

Gethsemane Newsletter



~ Christmas & New Year Special Edition ~



Most Reverend Richard J. Grecco
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Dear friends of Gethsemane Ministries,

As I write, I am thinking of the Christmas celebration we shared last December. The atmosphere was joyful, prayerful and the events were centered on marriage and the family. These are of course, signs of life and love, signs of God's blessing on Gethsemane Ministries.

I regret being unable to join you this year.

May the joy and peace and justice of the Christ continue to bless you during this holy season and throughout the New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Richard Grecco

Bishop Richard J. Grecco
Auxiliary - Toronto

2004 Gethsemane Family Christmas Party

Saturday, December 11, 2004

The Christmas Party was very well attended and started in typical Gethsemane style with Praise and Worship.

Gethsemane family was very privileged and blessed to have His Excellency Most Rev. Pearse Lacey as our Guest of Honor. We were also privileged to enjoy the company of Rev. Monsignor Sheehy Ambrose, Pastor, Blessed Trinity Church, Toronto; Rev. Neil McMillan, Pastor, St. Mary Star of the Sea, Port Credit; Rev. Damian Ali, Pastor, St. Anne's Church, Brampton, Rev. Joseph Pezhathumkal, Associate Pastor, St. Gregory the Great, Oshawa; and Rev. James P. Adams, Pastor, St. John's, Scarborough; Mr. Jim Hughes, President, Campaign Life Coalition and his wife Virginia; and Mr. Rudy DeSiato, Vice President, Salt and Light TV and his wife Pina.

In his message to the Gethsemane Family, Bishop Lacey expressed his genuine pleasure in attending this Christmas party where he could praise and worship God in a truly charismatic way. Being able to praise God is a very clear manifestation of God's love and mercy through the power of the Holy Spirit. God is the reason that we live and we have to praise our God until we die. He exclaimed, "How wonderful God is in allowing you to know Him!"

Bishop Lacey talked of his devotion to our Blessed Mother through his years as a priest and as a Bishop and he sought every occasion to spread devotion to our Blessed Mother. He has seen the intervention of the Blessed Mother in converting sinners and drawing them to Her Son.

He concluded by saying, "At Christmas, we celebrate the great mystery of God's love for us and therefore there is nothing that God would not do for the people He loves". His love for us is further manifested through the many apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to ordinary people in different places across the world. He urged the Gethsemane families to use Mary's intercession in their family life and to pray the Rosary everyday. Through Mary's intervention, we will have Jesus present in our families and through their presence one can overcome the difficulties one encounters in family life.

The Christmas party was an enjoyable evening in which we experienced the loving presence of our God, manifested through the gifts and talents He has endowed on our children. Over dinner, we were able to fondly reminisce the activities of the year, through a wonderful slide show "Glimpses of 2004". The Gethsemane Junior Youth entertained us with "song in action". The Senior Youth put on a thought provoking play, "Star of Wonder". The young ladies from the Malayalam group did a very graceful candlelight dance on the theme of faith. The young men performed a very cool dance on receiving the "light".

The work done by the youth was tremendous – the hours of practice, costumes, props ... all indicated a giving and a "giving of their best for the Lord"!

There was traditional carol singing .. A magician entertained the junior youth and their grand finale was with the appearance of Santa! It was wonderful to see the look of awe on their faces!



Commentary On The Christmas Celebration

Suresh,

My wife Pina and I thank you for having invited us to the Gethsemane Ministries Christmas Party. We had a wonderful time. We received a genuine warm welcome from everyone there.

In a world which seems bent on destroying the family, Pina and I were, throughout the evening, very much touched by the evident strong focus on the Christian family. It's a blessing to see so many young people. Truly this is the work of the Lord. The world needs to see the presence and value of Christian families.

There is a psalm that says: "HOW GOOD, HOW DELIGHTFUL IT IS FOR ALL TO LIVE TOGETHER LIKE BROTHERS." (psalm 133:1). This is what we experienced last Saturday night.

Suresh, in closing, my wife and I offer to you and all the brothers and sisters of Gethsemane Ministries the words of encouragement and certainty found in psalm 125: "THOSE WHO TRUST IN YAHWEH ARE LIKE MOUNT ZION, UNSHAKEABLE, STANDING FOR EVER." (Psalm 125:1).

