

Event Reviewer Name: Lily Menezes

Event Name: Mass to celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph Vaz, TEGSA's patron saint

Event date: Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Our Lady of the Rosary Church

Celebrant: Archbishop Lawrence Saldanha

Food caterer: Several vendors selling food in the Parish Hall after mass

Photographer: Carol Fernandes and Albert Peres

Music: Provided by Frederic's Music

Spirit of the Event: Mass

It was such a pleasure to see over two hundred people in the Church before the Mass started. The Choir, led by Melba Remedios, ushered in Archbishop Saldanha and his Servers to the hymn "Lead Me, Guide Me". It was a solemn service, like all Masses, but there was an undercurrent of pride in honouring our very own Goan saint. We had the Knights of Columbus who attended this mass from different churches.

The first reading was done by Effie Coelho in perfect Konkani. I say perfect because, even though I don't understand Konkani, so many, many people were talking about it. Most of the people were overwhelmed by how much this Mass reminded them of attending Mass 'at home'. His Grace's sermon was mostly about St. Joseph's life and journeys and also about the difficulties Catholics face in Pakistan and India and Sri Lanka and how difficult it would have been in St. Joseph's time. We are very aware of how blessed and thankful we are to live in a safe, peaceful country. The choir rendered two Konkani songs one at Communion and one at recession. The recessional Konkani song was actually written as a tribute to St. Joseph Vaz by our very own Elizabeth Prabhu. Congratulations to Elizabeth for a moving, beautiful, uplifting song.

After Mass we were entertained in the hall by Frederic's Music but more importantly, we got to buy Goan food - sorpotel and sannas, fish curry, rice and beans - could we get more Goan than that?. There was also spicy fried chicken with pulao, potato chops and pickles. There were 4 vendors selling Goa sausages, pickles and masalas. I remember when we only had one or two people we could buy Goa sausages from. It's wonderful that we now have so many.

Congratulations to TEGSA for giving us a wonderful event !

Lily Menezes