

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



No One Knocks in Vain

Vocations Promotion – A Responsibility of every Guanellian

No Vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say, 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another'? – Pope Francis 2014

Dear Confreres, Sisters & Cooperators, One of the major concerns in the discussions and discernments during the 20th General Chapter and recently in the Meeting of the Provincials with the General Council held in Jan 2021 was vocation promotion. Our province has been indeed blessed with a number of vocations, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the confreres in the past, we were able to send out quite a number of confreres as missionaries in almost all the continents of the Guanellian world. But we have arrived at a moment when our formation houses have only a few candidates in the discernment process. We had to close a discernment house in Mysore due to a lack of vocations. I am fully aware that there is a global crisis of religious and priestly vocations. But we cannot mumble this justification and move aside. We all are responsible for this Guanellian legacy to move ahead beyond our time and space. The needy people and the cry of our charism and mission is very evident right in front of our eyes. The baton is given to me

and I need to hand on to someone else before I finish the race.

We have done some basic work in this sector of vocation animation in India since the Covid situation, which in a way paralyzed this ministry. A separate confrere, Fr. M. Jeyaseelan, with the only task of Vocation Coordination and Youth Animation, and equipped with a few other confreres involved in this ministry with a particular assignment, dynamics and strategies for the forthcoming months in view of the new scholastic year. I appeal to all of you dear confreres, sisters and cooperators to collaborate in this special ministry. I request all Superiors and Residence in-charges to assign confreres to do this ministry in the nearby dioceses in collaboration with the Vocation Coordinator. In the US the confreres have been working very hard in this regard and I encourage them to continue with the words of Pope Benedict XVI, "we know that the Lord sometimes makes us wait, but we also know that no one knocks in vain. So with patient confidence we continue to pray to the Lord for the gift of new holy laborers".

It is a collective responsibility. The Institute of the Servants of Charity must be like a magnet that attracts the hearts of vocations to itself (Reg. 1910). There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer (54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations). I urge all the communities to constantly pray for vocations, offer adoration and holy Mass for this intention, to make community plans for vocation promotion in your locality and to collaborate with the Vocation Coordination team,

February 2021

Volume 14 Number 2



“By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another”

Pope Francis

involving the entire Guanellian family in this important ministry. I just want to inform you that I will be making the Canonical Visitation of the communities and residences soon.

Congratulations to Fr. S. Arockia Nathan who has reached Romania to begin his ministry there.

Our solidarity and prayers to the community of Como and the Chelsea community who are reviving from the grips of the Covid virus.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to our confreres Bro. John Peter, Bro. Philomin Raja, Bro. Sachinson who have lost their beloved fathers in the recent past.

Fr. Ronald J. SdC
Provincial Superior

INSIDE:

Provincial	2-6
India	7-13
United States	14
Calendar	14
Fr. Bala	15

February Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Chennai:** Project Desk Meeting - DGMS
- 2 **Bangalore:** Funeral Mass-Kollegal
- 3 **Cuddalore:** Marriage Mass
- 4 **Meeting with Trust Members**
- 7 **Chennai:** Marriage Mass
- 8 **Project Desk Meeting**
- 10 **Provincial Council Meeting**
- 13 **Muttukadu:** Feast Day Celebration
- 14 **Andra:** First Anniversary of Fr. Balayesu's death
- 15 **Nellikollai:** Marriage Mass
- 17 **Palavakkam:** Ash Wednesday
- 28 **Andra:** Feast Day - Vatluru

Regency Meeting

PROVINCIALATE - The Regency meeting started on January 18th with personal prayer and meditation. Afterward, was a class on "St. Joseph - A Perfect



Mission Accomplished." The class was taught by Fr. Dyson Rathinam. It was an enlightening session for all. We learned that St. Joseph was an inspiration for our mission, through hard work, obedience, humility and love towards Mother Mary and Jesus Christ. There was also a practical session for asking many questions on regency, and Father was humble enough to answer with clear points. Mass was presided over by Fr. Antony Samy, followed by lunch and a focus group on the morning session. The 3'o clock class was on "Occupational Therapy" by Dr. Porchelvi. The class was awesome and taught many things for the ministry. The class ended with a vote of thanks by Bro. Carlos Nayak. The next class was on " Reinforcing the Guanellian Mission on Indian Soil." The class was very meaningful and he spoke like an older brother. Through this class all were motivated to encounter the Lord in our mission places. We learned more about our missionary services as a Guanellian. The evening ended by watching a movie before going to bed. The next day began with Morning Prayer and a Mass presided over by Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior. Then the community went to the falls and enjoyed swimming.

Year of St. Joseph



O St. Joseph foster-father of Jesus Christ and true Spouse of Mary ever-virgin, pray for us and for the suffering and dying of this day/night.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

Everyone came back ready to do mission work with more spirit from these classes, which inspired and touched our hearts. All the confreres departed towards their respective regency places with the blessings of Fr. Ronald and the Provincialate house.

Tutelage Program Synopsis

CHENNAI - Consecrated persons have to be on a constant renewal and revitalization of self with all the qualities and attitudes needed to be a religious in the following of Jesus Christ. They require some sustenance after the initial phases of formation until the end of life. The ultimate aim of religious life - as per the inspiration and invitation of our holy founder - is to remain holy and to work for the holiness of others. Hence, the gathering for the first five years of priesthood was organized by Rev. Fr. Ronald SdC, the Provincial Superior on the human dimension of every individual along with the efficient animating capacity of the Silesian Priests namely, Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj Sdb and John Christy Sdb with themes of "Affective Maturity, Challenges in Fraternal Life, Priesthood and Internal Evaluation, Harmonious blend of the Heart, Mind and Hands: the Jesus Model". The participants were around 19 tutelage priests and a few priests of the DPP and DGMS community, two DSMP sisters along with the 4th year theology students in their immediate preparation to the perpetual profession. The proceedings and running of the three days sessions are as follows:

Day One: "Emotional and Affective Maturity" - Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj Sdb

After the inaugural prayer and lighting of Kuthuvilakku the session began with the introduction of Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj Sdb, the resource person, by Fr. Arockia Nathan in an elaborate manner.

