

# MCA-EC

*Mangalorean Catholic Association of East Coast*

## QUARTERLY

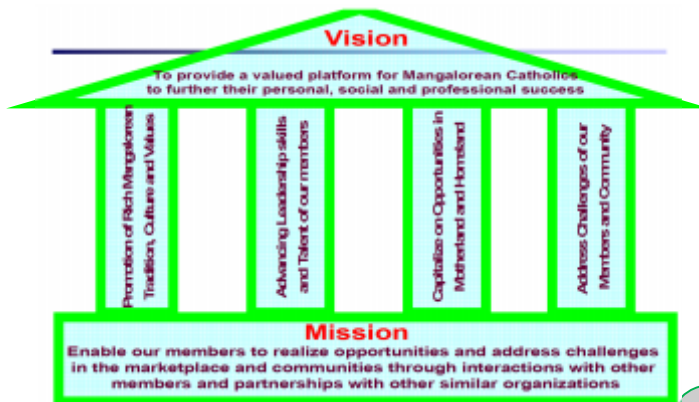
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*Merry Christmas  
Sonthos Borith Nathalache Festh*



### MCA-EC's Value Proposition



### MCA-EC 2011-2012 BOARD

**PRESIDENT: GLADWIN D'SOUZA**  
**VP-PROGRAMS: STEVEN ARANHA**  
**VP-MEMBERSHIP: JAISON BANJI**  
**VP-PUBLIC RELATIONS: DIANA LEWIS**  
**TREASURER: JOHN D'SOUZA**  
**WEB MASTERS: ARINE ARANHA, SHARLET MISQUITH**  
**MENTORS: ROWENA D' SOUZA, FREDRICK FERNANDES**  
**SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Fr. ARUN LOBO**

*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](mailto:contactus@mca-ec.org) or click on [www.mca-ec.org](http://www.mca-ec.org). MCA-EC recognizes Fr. Arun Lobo, Mark Lancy Mendonca, and all the current leadership board members for their contributions to this newsletter.*



## President's Message



Dear Friends,

*The best season of the year has arrived. The excitement is in the air. I am not talking about the Turkey dinner or Black Friday but the most beautiful time that comes year after year, when we prepare ourselves to celebrate one of the most important events that changed this world forever. Christmas time is around the corner, and for us Christians we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. For me, this is the best time of the year!! There is an aura of Joy and an awaiting of THE day. I remember as a kid, I would wait in anticipation for Christmas and I still look forward to it with the same enthusiasm. It makes me nostalgic remembering my mom's kuswar, dukra maas and sanaas, our church Nativity Crib, midnight mass, visiting all our friends and neighbors, and those tireless Christmas dances. In the midst of enjoying all these things we should keep Christ in Christmas and pass on this beautiful legacy to our kids.*

*God taught us that it is in giving that we receive his blessings. So my dear friends during these tough economic times, let us not forget our loved ones - friends and neighbors. Let us make this Christmas memorable for each one of us and share our blessings.*

*On behalf of the MCA-EC Board, I would like to wish each one of you and your family members a Blessed, Happy and a Memorable Christmas 2011. Let us ring in 2012 with joy, happiness, prosperity and good health.*

*May God bless all of you. I hope to see you all in large numbers at the Christmas Gala 2011.*

## Editor's Message

Dear MCA-EC members,

*Christmas, the most awaited time of the year is here; a time for gift, sweets, merriment, and above all time when loved ones near and far gather to celebrate the birth of Christ! It is another time of the year when the MCA-EC members gather as one family to celebrate their Christmas joy. This newsletter is just another means of adding to your Christmas celebrations. The newsletter has been designed in accordance with the Christmas theme, the theme colors being green and red.*

*We have a brief Christmas message from our president Mr. Gladwin D'souza. Father Arun has beautifully explained the significance of Christmas in Konkani. The MCA-EC team specially thanks Father Arun for his efforts in providing the write-up in Konkani in spite of his busy schedule. Former MCA-EC president, Mark Lancy Mendonca had provided a beautiful testimony on how MCA-EC influenced his life recently. The latter part of the newsletter has current MCA-EC editorial board members explain their personal meaning of Christmas followed by an interesting section designed only for kids. Hope everyone enjoys reading this edition of the newsletter.*

*Wishing everyone a joyous and fun-filled Christmas and a prosperous New-Year 2012.*

Carroline Lobo.

