE YOUR CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN A FOREIGN LAND.
JOIN**

**<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117398514985002&v=wall>
WE NEED YOUNG MANGALOREAN CROWD!!**

MCA-EC 2011-2012 BOARD

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The MCA-EC (Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast) is a social organization formed with the mission of connecting Mangalorean Catholics of USA East Coast together and promoting rich Mangalorean Catholic culture in our families. For any questions and/or comments, please contact us at contactus@mca-ec.org or click on www.mca-ec.org.

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