He began the session with the ice breaking game of blowing a balloon without letting it to fall in order to stimulate the participants' feelings and emotions

and come to the awareness of self. He mentioned that emotions play a vital role in a person. Following that, he explained the aspects of maturity, its dimensions and levels along with the priestly affective maturity.

6 Dimensional Perspectives of Maturity

1. **Physical Maturity:** comprised of biologic, genetic and hormonal factors. The maturity does not take place once and for all but from the moment of conception until death.
2. **Emotional Maturity:** this leads to the awareness of the body's impulses, feelings towards others and sexual feelings.
3. **Cognitive Maturity:** the knowledge and perception of the various situations, problems and proposals.
4. **Social Maturity:** deals with the relationship between others and maintaining a healthy relationship with all, irrespective of the various differences. This is to behave in a more mature and responsible manner.
5. **Spiritual Maturity:** feeling the importance of the presence of God in life. Not only that we have to affirm it. It must lead to the realization of the sacredness of one's total self.
6. **Moral Maturity:** depends on the attitudes and actions of an individual over the daily situations of life. It reveals the behavioral patterns which are congruent with one's life commitment.

Emotional maturity is the capacity to respond to situations and circumstances in an appropriate and adaptive manner. It also represents the consistency of what I am and what I prefer to be. The person who is emotionally mature is able to take responsibility for one's behaviors, actions and words spoken.

6 Levels of Emotional Maturity - these are the following levels: Basic Emotional Responsibility, Emotional Honesty, Emotional Openness, Emotional Assertiveness, Emotional Understanding and Emotional Detachment.

The growth is not linear according to the stages of mental and physical growth. It varies as per the situation. Each one is expected to reach another level called Level Zero wherein one is not controlled by emotions at all.

In the afternoon sessions Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj shared in detail about the priestly affective maturity with the

various helps to live a happy celibate life.

Thus after the various input sessions and group sharing, the first day came to an end with the vote of thanks to the resource person by Fr. Praveen.

Day Two: "Thought Patterns of the Individual, Feelings of the Laity about the religious and Priests" - Fr. John Christy SdB

After the prayer, Fr. Jeyaseelan welcomed and introduced Fr. John Christy, the resource person of the second and third day programs. He began the session with the three dynamics to move the participants to the rhythm of the proceedings of the thinking pattern of every individual.



Dynamics: First dynamic - Connecting the Nine Dots: explains the learned behaviors of a person. There are three thinking patterns: Thinking within the box, thinking out of the box and thinking without the box. Second

dynamic - Counting the Triangles: as an individual Guanellian priest or religious, do the following things: Observe everything Keenly, Overlook the trivial and correct the essentials. Third dynamic - Eliminating two unnecessary matches: to arrive at two perfect squares one needs to eliminate the unnecessary match sticks. After the dynamics the discussion moved on to the feelings of the laity about the religious or a priest. There are few expectations, hurdles and resources.

The Expectations are - Holy, Active, Reach out, Inclusive and Simple (HARIS). The holiness of the priest or religious highly revered. They are called be active with greater energy and vigor to reach out to people without any restrictions, including everyone to be part of the life and mission with the greater simple life style.

The Hurdles are - Pursuit of money, Addictions to various things, Rage, Idleness and Sectarianism (PARIS). The eagerness for power, position and money are the great hurdle for a person to live up to the expectations of the people. Followed by these are addictions and perversions, irresponsible handling of rage and anger with idleness leading to various sectarian life styles and truly leading to the destruction of one's vocation.

The Resources are - Prayer, Eucharist, Affectionate & Supportive Relationship, Community Life and Spiritual Guidance.

In the afternoon session he organized a work group to find out and celebrate self with identity by exercising the rights and duties to find happiness and celebrate life. He made a mention about Jn 10:10 that all of us are gifted with life. Hence each has to identify the special gift that God has put in each and assure with a signature of one's own and approve. With instructions and reflections, sharing the day came to an end.

Day Three: “Love Quotient, Model for Religious – Barnaba, Religious Discipline and Total Availability to the common missions and LIFE” - Fr. John Christy

Love Quotient: The third day of the tutelage program began with the prayer organized by the resource person. He began saying that the tutelage is a period of animating, molding and guiding the self. There needs be a continuous dialysis, purifying grace to march forward with love in imitation of Jesus Christ the perfect model of our life. He requested the priests to be in passionate connection with the Founder, to be creative and to show greater fidelity to the charism, to move always back to the original roots in order to act according to the signs of the times. He led us to the testing of our love quotient and the capacity to love self and others.



Model for Religious –Barnaba: Then the session proceeded for the reflection on Baranaba as a Model for Religious with various guidelines, reflecting the life patterns, longing of every individual, attitudes and aptitudes to be a religious.

Religious Discipline and Total Availability to the Common Mission: Fr. John Christy mentioned that there needs be a discipline and availability from the part of any individual opting to be a religious and explained the various needs.

- Becoming a disciple is not a simple task, rather it is a lifelong task and an ongoing process. Therefore one has to be faithful to his/her commitment.
- Regular follow up of the constitutions
- Follow Christ more closely (Consecrated = Cum Sacratum), in building up the church, working for the salvation of the world, perfection of charity and service to the Kingdom of God
- Religious obedience is very important not based on power but on listening, discerning and respecting the view and opinions of the superiors as well as

superiors (dialogue with all)

- Religious Poverty, (Providere = to foresee) be dependent on God for he is the provider in the narration of the sacrifice of Isaac. Make place for God and do away with the false idols and images
- Religious Chastity – not only bodily purity but purity of mind and heart is needed for the perseverance of the religious commitment. Love God and neighbor with an undivided heart. Love in an uncomplicated way. It is not a conquest, rather a daily fidelity to what one is committed to.
- Prayer life – be committed to your personal time with the Lord as a daily practice of piety and never neglect personal prayer at the cost of any other program of life.
- Community Life – each one is invited to live and work together, to give quality participation with the sense of righteousness leaving out the idea of individualism.

- Mission – for which we are united to serve God and humanity. It is not merely voluntary work.

Life: (Love-Infatuation-Friendship-Exploitation)

He shared that the life each of us is living has ups and downs, positives and negatives but what one chooses to be depends on the life.