Editor: MCA-EC (Please email your accomplishments, articles, comments, suggestions etc. to [carrolinelobo@gmail.com](mailto:carrolinelobo@gmail.com))



## Christmas: The real meaning



Mogachea bhava bhoinnimno ani bhurgeamno, Natalamchem fest ailear Kristavank vorto sontos ani sogleak somorombh; oso Jezu Kristacho zolm ami somorombhtanv. Krist sonvsarak ailo ani amche modem jielo; to zaun asa Emmanuel, kalokant asul'lea lokank uzvadd haddun ail'lo. Uzvadd, povitr pustokantlea poilea panar thaun proromb zata. Devan uzvadd rochlo and kallok nopoinch kelo. Israel porza Deva thaun pois geli tedna kallok poddlo ani Devan vivid veoktim vorvim, vivid ritinim uzvadd haddunk proitn kelo. Xevottak Devan hea sonvsarak xasvott uzvadd fankounk chinthun aplea ekleach putak hea sonvsarak dhadlo "ani Devacho put monis zalo" sonvsar uzvaddan bhorlo.

Jezuchea zolma disa vixoiant sabar rivaji asat punn sogleamnim apnail'li zavun asa Romi sonskriti pormannem Dezemrache 25ver pallchi Suria Devachi porob. Hea disa Surio apli chal ut'ttor dhixe thaun dokxin dixi bodolta ani novi vat dhorun porgott'tta ki konacheanuch taka jikunk xokona mhunn. Hem toren 353 AD thaun suru zal'lem, azun porian asa kiteak Jezu sonvsaracho uzvadd dekhun. Uzvadd amkam povitr korta, hoi suriachea kirnank pekovnechi korchhi vo nitoll korchhi sokot asa. Uzvadd amkam bodrothi dita. Korench amkam uzvadd dekhtana kallidarponn ieta ani bhirant nopoinch zata. Uzvadd amkam ul'las dita, ani uzvadd dekhtana ami khuxalkaien bhoron sudduddit zatant. Tor Krist uzvadd zalear, hench zaun asa Natalamche fest, uzvaddachem fest ani ul'lasachem fest.

Eka vhodd ghorant ek kutumb aplea bhurgeacho zolma dis voda dobhajen kortalem. Sobar ixtt ani soirim tea bhurgeak kannik ani inam gheun ail'lim. Lhan bhurgem pallneant nidlelem tachea kuxik sorv kannikemchi ras podlili. Thoddea vella uprant jedna ek prayesth sthri ieun bhurgeak pollonk zai mhunnon vicharta tedna bhurgem disona. Kanniko, inama, angvostram ani khellachea vostumnim pallnem ani bhurgem-i dhamplem. Bhurgem kannikem bhitor liplam. Sobar pavttim amchea-i jinnienth toxench zata. Pramuk veoktik ami visortanv ani ier sogllem kortanv. Natalamchem fest mhollear, kusvar, noketram, natalamchim gitam (carols), christmas tree, cardam, ghoto, dance ani bhailo dhabhajo nhoi bogor niz amchim magnnim ani maie-mog vanttcho ek suog zaun asa. Devan aplo mog vanttun dilo tor ami-i to mog ieram sorxim vanttun gheum-ia. Devan aplo uzvadd amkam dilo tor to uzvadd ami ieram-i koddem vanttum-ia. Krist mhojea khatir zolmola tor teaches Kristak ami ieramchi-i vollokh korum dium-ia.

1223 AD Assisichea bhagevont Fransisan jivea gorvank ani gaddvak haddun ek jivo ghoto toiar korun, ballka Jezuchea moga khatir ek khori bhokti suru keli. Toch rivaz azun ami amchea ghoranim kortanv. Mogacheamno, hanvem khoim tori vachlelem mhaka ugddas ieta, Jezu hozar pavtti ghoteant zolmun ek pavttim tori mhojea kallzant zolmona tor tem natalamchem fest mhaka koslo faido haddta. Hea vorsa Natalamchem fest bore toren korteleantv tor Krist amchea kallzanim zolm geumdi. Ani hea sondorbar Mai Gavant aschea amchea kuttumbcho, saiream-dhairieacho ugddas korum-ia. Toxench hanv MCA-EC hachea hor eka sandheank Natalamche Porbecho ul'las pattoitam ani Ballok Jezuchim bhorpur bensanvam magtam.

Dev borem korum. Tumkam sogleank ek bhagi Natal.

