Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Lenten Journey... Fasting From...?!

As we embrace our Lenten journey, let us reform and reorganize our life. Our Holy Father invites us through his meaningful message, "The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift." Today we are dominated, to a terrifying extent, by ritualism, legalism, and resigned spiritual mediocrity. Does our almsgiving proceed from a genuine love of God and neighbor? Fasting from wounding words and constant unwanted gossiping by means of social communication would be a way of almsgiving. Let us try to develop a rhythm of withdrawal and return, because we are called to discern within ourselves that we may be sinking and drowning with a storm of our passions and evil habits. The rich man's real problem was the failure to heed God's word. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbor. Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ and a realization of our nothingness, weak flesh and sinfulness. Father

Guanella left us as his last will 'Pray and Suffer.' While he was preaching a sermon-the seven last words of Jesus on the Cross on Good Friday at St. Mary's House in Lora in 1908 along with Father Bacciarini, he was explaining the words "I thirst," - "Jesus is thirsty for our sanctification, for my priestly soul, that I do not pursue enough." At a certain point his voice broke down and he was unable to continue and then burst into uncontrollable tears of sorrow. Father Bacciarini, moved by such humility and sincere sorrow, took the pulpit and finished the Seven Last words. What is God going to do for me in these next forty days? We focus our attention on physical health, diet or body building but how seldom do we talk about spiritual health! Lent is a fitting time for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered to us by the Church: fasting, prayer and almsgiving.



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United States Calendar

March Calendar of Fr. **Provincial**

1	Chennai: Ash Wednesday Mass
	- DGMS

Andhra: Community Visit

11-14 Dindigul, Madurai, Krishnaperi and Sivagangai

19 **Chennai:** St. Joseph's Feast

13-14 Chennai: Superiors and Treasurers meet

27 **DPP Skype Council Meeting**

28 Chennai: Meeting with 3rd Year Theologians

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GG Jesus is thirsty for our sanctification, for my priestly soul, that I do not pursue enough

St. Louis GuanellaI



The Birth of the Servants of Charity By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

In Como, on March 24, 1908, Fr. Guanella and eleven other confreres pronounced public and perpetual or temporary vows, according to each one's status, during an intimate and moving ceremony.

This decision apparently appeared to be an obvious contradiction. Father Guanella, in fact, had just received for the third time, a negative response to the request for approval of the Servants of Charity. The history of those days would never stop amazing us for the amount of surprises and drawbacks.

The procedure had been suggested by Fr. Claudio

Benedetti who represented the Holy See and acted in its name: "It was established that Fr. Guanella should put his mind to correcting the Constitutions and fully conform them to the norms of the Sacred Congregation; to make a more precise and total separation of the houses occupied by the Sisters from those operated by the Servants of Charity; to profess and have the others make their vows as already planned; to establish a general government according to the aforesaid norms; to open a novitiate house better than the existing one."

Father Guanella had the opportunity to present the status of the Servants of Charity and promised to welcome and accept any counsel, to pursue the desired

approval. That was enough to make every perplexity fall, and proceed to the first accomplishments.

The evening of Tuesday, March 24, 1908, was the vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation. Father Guanella's priests gathered in the church of the Sacred Heart in Como to promise their fidelity and also legally become a Congregation. The sober description, almost terse, was composed by Father Guanella himself: "On this evening the undersigned priests gathered to profess simple, perpetual vows, in the institute of the Servants of Charity in this order. The Priest, Louis Guanella, as the Founder, made the perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience according to the Constitutions received, and revised by the most Rev. Consulter, Fr. Claudio Benedetti in Rome. Afterwards, the above mentioned twelve confreres received

the profession of the simple perpetual vows." (6)

Fr. Leonardo Mazzucchi, one of the twelve newly professed, tells about the extremely emotional atmosphere: "In that late hour Father Guanella would open his lips in his humble, good, simple words; but his mouth did not speak, his great heart, his holy soul spoke feelings of rare sublimity of thought and affection. When we heard him, the martyr of such great fatigue and of many past sorrows, thanking us deeply so moved, oh then our heart could no longer withhold our tears, and we shed tears of love, of holy jubilation, of repentance, of recognition that left an

indelible mark on our sous." (7)