- *Friendship* – need of everyone, during the youthful years, friends of both the sexes, with different backgrounds, religion ideas, values and of all ages
- *Infatuation* – found extremely in teen years, involves sexual attraction and feelings, just interested in someone, to be emotionally involved and in touch with, it is an exciting human experience, a most troublesome period of life, sometimes ecstatically happy or extremely depressed
- *Love* – most beautiful human experience, a lot of commitment, understanding, acceptance, forgiveness, sensitivity, consideration, patience, trust, self-sacrifice, permanence, kindness, compassion and mutual respect
- *Exploitation* – relationship based of selfish motives, using people more than respecting and accepting, taking for granted our friends, abuse of the trust of parents, superiors and friends, trying to butter up our leaders, blackmailing others, taking advantage of someone's weaknesses

Out of these various life choices we are invited to root ourselves on the healthy (Love & Friendship) way

leaving out the unhealthy (Infatuation & Exploitation) terms in our relationship.

Evaluation:

Fr. Ronald, SdC, Provincial Superior, intervened and gathered up the participants for the evaluation. At the very outset he thanked the participants for their availability. He mentioned that the animation of this program would allow one to go back and to have a checklist of life in the first years of the priestly ministry. He invited the confreres to share their experiences during the first phase of the ongoing formation. The confreres responded with their sharing and appreciation of the present tutelage program.

Appreciations:

- The resource persons were good
- Good themes on practical aspects of priestly ministry

Suggestions:

- get togethers, fraternal gatherings or a day of picnic could be arranged
- could allot time for sharing about the ministry experiences and difficulties
- some teaching on the founder also could be included

Fr. Provincial's Observations:

Fr. Provincial appreciated and thanked everyone for their valid presence. The following are the observations he shared: He invited everyone to be punctual for the sessions and to be on time for any program, sleep or rest well during the rest hours and be active and alert during the sessions, interact and be involved with great active participation, be dedicated and committed, have passion for the learning (reading, reflecting and meditating).

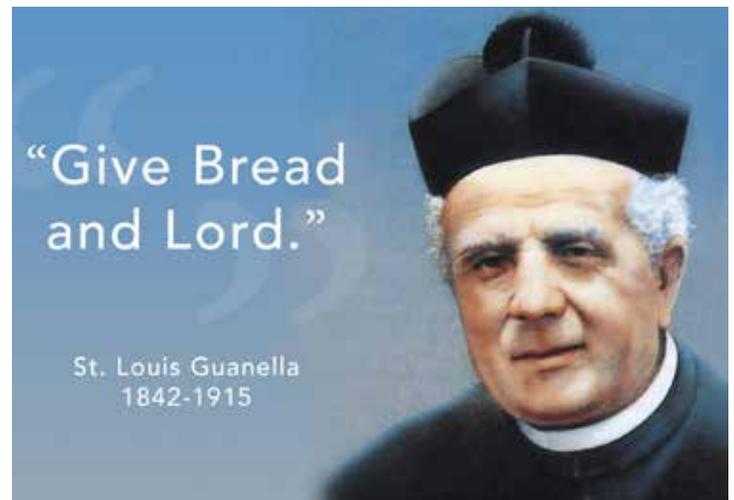
Conclusion: The program ended with a word of thanks to the resource persons by Fr. Vimal Thambusamy SdC.

The Superior General Speaks

“Voi per non perdervi d'animo, riflettete alla molta misericordia che il Signore vi ha usato chiamandovi a vita religiosa. Badate al dovere che avete di ben corrispondere e di togliere al mondo ogni occasione di dire o pensare male di voi.”

ROMA - February 2, 2021 = Today we celebrate the 25th World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

Fr. Guanella identifies his religious and intimate people of God to whom he has spoken with expressions of familiarity and love. He urged them: “In order not to lose heart, reflect on the great mercy that the Lord has



shown in calling you to religious life. Pay attention to your duty to respond well and to take away from the world any opportunity to say or think bad of you”. He still believed that being called to consecrated life was a singular grace. So to his first confreres, Fr. Guanella said: "... it is stated that the Institute of the Servants of Charity must be almost a magnet that attracts the hearts of vocations to itself." And then also wanting to specify the type, almost the brand, of the vocational magnet of his religious, he continues: “a magnet that multiplies around the Institute brothers at work of prayer ... of charity.” About charity he adds: "which must be a magnet that attracts any sort of iron, as long as it is skilled iron, suitable for being worked by the Lord". Therefore, for Fr. Guanella in his works we are sanctified through prayer, work and charity as a promotion of good for all. And isn't this the reason that still convinces young people to leave their families, their land, and to enter a religious community to consecrate themselves to God? The pursuit of happiness which also is the sanctity of life. The gift of consecration is made to God who in turn sends to the poor in his name to pass on his paternity.

An invitation then to many young people who are in search of happiness: doesn't it seem to you that it is right to ask yourself the question at least once in your life: could I be fulfilled and be happy by consecrating all of my life to God? Does God need me too in order to save humanity? What availability do I check in my heart with regard to religious consecration? Today I wish all male and female religious congregations fidelity to their own charism, a gift of the Spirit, as an answer to the pleas of humanity; while to young people I say: allow yourselves to be questioned, at least once in your life, by the question: can I too be called to religious life? Listening is an act of trust that we give to God. Best wishes!

Make Our Globe a Better Place to Live and Love

By Fr. Franklin, SdC

When people ask me: “What can we do to make our world a better place?” I remember a talk I gave about a 53-year-old nun, Sr. Valsa John, who led campaigns to defend tribal rights, an act for which she was shot dead in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand. I began my talk by saying, “I am very happy and proud to talk about Sr. Valsa John.” During the Q&A period, one of the participants asked me a question by stating my introduction: “How can you feel happy and proud while describing a person's brutal death? Will you feel the same way if something happens to one of your family members?” I pondered this for a moment, then responded: “I am happy and proud of Sr. Valsa John because she taught me to die for a good cause, never give up on fighting for the rights of the poor; she had the spirit of a modern martyr who lived and died for the people she loved the most. That's why I am happy to talk about her death, and it inspires me to die for a good cause and participate in the saints' martyrdom.”