The Peace of the Lord be with you,

Rudy DeSiato



Personal Testimonies To The Power Of Prayer

Linda – My cousin's daughter was expecting a baby and the doctor informed her that she might have the baby any time after the 7th month and that if the baby was premature the baby could have lung problems. We prayed for my cousin and she delivered a healthy, full-term baby on December 3rd. Praise the Lord!

Charles & Matilda – After the prayer meeting on Friday, November 26th, our youngest son Andrew, 22 months old, developed a temperature, which continued to rise. We tried to bring the temperature down with cold compresses. On Sunday, he seemed to be going into seizures and his breath was getting faint and we felt we were losing him. We called 911 and while waiting we called our friend Lucy, and we as a family started praying for Andrew. As we prayed, we felt him start to stir. The ambulance arrived and did the emergency measures on him and revived him. He was taken to the hospital and is back home, safe and sound. He was born premature, just four pounds and at that time too we felt we might lose him. I prayed the Divine Mercy chaplet and my son came through all right. We praise and thank our God; because this is the second time he has given our Andrew back to us!

Marie – A certain person owed me money, which was borrowed three years ago. I requested the Gethsemane group to pray for me and through a miracle the money was returned to me.

Annu – I was driving our van and got into a very bad accident. The van was a total write off and I can only thank my God for the miracle of allowing me to walk away from the accident unharmed. When my husband saw the vehicle, he said, "Everything is demolished, except you". Praise the Lord!!!

Suresh – I take this opportunity to testify to you the power of your prayers and the faithfulness of Our Lord Jesus. I had requested your prayers for my uncle, Fr. Ivans' surgery and the subsequent biopsy. I spoke with him yesterday and I was told that his doctors informed him that the biopsy result is negative. Moreover he is recovering very well from the three surgeries. I praise and thank the Lord Jesus for this miracle. Also Fr. Ivans has asked me to thank you all for your prayers and your love. Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord with all your heart!

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

With Gratitude to our Mighty God and Saviour Jesus Christ, may I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you personally for the wonderful Christmas celebration we had on Saturday, December 11, 2004. All the programs were very well done, the whole event was well organized and above all the ambience was truly Christian and spirit filled. This was our sixth Christmas party and the progress we have made over these years was very evident in the unity we have and the love we share. I truly believe it is the work of the Holy Spirit in and through each one of us.

This event was yet another opportunity to recognize the abundance of talents that God has blessed our ministry with, through our children. They were truly amazing and a real blessing. I am convinced that when we are united in the Lord and are led by His Holy Spirit, no evil can stand against us and we will be able to bring about the renewal of our lives and the much needed change in our society, truly living the Gospel and witnessing our Faith.

A special thanks to all our wonderful children who put their heart and soul in to what they did to express their love and commitment to the Lord. I also thank the many families who put in so much effort and made many sacrifices to make our Christmas celebration a wonderful and joyous event. Surely the Lord will reward you and bless you abundantly.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement and support to my family and me. Through the Gethsemane Ministries, God has indeed blest us with an extended family.

Wishing you a Very Joyous Christmas and a Blessed and Prosperous New Year!

*Yours in the Lord,
Suresh Dominic*

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

- Dec 24th – NO English Prayer meeting
- Dec 25th – NO Malayalam Prayer meeting
- Dec 31st – NO English Prayer meeting
- Jan 1st – NO Malayalam Prayer meeting

WE WILL MEET ON

- Jan 7, 2005 – 1st Friday – Regular weekly fellowship.
- Jan 8, 2005 – YOUTH Saturday – 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. – Youth please attend.
- Jan 8, 2005 – Saturday - Regular weekly fellowship in Malayalam.

MADONNA HALL IS NOT AVAILABLE ON Jan 14, 2005 NO English Fellowship.

Jan 15, 2005 Regular weekly Malayalam Fellowship.

THE NEXT RELEASE OF THE GETHSEMANE NEWSLETTER will be on February 4, 2005.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

This is our newsletter. We are happy to hear from you. Feel free to contribute articles, testimonies and your feedback, at the prayer meeting, to: Stan Rodrigo, Mathew Pongonthara, Joseph Kulathinal or Michael Fonseca