The same ceremony with the same emotions was repeated on March 28th in Milan; on April 1st again in Milan; on April 5th again in Como; on May 18th in Fratta Polesine; on June 7th in Rome and on June 26th for the third time in Como. Twenty-five perpetual professions and eleven for a three year term, and many more to come. Each one of them felt as if they were giving life to a reality that would leave a mark on the history of the Church. They felt to be a factor in the birth of an agile, young congregation that would know how to renew itself in love, moment by moment. On March 28th, the first General Chapter of the congregation was assembled at St. Cajetan House in Milan. The chapter fathers

were fifteen and on that occasion, Father Louis Guanella was acclaimed General Superior. It was a first step of the unthinkable prospective of a community united by a sole bond of charity.

He wrote to Fr. Benedetti informing him of what had been done. It seemed that now the road for his institutions would be less strenuous. Many obstacles had been removed. Now Father Guanella could look with more confidence and serenity to the future: "Today is the 42nd anniversary of my sacred Ordination, and I beg you to bless me and our institutions, where I believe the Spirit of the Lord rests. God willing, in His mercy, I hope that the two institutes reach their proper goal. I enjoy repeating that they give me much comfort and hope."



March 2017



German Guanellians Seek Hidden Way to Syria

For five years the eyes of the civil and especially the Christian world have been on a tormented country, where an infamous genocide is perpetrated while the Great Policy dispute for a ridiculous cease fire that only lasted a couple of hours continues. We Christians watch

the events through the window, and we do not move a single finger! This is the sad reality which the Patriarch of about 4 million Melchite Catholics in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Iraq is condemning in his desesperate appeals to the remaining people of good will in Western Christianity. In his recent Christmas letter addressed also to our German Entity, he pointed out an often forgotten step of our history: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Palestine;

but Christianity was born and raised in Syria.

I have personally visited that region many times while acting as export manager of my former company. During that time I had many contacts in the capital, Damas, Aleppo and in the neighboring Lebanese Beka Valley,

now the biggest refugee camp after that in TR. Through these former business partners started a risky effort to bring substantial help to these stranded Christians. fact after first our personal

meeting



with Patriarch Gregory in Munich in July 2010 in cooperation with the Knights of St. Lazarus of Prior, Mr. Folker Theis, former chaplain of this order, we collected medical equipment for the Cathoic Hosptial at Khabab near Damas. Unfortunately was damaged by the war and reconstructed later on with generous help of Melchite Communities in Germany, Austria and also Catholics of Poland. The most efficient contribution of the German Guanellian laity was coordinated by our first councillor Dr. Helmut Müller and hospitals of the German Pious Union at Münstertal. Containers arrived in Damas via our friends in Lattakia, Syria and Beirut,

Lebanon. This has been a fulgent Morning Star, a hidden path to Syria of our fledgling German Procure.

We recently sent an invitation to His Beatitude Gregory III, to visit our Guanellian entities in Pforzheim and Tiefenbronn in order to further develop solidarity

programs for Syria. "Guanellian engagement" in Middle East is an inspired effort found hidden in Father Guanella's personal journey to Palestine and Damas in 1902! He was the real designer of our path around the globe. Why did he visit Treviri in 1912? Why at the end of his tireless earthly life did he visit the USA? I guess he was able to see all the future carriers of his charism in all those countries. And I, as an old dreamer, still have a burning dream to link Guanellians from Nazareth to the old roots of our Faith! But how? By reversing the ancient journey of the three Magi from the cradle of Jesus, to the cradle of Christianity. Patriarch Gregory III could be a real bridge for a Guanellian shelter of charity

on the border to Syria, in the green Beka Valley, where we both still have contacts in the city of Zahle, who could contribute to making

this dream a reality.

From there the path of Fr. Guanella into the Emirates is not far, because in 2009 our General Coucil received a formal invitation to establish a fully financed disabled center from

the Apostolic Vicariate Msgr. Paul Hinder validated by a factive promise from Sheik Faris

el Marzroui, Cousin of the Ruler, Sultan Mohammed Al Zayed, at Abu Dhabi.