Sr. Valsa is not alone. Many are becoming silent modern martyrs giving their lives for the love of God and their neighbor. Fr. Regalado (a Filipino Catholic Priest) was also known as “Paring Bukidnon” (“Mountain Priest”) because he often visited the most isolated communities, advocating issues related to the life and urgent support for farmers and promoting organic and sustainable agriculture. He dealt with matters of a social nature. On January 24, 2021, unidentified armed men opened fire and killed Fr. Regalado. According to police investigators, Fr. Regalado had received death threats before he was killed, yet he continued his mission to serve others.

These examples reflect a need for a universal change in the way we approach those who are different from us. Our global society has undergone many changes in modern civilization's name, but the failure to respect the rights of the poor and marginalized groups of people has not changed. It merely continues in a different form. In “Fratelli Tutti,” Pope Francis addresses many issues and suggests ways to live better. For he says, it is time for us to “dream, then, as a single human family”

in which we are “all brothers and sisters” (Par 8). Is it possible to dream of a single human family while people want to maintain their differences or do not want to share? Today's market economy, profit policies, individualistic culture, and monopoly of various elements give no place to practice the suggestions of “Fratelli Tutti” like Sr. Valsa John and Fr. Regalado did. Many die every year for a “right cause,” yet what is our approach toward them? The business world promotes globalization for its marketing policies and higher profit-margins. But as Christians, as religious people, our view on globalization must be different; we must encourage the central goal of globalization as one that promotes the dream of a single human family.

This is not some wanton, purposeless venture. It is what Jesus called us to do so that “. . .my joy might be in you, and that your joy might be complete” (John 15,11). Jesus invited us to live and lay down our lives for the good of others and never to suppress or reject others. For our own good and salvation, we work for this righteous cause by promoting life, safeguarding nature, and respecting everyone's dignity. Such an approach is necessary if we want to build a universal family, a single human family. To do this, it is very important to appreciate and respect every person and elements beyond our walls of culture, color, region, and religion. Violence must be rejected as a response to the beliefs, values, and cultures of those who are different, especially the poor. As John Donne, a 17th Century Anglican minister, pointed out, “any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in all mankind.”

Perhaps, the answer rests in the origins of our faith – the early Christian church; their sincere belief in “love your neighbor” spread through all the different cultures of the ancient world. Breaking down prejudices and fears through respect for each individual's value and creating a climate encouraging everyone to live their lives for the love of their neighbor. Through their efforts, the world became a better place, and we need to imitate the spirit of that mission, just as Sr. Valsa John did.



Sr. Valsa John

In and Out of Season

CUDDALORE - There is a saying by the philosopher Confucius, "If you love your profession, there is no



holiday for you." I truly believe and experience this in my search for vocations. All the coordinators of the vocation promotion program for our province gathered on January 22nd at DGMS, Chennai. The meeting began with a prayer animated by brothers from DGMS and the keynote address by Fr. Ronald, the Provincial Superior. He elaborately explained the need and duty of everyone to promote vocations for the congregation. He asked all the participants to go in groups and discuss the possible ways of doing vocation promotion in the near future. Fathers and brothers have come up with an action plan and proposals to venture into a vocation drive. Fr. Jayaseelan, vocation promoter, thanked everyone for their support and encouragement in this ministry. The meeting concluded with the prayers and encouragement of Fr. Ronald.

Celebrating the Feast of a Pioneer

CUDDALORE - Whole Young Catholic World joyfully



celebrated the gift of the great St. John Bosco on January 31st. He is the founder of the third largest congregation in today's world. As Guanaellians we rejoice to celebrate

this saint since we are cousins of the Salesians and our Founder was a Salesian for 3 years. On this occasion St. Joseph's Seminary was blessed indeed to have and celebrate the Feast of Fr. John Bosco, SdC. The pioneer of the Indian Guanellian world, Fr. Bosco celebrated the Eucharist and preached on the powerful intercession of St. John Bosco in his own life. All the priests, sisters and brothers of the neighboring communities came to join the celebration making the day memorable and jubilant.

Minor Seminarians Meet

CUDDALORE - According to the custom and at the direction of Provincial Superior Fr. Ronald, the rectors of St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore and Guanella Bhavan, Koppakka held a gathering of 50 minor seminarians January 14-17th in Cuddalore. The first day was a day of recollection and confession as spiritual preparation for the young ones guided by Fr. Kalaiselvan SdC, a missionary from Romania. The second day was a day of cultural programs and sports including a variety of



dances, singing and skits from different cultures and innovations. The third day was a day of orientation on the theme of the gathering, "Fraternity, a Laboratory of Reciprocity". The resource person was a young missionary from USA Fr. Amalraj SdC. With his gifts of oratory and calibre he attracted the audience and taught them about the gifts, struggles and solutions in the life of communion. His questions were reflected upon, discussed in groups and reports were presented. The last day was dedicated for a real mission experience



as a group. They went to St. Mary's Aged Home run by Cluny sisters which houses nearly 90 aged men and women. The seminarians entertained them with dialogues, singing, dancing and storytelling. After almost a year without a visit from the seminarians, they were all excited indeed. Guanellian fathers and brothers celebrated Mass for them in aged home and prayed for them. In the afternoon they went to Cuddalore OT Beach where they all played, swam and took photographs. These days of color and vitality were made possible by the participation of two DSMP novices, two DSMP candidates and their three formators. May the

young love this religious life and ministry and discern well to pursue their vocation.

72nd Republic Day

CUDDALORE - Freedom cannot be bestowed, it must be achieved. This year India celebrated its 72nd Republic Day. It's a day to remember all the great leaders who toiled to assemble our laws and governance as Indians to rule the Nation. With patriotism and gratitude the students of St. Joseph's Seminary gathered to thank and pray to the Lord for the gift of this motherland India. After Holy Mass the celebration began with a flag hoisting, paying honor to the flag, singing the national anthem, reciting the pledge and then the cultural program. Brothers exhibited their talents of dancing and pyramid building and they even held a parade. There were folk dances from Tamilnadu, Odisha and Jharkhand. The chief guest of the day was Prof. Arokiamary, a friend, benefactor of SJS and a local Guanellian Lay Movement member. The day was further adorned by various sports and games as well as a delicious lunch..



