
ATRC Association Formation

15th July 2017

OVERVIEW

Hello and welcome to the newly created ATRC Association WhatsApp group. Most of you were probably surprised by your inclusion in this group and are wondering what this means to you.

ATRCA stands for '**American Telugu Reddy Catholic Association**', and is a *cultural* and *networking* group that is inclusive of all Telugu Reddy Catholics living in the United States and Canada.

WHAT

Recently a group of 25+ people from several states including Virginia, Texas, North Carolina, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Tennessee and Ohio among several other states got together in Charlotte, NC to brainstorm to discuss the formation of ATRCA . Below is a high level summary of what most everyone had in mind:

- Expose kids to Telugu Reddy Catholic community and to the Indian culture in general through social gatherings and events. Encourage kids participation in social volunteering, faith activities, retreats, etc
- Develop a support system for new people entering the country on visas by providing them with moral support, assisting in job search, employment opportunities, accommodation, financial tools, training opportunities, etc
- Telugu Reddy Catholic community becoming more integrated into the larger American culture and values.
- Encourage participation in growing the faith by supporting and connecting priests, nuns with the faithful www.atrcf.org/spiritual-life.html
- Help entrepreneurs, encourage and support business ideas, and provide information regarding life and financial planning.
- Promote matrimonial awareness
- Help with needy and financially constrained Telugu Catholic communities in India with their children's education and housing, parental well-being, and supporting old age homes.
- Spread awareness of community related events and activities within and across regional groups through newsletters and other communication forums
- And more importantly have a common platform for Telugu Catholics living in the United States and Canada for both networking (ATRCA) and charitable activities (ATRCF, see below)

HOW

To help organize, a few *'interim'* committees were formed to execute the ideas.

1. **Executive** Committee: Dileep Basani (VA), Vinod Boyapati (TX), Raja Gade (NC), Jay Thumma (OH) and George Gopu (FL)
2. **Communications** Committee: Sudheer Thumma (TX), Bal Reddy Maramreddy (GA), Dileep Basani (VA), and Jay Thumma (OH)
3. **Membership** Committee: Naveen Gayam (NC), Bala Thirumalreddy (OH), Sumanth Allam (NC), Ravi Yeruva (NC)
4. **Logistics** Committee: Vijay Bhasker Allam (VA), Vinod Boyapati (TX), Naveen Gayam (NC), Prashanth Kommareddy (TX)
5. **Registration** Committee: Raja Gade (NC) and George Gopu (FL)
6. **Website** Committee: Arun Yeruva (OH) and Vijay Yeruva (VA)

AGENDA

It was agreed that all Telugu Reddy Catholic families and individuals living in the United States or Canada to come together at the convention by the end of the current year. The details of which will be worked out by the appropriate committees and will be communicated.

HISTORY

You may or may not have heard the term **ATRCF** - '**American Telugu Roman Catholic Foundation**' - which is a non-profitable organization formed recently to oversee *charitable activities* to help the needy and financially constrained people in India.

In July of last year about 13 people from various states were attending a social function in Charlotte, NC and decided to start some kind of an organization to help poor students in India. After several months of investigation and hard work a self funding American Telugu Roman Catholic (ATRC) *Foundation* was started. It has acquired the 501(C)(3) Tax-exempt status as a non-profit Charitable Organization with a mission to serve very poor Telugu school students, Orphans and Old-Age Home-bound people in Telugu States of India. After several more months of hard work a website was developed (<http://www.atrcf.org>) to get ready for the inauguration and the launch of the Foundation on July 15th, 2017 in Charlotte. ATRCF is on facebook as well <https://www.facebook.com/atrcf>

For the foundation's inauguration event on 15th July of 2017, it has attracted lot more folks from many more states who not only made the foundation's inauguration a grand success but also were interested in starting a nationwide association for Telugu Catholics across America. After several hours of deliberation and discussions, the team has made a commitment to the cause of the foundation and to the start of a new association, the 'American Telugu Reddy Catholic (ATRC) Association' using the same platform as the Foundation. The team has also made commitments to work on taking the association nationwide by agreeing to schedule a larger convention by the end of the year to launch the ATRC Association nationwide.