Fr. Arun Lobo, Capuchin





## A MCA-EC Testimony

*“A friend in need is a friend indeed.” Just like many of you, I too, had heard this quote but never experienced the real meaning of it thus far. Imagine, you work for a company for 15 long years and suddenly one day you are told that you are no longer working for this company. How would you feel? Of course, you feel a sense of rejection, worthlessness, loneliness, depression, confusion, disorientation and so forth. You feel the lowest moments of your life. That’s how I felt this September, when I lost my job for the first time in my life.*

*In this very low moment, I realized the importance of prayer, love from family and the power of network. While the prayer and the love from family were always there to soothe me emotionally, but there was a missing piece – the power of network. I told some of my MCA-EC friends that I am looking for a job. The news spread and there was a sudden spate of emails and phone calls from my MCA-EC members – some with soothing words, some with the assurance of prayer and some with a commitment to find a job in their firms. What followed afterwards was a real miracle- within weeks, despite the terrible job market, I got several job offers. In fact, I had a pleasant problem selecting a job out of the several equally good job offers.*

*As I reflect upon my experience, one thing became very clear to me; MCA-EC has the power- the power to make a difference in someone’s life. Be it finding a new job, finding a life partner or fulfilling someone’s social needs. This power of network combined with the power of prayer, can and will create miracles. Without experiencing this (job loss), I would have never known that there are several MCA-EC members who run consulting business, I would have never known that there are several members who are very influential in their firms, I would have never known that several MCA-EC members are so close to God that their prayers are on God’s priority line. In fact, one MCA-EC member told me that her youngest son has always remembered to pray during their evening rosary for Mark uncle, that’s me. I feel so lucky and special that I am part of MCA-EC family, where prayers always take center stage.*

*As I conclude this short testimony, I do not want to embarrass anyone by putting dozens of names here who helped me in September to find a new job. You know who you are and I really appreciate your help. Thank you all from bottom of my heart - for all those who relentlessly prayed for me, for all those who got me interviews at your firms and for all those who offered me long term consulting positions at your firms. MCA-EC members have always tried to meet the needs of other fellow members and this is not the first time. We are stronger together as one MCA-EC family. Let’s continue our journey to connect people and promote culture.*

*Long live MCA-EC!*

*By Mark Lancy Mendonca*



**MCA-EC**  
**One Family**





# What Christmas means to you?

We asked some of our MCA-EC leadership board members what Christmas meant to them. Here's what they had to say:

## INTROSPECTION

Every year Christmas is an opportunity to introspect myself to see; do I make sincere efforts to love and care for my family & friends and help those in need?

**John D'souza**

**Steven Aranha**

**Diana Lewis**

**Jaison Banji**

## GIFTS

As the good Lord God gifted his son Jesus to save us; we too, exchange gifts with our family and friends.

## FAMILY

Childhood memories shaped my personal meaning of Christmas:  
1) The artificial Christmas tree we assembled together every post-Thanksgiving Day, 2) The time my dad took us to Radio City Music Hall to see the Rockettes, 3) The Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center and our consistent awe over its magnitude, 4) Seeing Santa Claus at the Macy's Herald Square and wishing for something special. Basically, Christmas in NYC was tied to all the commercialism that the older generations' frown upon. However, I also have memories based on the culture of our faith and homeland:  
1) My mom filling up two gigantic stainless steel containers with homemade chakli, kare kadiyo, and kuswar (which would inevitably be eaten in its entirety by the first of January :-), 2) My dad, mom and sisters reviewing our address book as we sat together to write Christmas cards to all our family and friends, 3) Fighting yawns and exhaustion to stay up Christmas evening to attend midnight Mass, 4) Seeing the crib at the back of church, with all of the hay and Nativity statues, and having my dad fondly remember the crib competitions that he would eagerly enter as a child.  
Certainly, my personal meaning of Christmas was a combination of East Meets West. Yet, in spite of the dichotomies, family was always the common denominator, and at the heart of the story of Christmas is not only the birth of Baby Jesus, but also, the birth of our faith's first Holy Family. In this respect, regardless of the differences in the way we each may celebrate Christmas, as long as family is kept at the forefront, the true meaning of Christmas remains intact.

## NOSTALGIA

Christmas for some is the celebration of Jesus' birth; for others, it is a holiday. For me, it is all that and a mixed feeling of nostalgia. As a child, I fondly remember sitting together with the entire family a few days before Christmas, helping to prepare Christmas kusvaar. My father had a special star shaped "Nevri" that he would design after the regular half-moon shaped nevris were done. He would cook that first and would offer everyone a taste of it. Yum... that brings back savoring memories! Christmas Eve is the next thing I remember. We had a tradition of setting up everything on Christmas Eve; decorating the Christmas tree, the lights, the crib, the greeting cards and the Nativity star. At the same time, our building would be decorated and Christmas music would be played. The whole ambience changed. So much fun! I loved seeing the huge crowd of people gathered at the Midnight mass and children singing Christmas carols. My favorite to this day is "O Come All Ye Faithful". On the day of Christmas, we visited friends, relatives, & neighbors to distribute (and eat) kusvaar. Lunches and dinners were always special on Christmas. The joy of Christmas continued until New Year's day.