New Expression of Guanellain Identity

CHENNAI - The two-day webinar on "Interculturality" was organized for the temporary professed brothers in India, the Philippines and Vietnam via Google Meet on January 16th-17th. It was organized by the Divine Providence Province with the support of the Stella Maris Delegation. Brothers from different countries and states participated in this event. On the first day, Fr. Prisco Cajés, OFM, enlightened us with the topic 'Interculturality in the Church,' and was followed by Fr. Charles SdC, who presented his talk on the 'Blessings and Challenges of the Intercultural Communities.' The second day started with a cultural presentation. It was eye opening for each one of us to learn the other cultures. Bro. Franco SdC, General Councilor, presented his talk on 'Interculturality and the 20th



General Chapter.' Then Fr. Samson SdC, enlightened us with a talk on 'Formation to Interculturality.' Finally, two days of programming ended successfully with the mutual collaboration of the brothers and fathers from India, Philippines and Vietnam. The whole program was animated by Bros. Arun Kumar and Anil Merugu from DGMS.

Pongal: Tamil Culture with Multi-Culture

CHENNAI - On January 15th, we were happy to celebrate the festival of thanksgiving known as 'Thai Pongal.' Amidst brothers from different states, we were happy to gather in the morning as one family with our traditional costume. Our cooks helped to prepare the pongal. Later we gathered around the Eucharistic table to thank the Lord for providing all of the bounty that comes from the field through the farmers, even amidst this pandemic. Fr. Benson, the Superior and Rector, presided over the Eucharistic celebration. After Holy Mass we shared the sweet pongal with each other with pongal greetings.



Birthday Celebration

CHENNAI - "Do you Remember your Birthdays with Thankfulness?" Rightly, the thought was proved on January 5th with a birthday celebration for our beloved Fr. Paul Arockiaraj, who was here for his Christmas vacation all the way from Italy. A celebration commenced with Holy Eucharistic celebration in the morning, followed by a Mass which he presided over in the presence of Fr. Ronald and the DGMS Community confreres. A cake cutting ceremony followed in honor of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo's 80th birthday to celebrate his service and ministry to our congregation as a gift of love from our province..



Vocation Promotion Coordinators Meet

CHENNAI - "A vision comes true when in advance of any task, it is well prepared because tomorrow belongs to those who have vision today." On January 22nd the Don Guanella Major Seminary vocation promotion

coordinators met. The meeting was headed by Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, with our provincial vocation promoter, Fr. Jeyaseelan, along with the formators; Fr. Benson, Fr. Adaikalam, Fr. Praveen, Fr. Sagayraj, Fr. Kennedy, Fr. Gabriel, Fr. Rambabu and a few of the brothers from Cuddalore and DGMS. The prayer service



was led by our brothers, which helped the meeting to be active and vibrant until the end. The welcome address was given by the DGMS superior, followed by detailed information on the activities of vocation promotion led by Fr. Jeyaseelan and Fr. Ronald, who thanked the vocation director for his trustworthy service. The forum was opened to every one for suggestions by Fr. Ronald, and the coordinators brought up ideas to create effective vocation camp drives

Celebration Day

CHENNAI - In the New Year on January 6th at DGMS bloomed with twofold joy by the anticipated celebration of the 17th year of the priestly ordination of our beloved rector, Fr. Benson Cruz and joyful birthday of Fr. Michael. The DGMS community commemorated the joyful event with the DGSS staff, followed by a cake cutting and fellowship lunch with the DGMS staff and community.



Faith and Reason Strengthen Formation

CHENNAI - On the memorial day of one of the greatest doctors of the Church and theologians – St. Thomas Aquinas, the DGMS community was happy to organize both theological and philosophical reflections on this day. In the morning under the guidance of Bro. Sachinson, the group members organized the theological reflection on the topic, “Farm Bill is to Kill” in the context of universal brotherhood with ‘Fratelli Tutti.’ Comparing the farm bill, they presented the



difficulties of the farmers who lose their dignity in order to save the dignity of our country; agriculture and unity in diversity. Sr. Pushpa, DSMP was the chief guest of this program. Under the guidance of Bro. Charles in the evening, the group members organized a philosophical reflection on, “The Materialism & Socialism of Karl Marx.” Fr. Prakash, SdC was the chief guest for this program.

Superiors and Treasurers Meet

CHENNAI - On the January 23rd, a treasurers meeting was organized at Don Guanella Major Seminary for the superiors and treasurers of the Divine Providence Province. Treasurers from each community were



present and the superiors joined the meeting through Zoom. The prominent theme for this meeting was, The Recent Amendments of the FCRA Act. In line with this theme, an input session was also organized on: Local Resource Mobilization and Fundraising.

The Meeting began with a prayer and a reading from the Holy Scripture, which was led by Fr. Kumar SdC and Fr. Michael SdC. After the opening prayer, Fr. Francis SdC, Provincial Councilor and Treasurer of the Indian Societies and Trust, welcomed the gathering. Then Fr. Ronald SdC, Provincial Superior of the Divine Providence Province, gave an introductory talk. He spoke about the paradigm of sustainability, where one makes efforts to sustain work, factory, and organization. He also quoted the UN definition for Sustainable Development: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” He mentioned the three pillars of sustainability as; Charismatic Sustainability (values of our Founder), Social Sustainability (the validity of our presence in society) and Economic Sustainability (Economic stability for present and future generations). Then he shared the present economic situation of the Province and the Congregation.

After the introductory talk the forum was turned over to Mr. John Peter who is the Accountant of the Salesian Province of Trichy. He spoke about; the Society, the

recent FCRA Amendment Act, Administrative Skills and the importance of the maintenance of accounts and records. He elaborated on the formal procedures and requirements for the better administration of the Society in line with the recent FCRA Act. Then Mr. Arockiasamy, the Auditor from Madurai who was the other resource person of the day, presented valuable points about the FCRA act, and Income Tax Act in Relation to the Auditing Report of the three Guanellian Societies in India.

The afternoon talk was about; Local Resource Mobilization and Fund Raising. The resource person, Mr. Raja, elaborated the term, "Resource" and how to develop it through resource mapping. He also spoke about fundraising and the requirements for an efficient processing and flow of funds. Powerful strategies were also pointed out by Mr. Raja. The day's session came to an end with a vote of thanks.