May God grant the entire Guanellian family His privileged grace. At the beginning of Lent we wish all our readers a fruitful and blessed spiritual journey.





Gero Lombardo, German Guanellian Procure.

March 2017

'Food Fest'



CHENNAI - "Charity is the best weapon by which we can take actions similar to God". Don Guanella Special School held 'Food Fest' on Feb 5th to raise funds and awareness for the special children. The event, which was held at Don Guanella Major Seminary, started with a prayer dance followed by an introduction of the project for the special children. Approximately 2000 people attended. The arrangements and organization by fathers and brothers was meticulous, creating a significant means to find Souls of Mercy for the Works of Charity.

Seminarians Meeting

CUDDALORE - The Divine Providence Province held 'Inter-Seminarians Meet '17' for all Guanellian Minor Seminarians from Andhra, Karnataka and Tamilnadu on Feb 9-10th at St. Joseph's Seminary. The event centered

was on the theme "Guanellian Holiness." It was enriching time for the young aspirants strengthen themselves in

Guanellian fraternity and fellowship.

The gathering included: orientation program on "Personality Maturation: Spiritual, Human and Charismatic" by Fr. Benson SdC; endowment Seminar on "Modern Challenges in Religious Vocation" by Fr. John Peter SDB; "Guanellian Aspirancy and Vocation Discernment" by Fr. Ronald SdC; "Guanellian Spirituality Guanellian Holiness" by Fr. Assisi SdC. In addition, the students were offered varieties of general knowledge, Guanellian equipment and group entertainment. Today's saplings, tomorrows fruits. Let us pray for and prepare them for a better understanding of our founder's vision.

Guanellian Deepam '17



CHENNAI - The DGMS community releases "Guanellian Deepam" each academic year and the theme this year is, "Guanella's Spirituality and his Devotion". Many confreres contributed to the booklet by writing articles, giving birth to the richness of our Founder's Spiritual Devotedness and Maturation in Holiness. This year's edition was released on February 11th, feast day of our Lady of Lourdes and the

day seven seminarians professed perpetual vows to the Congregation. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, officially released the booklet and with his words of appreciation he insisted that the young confreres should excel in their intellectual and spiritual evangelization, drawing many modern souls to God.

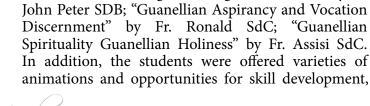
Quality Time with ASCI

CUDDALORE - St. Joseph's Evening School and Don Guanella Boys Home were privileged to spend quality time with members of ASCI, the charitable movement from Italy. The representatives were Mr. Eduardo and Ms. Maura. The children from impoverished slums and poor

family backgrounds were so happy to be with the people who assist their basic education. As a token of love, the students from both programs prepared a colorful cultural program for the sponsors and gave them a memorable gift. During the celebration the guests through their message invited the students to be rich in their moral and intellectual excellence, to be responsible in their daily duties and to be

> faithful and grateful to the life and gifts God has given to them through various persons. The event ended with a fraternal Mirriandaa, sharing refreshments.

The day was truly a witness of God's love Providence.







Final Vows and Diaconate Ordination

CHENNAI - The Servants of Charity Congregation was very delighted to receive Perpetual Vows of seven seminarians on the feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Molding and preparing for fifteen years of priestly formation, the conferres with their maturation of discorpment, and conformity with Christ mode.

discernment and conformity with Christ made their solemn surrender to the Lord of the harvest, to serve and save souls through the Guanellian Order.



Brothers submitted themselves to God in the presence of Fr. Gustavo DeBonis, General Secretary, and Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior. The following day, February 12th, the seven professed brothers were ordained as Deacons by Most Rev. Anthony Samy, Bishop of Kumbakonam. The congregation and the church thanked God for the gifts of young Servants.