Celebrate God with Your Life

BANGALORE - Four senior citizens: Mr. John Peter, Mr. Joseph Marian, Mr. George Prabhakar and Mr. Gilbert of Don Guanella Aged Home, celebrated their birthday in January with a simple cutting of a cake. It was a great moment for them as they have no one else to celebrate their life. As our founder says, "Our recipients



are the owners of our house". That was experienced by our grandfathers who expressed their gratitude to the community.

When I was Naked You Clothed Me

BANGALORE - On January 13th, we were informed by the laity that there were two grandfathers living under the flyover near Krishnarajapuram. As soon as we got the information we went to the spot, along with our superior Fr. Kulandaisamy to bring them to our home for the aged. We asked them about their native homes, and the one who was willing to come along with us was from Anandhapura, HL, Bangalore, and his name



was Mr. Devadoss. We gave him a nice bath, new clothes and a place to sleep, and now he is happy to be with us. Thanks to the Providence of God, we became His instrument of love.



Harvest Festival Celebrated

BANGALORE - On January 14th, we celebrated holy Mass and the festival of harvest in honor of the farmers who sweat for their livelihood, with the laity, Guanellian Cooperators, Guanellian lay members and well-wishers



present. We prayed for the farmers who are still fighting for their rights in New Delhi. Traditional food called pongal and sugarcane were shared with everyone in a simple celebration.

Freely Received and Freely Given

BANGALORE - From January 19th-21st the poor people from Narayanapura Cross were invited to our campus and given bedsheets. Almost 100 people gathered at the entrance of our house, and all of them were served. We also invited our evening school children and provided them with bed sheets and snacks. Everyone who came that evening were grateful. As long as there are poor to be assisted our charity will never die. May our beloved Founder intercede for us from above.



Wedding Anniversary Celebrated

BANGALORE - On January 15th, Mr. & Mrs. John Peter celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in a meaningful way. They are benefactors who always wish well. They came with their family members to Don Guanella Aged



Home, had a cutting of the cake and provided lunch for everyone. May God continue to bless them and their intentions.

Pongal Celebration

CUDDALORE - Pongal was celebrated on January 15th at Sagaya Matha Parish. All the confreres concelebrated the special Mass.

Don Guanella Boys Home students and GLM members also participated in the Pongal celebration.



Pongal, Sugar Cane and Sweets were distributed. We also celebrated the birthday our beloved Fr. A. P. Samy with the parishioners that day.

Pongalo Pongal

VATLURU - Pongal is one of the most important festivals celebrated by Tamil people in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and



Puducherry in India. It is the festival of harvest and thanksgiving. The traditional celebration in tamilnadu is celebrated for 4 days

including Bhogi pongal, Surya pongal, Mattu pongal and Kannaum pongal. It is also celebrated as Sankranthi in Andhra and Telangana states. The Guanellian fathers and sisters celebrated the Pongal festival at the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence house in Eluru. We shared our joy and happiness by sharing the sweetness of the pongal during the festival.

Grand Celebrations

VATLURU - Guanella Karunalya Boy's Home was reopened on January 24th. It had been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The home was opened following the instructions of the government and with other



precautionary methods. The boys were indeed happy to come back home. Now the campus is filled with joy and happiness. Fr. Francis Assisi, the local superior, officially welcomed all the boys back during night prayer and wished them to be happy and do their studies well. He also wished Fr. Christu Raju to have a fruitful ministry.

A Golden Jubilee

SIVAKASI - June 1, 2015 we began our Guanellian mission at St. Paul's Boys Home with the permission of Very Rev. Fr. Alfonso Crippa SdC, Superior General, Rev. Fr. Gustavo De Bonis, SdC, the link Councilor for India and Secretary General, Fr. A. Soosai Rathinam SdC was the Provincial Superior. Rev. Fr. S. Periyayagasamy, Sdc was the first director. The local people admired our ministry, way of life, and above all our presence with the people. On November 25, 2018 the feast of Christ the King, the pastoral care of the Vadapatti mission station,



St. John De Britto Church, was given to Guanellian Fathers by Most Rev Dr. Antony Pappusamy, D.D, STD with the kind

Permission of Very Rev. Fr. Umberto Brugnoli SdC, the present Superior General, and Rev. Fr. J. Ronald, Provincial Superior. Though the Christian families are very few, they have strong faith in St. John De Britto. The fathers go on home visits, visit the sick with Holy Communion and accompany them on their daily spiritual journey. It was a great privilege to celebrate the GOLDEN JUBILEE on January 26th. The Archbishop was very pleased with the parish priests, faithful, community fathers and Guanellian Congregation for good animation and the spiritual journey with the faithful. That day nearly 600 people participated in this Golden Jubilee from surrounding parishes. Nearly 20 priests and 5 nuns also participated on this occasion. In memory of this celebration, we constructed an arch, a bell tower, a flag pole and Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto. Thanks to all the community fathers who rendered their helping hand in organizing this celebration in a grand manner. Especially we thank our superior General and his Council and Divine Providence Province, Provincial Superior and his Council for your valuable support and encouragement.

New Vehicle



SIVAKASI - On January 5th Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, blessed the new vehicle at Krishnaperi. A long awaited dream has been fulfilled by buying the four wheeler vehicle for our boy's home. It is very much needful and useful for going to the hospital, buying things, and fulfilling our community needs. We thank our Provincial Superior and his Council for continued support of this mission. The community fathers and boys are very grateful for providing us this new vehicle.

Minor Seminarians Meet



KOPPAKA - "When "I" is replaced with "we", illness becomes Wellness." A meeting of minor seminarians was organized through the guidance and support of Provincial Superior Fr. Ronald. St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore, and Guanella Bhavan, Koppaka, gathered January 14th-17th, to motivate and develop an intercultural spirit in the young hearts of the 50 Guanellian seminarians. Aspirants and novices of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence accompanied by three of their formators also participated. Fr. Kalaiselvan SdC, the missionary from Romania and Fr. Amal Raj, the young missionary from USA were the resource persons. The first day was the day of recollection and confession as spiritual preparation. The second day was the day of cultural events. The third day was an orientation on the theme, "Fraternity, a Laboratory of Reciprocity". After the class on mission, the candidates paid a visit to St. Mary's Aged Home in order to gain the practical mission experience, where they entertained the residents through dialogues, singing, dancing and storytelling which made them

excited indeed. The program concluded with an outing to Cuddalore OT beach, where the group enjoyed playing together, swimming and taking photographs. The participants agreed that the program was effective and inspiring. They also thanked and highly appreciated the organizers.