Picnic for Oratory Children

BANGALORE - From young to old everyone loves the fun of picnic, an adventure to the unknown wonder

world. The Guanella Preethi Nivas community planned a one day picnic to Mysore for the oratory children, making their hearts overflow with joy. We visited many places: Sangam, Thipusulthan Fort, the zoo, Chamundiswari Hill, and Mysore Palace. They learned many things during this picnic. While visiting the historical sites, the

children eagerly listened to and asked many questions about the history of each place. The picnic made children the happy, and

left them with

unforgettable memories.

Home to Serve...

CHENNAI - Extending charity is the realization of the kingdom of God. Therefore in view of realizing the presence of the kingdom of God, Don Guanella Special

School laid the foundation for stone the Residential Home for the Special Children February on 12th in the presence of Most Rev. Anthony Samy, Bishop of Kumbakonam;

Fr. Gustavo DeBonis, General Secretary; and Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior. Fr. Soosai made a special request for the spiritual and material support of the project to all present. The celebration closed with Marian sentiments.

Annual Day

CUDDALORE - Don Guanella Boys Home celebrated Annual Day on February 19th with a joy filled ambience. The campus was filled with the parents of the students, alumni, sponsors, benefactors and special dignitaries. The entire Guanellian Religious community made the day very significant and memorable. The students were honored for their skill and achievements in all the dimensions of their growth. The dignitaries of

the day inspired the students with their messages focused on 'Character and Intelligence'. The event also included cultural performances, skill performance

program, prize distribution and a fraternal meal. Charity never fails until there is a heart to love and to be loved. Let us make the Guanellian Family a shelter of love.

The Pedagogy of Kindness

CHENNAI - Reviewing the past can be helpful for the present. Four Regency brothers gathered for the second time at Don Guanella Major Seminary

February 22nd-23rd. The topic of the two-day program

was 'Pedagogy of Kindness' with talks on this theme



given by Soosai and the DGMS confreres. Brothers shared their mission experience and listened to one another. They expressed also their thanks to Fr. Soosai and his council for giving

them a chance to have firsthand experiences of our mission. The second day, they had an exposure program to Balavigar Special School run by a Government organization. They even had some time for sightseeing in Chennai. Regent Brothers returned to their communities in the spirit of happiness and eagerness.

Guanellian Theological Reflection

CHENNAI - The ecclesial document Pastores Dobo Vobis recommends that candidates to the priesthood be equipped in all dimensions of priestly life. In particular, every individual must excel in their spiritual, moral and intellectual development. In the light of the document's invitation, Don Guanella Major Seminary held the third Theological Reflection on "Features and Visions of Guanellian Life" on February 23rd. The chief guest was Fr. Prakash, SdC, who gave talks, presentations, defense and clarifications to bring a sound understanding about St. Guanella's Spirituality and Apostolic Vision.

Evening School Students to Graduate

CHENNAI - A word of appreciation, a note of gratitude and a wish of success always brings us close to each other. On February 25th, Don Guanella Evening school gave a farewell program to eight students, who are preparing for their board exams beginning on March 2nd. After they finish these exams, they will also leave DGES. To

commemorate this event, a farewell celebration was organized by the iunior students. There were different activities like, songs, party games and skits. When it was the time. 12th the grade shared students



their experiences that were inculcated in them at DGES. They also expressed their gratitude to DGES. We wished them well and gave them stationary for the exams. At the end, the students joyfully shared cake.

Mission Experience of Novices

BANGALORE - The six novices and Fr. Kennedy from Guanella Preethi Nivas Novitiate went for a oneweek mission experience with mentally ill patients at "Nazareth Illam" in Thalavadi. This challenging mission is aided by the Government. Right now there are 63 people, the neglected and unwanted of society are brought from the roads, streets, bus stops by social workers and government officials to stay there. The Guanellian priests are rehabilitating them with immense love, medication and care free of charge. They organize various programs, games, therapy and



other activities for their benefit. In fact, this mission has brought popular identity of our institute in the district. The novices were given an orientation and training session about the home, its service and the patients paving the way for a fruitful time of service. The novices participated in manual work, gardening, games, prayers, entertainment, fire dance, cooking, feeding, and exercise. They also assisted with personal care, giving haircuts, shaving them and making their beds. Most importantly, the novices listened to their stories, problems, and their family backgrounds. This attentive, empathetic listening enriched both. Novices were touched by the miracle of love happening there:

the patients get healed in part by the family atmosphere. Once they are stabilized and rehabilitated, they are examined by a psychiatrist and many are reunited with their families. It is really a hall mark of our noble service to humanity in Tamilnadu. After the mission experience the novices returned to GPN with immense satisfaction and valuable

learning.



Walk for Life 2017

MANILA - On February 18th, the Guanellian Seminarians and professed brothers joined the "Walk



for Life" against the culture of death such as extra-judicial killings that are becoming rampant in the Philippines, and the threat to bring back the death penalty. It

was organized by the Council of the Laity Philippines and supported by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP). The participants from the Servants of Charity began their journey very early in the morning; the usual time when the dead bodies were being found in the streets, and joined the gathering held at Quirino Granstand in Manila. This advocacy is an invitation to respect, defend and promote life by filling the streets with prayer. There were more than twenty thousand people who responded to this call as a sign that Filipinos are not silent on this matter and still believe in the sanctity of life.

Guanella Center Celebrates Valentines' Day

MANILA - A Valentine program was held at Guanella Center February 14th for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The opening of the program



was led by Sr. Fe Aguilar, a Guanella Center Staff, followed by an opening prayer led by the hearing impaired class of Sir Marvin Lava. The Guanella Home residents presented a dance number with the Physical Therapy interns and then the different booths were opened and the games were played. Lunch was served after the games followed by another dance number

presented by another group of boys and girls. There was a contest to decide who would be awarded Mr.

and Ms. Valentine 2017, the lucky ones were John Paul Dunglao and Hana Vanessa Almario, next were Maricar Marabillas and Marwin Ostras and last but not the least were David Torotoro and Fel Lorraine Canoy. The main theme for this year's Valentine was "Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart."

Search-In Program

MANILA - February 18th-19th the Servants of Charity hosted the Search-In program which educates students



and recent graduates what the religious life is like and what it takes to be in seminary. The participants

were recruited through vocation campaigns of the Servants of Charity at different parishes and schools. Participants stayed overnight at the seminary. They participated in different activities and attended a series of talks by Fr. Charlton Viray, SdC and some seminarians. Topics included vocation awareness, spirituality, the Servants of Charity, St. Louis Guanella and his charism. Another goal of this program is to help the participants discern their vocation and not be afraid to respond to it.

Juniors-Seminarians Forum

MANILA-Consecrated men and women are God's gift to the Church. On February 26th the Juniors-Seminarians Forum; an organization of simple professed religious in the Philippines, conducted its 31st anniversary at San Sebastian College Recoletos in Manila. As part of the local church, the Guanellian professed brothers and Fr. Battista, SdC attended this event. The assembly gave a chance for every participant to encounter various religious congregations present in the Philippines. More than two hundred temporarily professed religious showed their support and vibrant participation.



Seminar for Families with Special Needs

CHELSEA - On Thursday, February 16th, St. Louis Center hosted its first public seminar entitled "Securing the Future for Special Needs Families: Protect, Provide



and Prosper." The purpose of the program was to provide experts in specific areas so that families can provide for the future needs of their children with special needs. According to Fr.

Enzo Addari, SdC., "At St. Louis Center, we feel that we are in a unique position to provide a level of expertise to families in need who might not be able to provide these resources for themselves."

The headliners of the program were attorneys Daniel R. Shirey of Kitch Counselors in Detroit, a law firm with over 100 attorneys, and Joshua R. Fink of Fink & Fink, LLC, a family law firm in Ann Arbor, MI. Mr. Shirey began the presentation with a discussion on the importance of setting up a "Special Needs Trust Fund" that could be used for the financial needs of a child with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities after the parents are gone. Mr. Fink then went on to discuss the importance of establishing legal guardianships for people with special needs to make it clear that someone else can be legally responsible for managing the affairs of a loved one after the parents.