Pongal Celebrations

KUMBAKONAM - On January 17th, Pongal was celebrated in many substations including Swamimalai, Santhanalpurm, Perumbandi and Autonagar. It is a tradition for the parishioners to celebrate the Pongal festival in honor of St. Antony the Hermit. The community fathers went to all the villages and rejoiced along with the people and blessed the

Pongal.

Inauguration of Chapel

KUMBAKONAM - On January 15th the new chapel was inaugurated in the Autonagar substations. Our beloved bishop, Most. Rev.



Antonysamy, blessed and opened the newly built chapel. Many Priests came and graced the occasion. Many people from different religions participated in the holy Mass and prayed for various intentions.

Anbagam Celebrates Republic Day

SIVAGANGAI - January 26th was a memorable day not only for India but also for Anbagam. The house superior,



Fr. Peter Sebastian, was the honorable chief guest and was given a warm welcome by the special children. As school resumes, twenty of our special children were invited from their home and participated in this celebration. A parade of our good children showed their patriotism by holding our national flag in their hands. Fr. Peter Sebastian hoisted the flag. He delivered a thought provoking speech on the basis of some current issues like farmers protest, violence,

unemployment, political crisis etc. Our good children exhibited their talents with a dance program and coloured the stage. Fr. George vinsula, the Administrator stepped on the stage and narrated the victorious historical events and the chieftains of the Maruthu Brothers and Champion Fighter velunachiammal .The chief guest distributed sweets to all our children. The oath was recited by the good children m.pandimeenal and the national anthem was sung to close the program. Fr. Arputha raj, the director of Anbagam animated the whole program.

Celebrating Pongal

THALAVADI - The Tamilians harvest festival is known as Pongal. It commemorates the passing of the winter solstice and the beginning of the harvest season. The first day of the festival is known as “Bhogi” and is dedicated to the god of rain. The second day is known as Thai Pongal, the third day Mattu Pongal and the fourth-day 'Kaanum Pongal'.



Pongal is one of the most popular harvest festivals of South India, mainly Tamil Nadu. Pongal falls in mid-January every year and marks the auspicious beginning of Uttarayan - the sun's journey northwards. Celebrations include drawing of Kolam, cultural celebrations, games and singing & cooking of delicious Pongal.

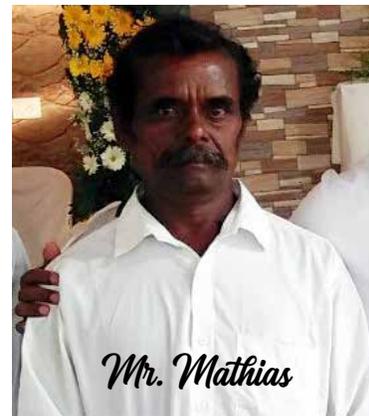
Nazareth Illam celebrated the Harvest Festival in a grand manner with colorful events like prayers, cooking Pongal, playing many games and the sharing of gifts. The chief guests were Mr. Anbarasan, Inspector of police - Thalavadi; President of the Panchaiyath - Thalavadi Mr. Kumar, President of Tignaraipanchiath and Sisters and residents from Old Age Home Pudigetta. Everyone enjoyed the day and the officials congratulated the staff for arranging a wonderful celebration.

New Vehicle for Nazareth Illam

THALAVADI - “It is God who does”. The new Cruiser van is the providential gift of DPP to the community in Thalavadi – Home for the mentally ill. The community



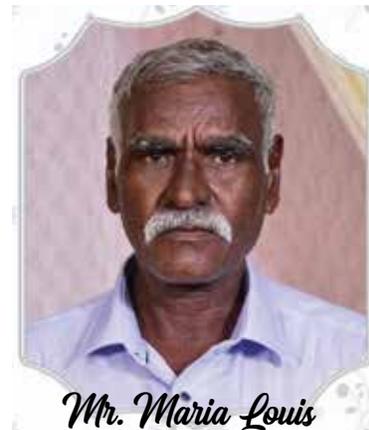
fathers and the residents are grateful to the benefactors and donors. We thank the provincial and his council for granting permission and supporting the project. The community was really facing great difficulty with the old vehicle especially while driving in the hills and forest as it gets stuck and makes it very hard to support the mission. We thank all those who have contributed for this project.



Mr. Mathias



Mr. Sesuraj



Mr. Maria Louis

In Memoriam

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die” (John 11,25). We remember and pray for the repose of the Souls of:

Mr. Mathias

February 23, 1959–

January 12, 2021

father of Bro. John Peter

Mr. Sesuraj

March 27, 1962–

February 1, 2021

father of Bro. Philomen

Mr. Maria Louis

June 27, 1954 –

February 1, 2021

father of Bro. Sachinson

Dear Brothers, we express our heartfelt condolences to you and to your families. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Year of St. Joseph

GRASS LAKE- It is important to reconstruct veneration to St. Joseph in our lives. There are many faithful who have consecrated themselves to St. Joseph after reading the book "Consecration to St. Joseph" by Fr. Donald Calloway. The Pious Union of St. Joseph also encourages the faithful to look into different perspectives of his saintly qualities through a novena to St. Joseph; we also consistently say Chaplet prayers to St. Joseph; in addition, we have a traveling St. Joseph statue that visits families to encourage prayer and devotion; we also have arranged conferences on 'St. Joseph and his dynamic qualities' – given by different priests who share the impact of St. Joseph on their life

and experiences. More specifically, I would like to point out the chaplet of St. Joseph as a means of encouraging your prayers and veneration of this special Saint. It is a different way to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary. The chaplet is prayed upon 20 beads in honor of St. Joseph. The prayers are divided into five parts each consisting of a single bead followed by a group of three. The single beads signify St. Joseph's purity, the group of three of his saintly piety.

These are only some of the ways to draw closer to this very holy man, one graced by God the Father to be His human substitute, the foster father of our Savior.