There were 42 people in attendance that evaluated the quality of the speakers and concluded that the presentations were excellent and very helpful for their future planning. Several people came away impressed with St. Louis Center, and are considering a future new home in St. Louis Guanella Village once it's completed.

Happy Meals and Happy Residents

CHELSEA - The month of February is usually a quiet month for the residents at St. Louis Center. So to break the monotony of winter weekends, Amy Thomson of Jackson brought a bit of joy to a dreary



Saturday afternoon February 25th. She is the mother of Dave Thomson, SLC Kitchen Manager, and the owner of a McDonald's franchise. After taking part in the

Trunk or Treat back in October she really wanted to do a little more for the residents. She brought Happy Meals, complete with prizes, and Ronald McDonald. While the residents



enjoyed their burgers and fries, Ronald greeted everyone and even performed a few magic tricks. The youngest residents enjoyed him so much they begged him to play a bit of basketball in the gym. Amy was so pleased at how well the visit went that she hopes to return soon with Ronald and a bit more magic.

Patrons Gather for Dinner with Priests

CHELSEA - On a festive "Fat Tuesday" evening, the small dining room of St. Louis Center was transformed into "Bourbon Street", as friends and families came together for an evening dinner that featured both "Pasta and Priests" to raise operational funds on the night before Ash Wednesday. Over 60 people received beads and masks for one last celebration before the start of Lent, and were treated to a dinner of lasagna, penne pasta, meatballs, meat sauce, dessert and wine. This event is an outgrowth of the Fall Dinner Auction held at St. Joseph Mercy-Chelsea every year, where patrons bid on this dinner and make their commitments to attend in November.

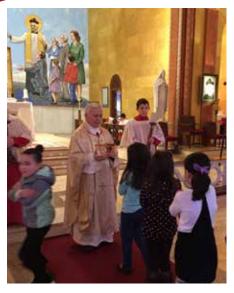
Chairwoman Kathi Neuman said, "This event gives us another chance to bring people together to do something nice for St. Louis Center at the beginning of the year



and enjoy each other's company once again." Legacy Campaign Chair Norm Neuman gave an update on the construction of St. Louis Guanella Village, and a raffle drawing was held to close out the evening.

March 2017

United States/Calendar



Catholic School is Fun

E. PROVIDENCE - Catholic Schools Week was a funfilled week at Sacred Heart School. We had Crazy Hair Day,

Pajama Day, Principal, Teacher, & Pastor Appreciation Days, and ended the week with a Mass celebrated by our Principal, Fr. Peter. One of the highlights of the week was a volleyball game where the Faculty/Staff/PTO plays the 8th grade. It was a close game but the 8th graders won!



March Calendar of Events

1 Ash Wednesday

6-10 Bangalore: One-week "Personality

Development" Internovitiate Course - GPN

9 Chelsea: Guanellian Cooperators Holy Hour - SLC

11 Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys

Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group

11-12 Manila: Vocation Seminar

12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSI

13-18 Bangalore: Healing the Inner Child Therapy for Novices - GPN

20 St. Joseph Husband of Mary

24 First Religious Profession of Servants of Charity (1908)

25 Annunciation of the Lord

28 Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Mazzucchi

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

1 Bro. Jesu Doss: birthday

2 Fr. Prakesh Philemen Raj: birthday

4 Bro. Maria Julian Bernard: birthday

5 Fr. Kulandaisamy: birthday; Fr. John Joseph: feast day

10 Bro. Antony Kalai Selvan: birthday

13 Fr. John Bosco, Fr. Paulraj P.: birthday

15 **Bro. Abraham:** birthday

19 Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Fr. Jayasoosai, Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe, Bro.

Joseph Fernandez S., Bro. Joseph S., Peddarappu Joseph, Bro. Vellington, Bro. Joseph Rajarathnam: feast day

Fr. Louis: birthday

21 Bro. Rishar Raffee Jegan: birthday

24 Bro. Antony Jayaraj: birthday

25 Fr. Roosewelt: birthday

29 Fr. Ligori: birthday

30 Fr. Dominic Sebastian Baskar: birthday



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Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Contact the Communications and Community Relations Office at:

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