Each faithful can discover in St. Joseph, the man who goes

Talks on St. Joseph



• Every 3rd Sunday of the Month

• TIME •
6 PM

• PLACE •
Pious Union of St. Joseph
953, E Michigan Ave, Grass Lake, MI
517-522-8017

WATCH LIVE ON
Facebook: Piousunion/Shrineofstjoseph
Shrine Website: www.piousunionofstjoseph.org

unnoticed, a daily discreet and hidden presence and a constant intercessor, a source of support and guidance in times of trouble. St. Joseph is a towering personality in many areas of our Christian life.

In this beautiful year of St. Joseph, let us seek to reconstruct our lives imitating this beautiful saint; guide your family to St. Joseph through knowledge of his saintly personality and striving to imitate him in your lives. May the loyal and faithful St. Joseph intercede for us and give us new hope in this new year.

Residents and Staff Vaccinated

CHELSEA- Saturday, January 9th was a day of celebration at St. Louis Center, as many of the residents and staff were able to start receiving the first of two COVID-19

vaccinations from the CVS technicians who were contracted by the State of Michigan. You could almost feel a collective sigh of relief in the building as everyone happily rolled up their sleeves, sensing that there is now light at the end of this dark COVID-19 tunnel. CVS employees Laial Dakroub and Ivana Elhelleh worked quickly and efficiently while distributing the Moderna vaccinations in the gym, following initial screening by COO Deana Fisher. Those who received the vaccinations will need a second dose in 28 days.



February Calendar of Events

- 2 **Presentation of the Lord**
World Day of Consecrated Life
- 4 **Anniversary of the Death of Mother**
Marcellina Bosatta (1934)
- 11 **Our Lady of Lourdes**
World Day of the Sick
- 12 **Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day-**
PUSJ
- 17 **Ash Wednesday**
- 19 **Grass Lake: Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ**
- 22 **The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle**
- 25 **Anointing of the Sick of Blessed Clare**
Bosatta (1887)

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. George: birthday**



Calendar

- 2 **Fr. Kannikai Raj: feast day**
- 4 **Fr. John Paul Britto, Fr. T. Anandhan, Fr. Arul, Bro. Arul Pandian R.: feast day**
- 10 **Fr. Kuriakose A.: birthday**
- 11 **Fr. Arun, Fr. Jesu Doss, Fr. Johnson, Fr. Kumar, Fr. Paul Dhinakaran, Fr. Rambabu, Fr. Suresh, Fr. Thambu Samy: ordination day; Fr. Anthony Lourduraj S., Fr. Lourduraj C.: feast day**
- 12 **Fr. Soosai Rathinam: ordination day**
- 14 **Fr. Amalorpavanathan R.: birthday**
- 15 **Fr. Silvio DeNard: birthday**
- 19 **Fr. Sagayaraj S.: birthday**
- 23 **Bro. Arul Pandian: birthday**
- 24 **Fr. Chandra Nevis, Fr. Aputharaj J.: birthday**
- 25 **Fr. Francis S.: birthday**

Death, Not the End but the Beginning of a New Era

By Fr. Periyannayagam, SdC, Chennai

Though we are sure of it, none of us wish to die. It was the precise month of suffering and pain for Fr. Bala Yesu during the last days of his life on the earth in 2020. At these crucial days he never lost his smiling face or positive attitude when he was encountered by confreres, friends, well-wishers and visitors from all walks of life. He was truly strong and inwardly feeling happy that he was taking part in the enduring agony of his beloved Master Jesus Christ, Whom he dearly loved and opted to serve in His poorest brethren in the Congregation of the Servants of Charity. Books couldn't contain nor suffice everyone's feelings if I were to go on narrating the features of Fr. Bala. Hence I stop here to share my close association and relationship with Fr. Bala Yesu, one of my friends, companions and models for enduring pain in life.

Dear Bala,

I am immensely proud and happy to write about my relationship and association with you at your departure to the heavenly abode. Assured of your intercession for all of us, we remember you gratefully on the first anniversary of your physical disappearance from us.

It is said that when the sun or moon set on one side, it rises to open or light up the other side of reality. In the same way Fr. Bala your life on the earth is closed but opened to the heavenly homeland to replicate the face of Jesus relentlessly in His most august presence. We feel your effect in us, your friendly and caring approach and your loving and smiling relationship. A year of absence is felt by all of us but you still live in our hearts, minds and relationships. I earnestly seek your intercession for all of us to be capacitated to love everyone irrespective of the various differences and accept everyone in our ministry as you did. As a young priest of the Servants of Charity, you were a role model to endure acute and severe pain without any grudging or murmuring.

I came in contact with you dear Fr. Bala at St. Joseph Seminary as a young aspirant in 2004, who appeared to be much senior to most of us. Out of the thirteen years of our togetherness, in fact you really made a greater impact in each of us. You were a sincere and true man of prayer like any of the saints who gained power

and energy from there to flame God's love to people entrusted to their care and concern. You were brave enough to withstand any life situation and accepted the Lord's way. You took initiatives on your own and learned to read and speak the local languages like Tamil and



Kannada quickly in order to relate with the children and others to do the mission effectively. You were well known for your able relationship and companionship to people of any age. You were ever surrounded by poor and needy people at all times. You were sought after for any work at any time of the day and never got tired of sleepless nights even when you accompanied sick people in the nights since you were a skilled driver. I was spellbound at your generous heart when I was informed by one of our rectors that every month from the savings of your pocket money you donated for the development of our Buoni Figlii.

As per the saying "The graves of the dead are the wombs of the living", Dear Bala, with your short span of life, you enthralled everyone by your simple and proficient way of life through the pious and meaningful celebrations of the sacraments and the liturgy, through your powerful and thundering homilies, through your valuable presence to any person at any time, through your penances and mortifications (walking barefoot, fasting and abstinence on specific days). Though deteriorated in health you did not give up your thirst for God, you always tried to please God and not any human authority or person. May you, as we remember your first year of separation, continue to bless us from your heavenly homeland and intercede for us to lead a holy life in remaining Servants of Charity forever.

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, Let the perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Have questions or comments about this newsletter? E-mail the Communications and Community Relations Office at: kellyf@stlouiscenter.org