

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Sanctity in Silence

Be still and know that I am God. (Ps 46,10)

Dear Confreres, Sisters & Cooperators,
The month of March dedicated to St. Joseph is very special to us Guanellians, the patrimony handed down by our Founder himself who was able to envision him as the great solace of human agony and suffering, someone who can empathize with us and accompany us in our painful moments. In this special year of St. Joseph, Mother Church is inviting us to reflect on this silent guardian of whom we talk about often these days. St. John of the Cross said, "Silence is God's first language". How fitting it is to reflect on the silence of St. Joseph in this quiet and recollected season of Lent when the Lord asks us to go to our room, shut the door and pray to the Father who is in secret (Mt 6,6). It may seem funny to talk about silence in this noisy world, but how relevant and necessary it is for us individuals and society as well to be quiet.

If God has spoken to humans through various means (Hb 1,1), silence is yet another means with which He has communicated in the case of St. Joseph. They say that exterior noise intensifies interior noise, exterior silence brings about interior silence. When we pray, we speak to God; when we are silent, God speaks to us. Pope Benedict XVI in 2005 wrote that St. Joseph's silence does not express an inner emptiness

but on the contrary the fullness of faith he bears in his heart and which guides his very thought and action. Of course St. Joseph was not somebody in society as recorded in the Gospels. But his swift obedience speaks volumes of his faith because our experience tells that one can obey just like the one who had years of trust and training. The inner silence out of deep faith in God that he had, led him to this better discernment of doing God's will over his will.

As priests, religious and Christian faithful we are faced often and sometimes even daily with this challenging task of discernment, choosing one among the choices. St. Joseph stands as the model for all of us who must choose the better part (Lk 10,42), which will not be knocked down by the floods and winds of life (Mt 7,25).

I take this moment to express our hearty wishes to St. Joseph Roman province, St. Joseph Basilica at Trionfale, St. Joseph Seminary in Cuddalore and all those who bear the name of St. Joseph.

It is God's providence that we are going to have 3 more perpetual confreres in our province. I ask your special prayers for our confreres Bro. Arun Kumar, Bro. Raja Rathinam, Bro. Merugu Anil who are preparing themselves in view of their perpetual profession and diaconate which is expected to happen on March 18th and 19th at DGMS, Chennai.

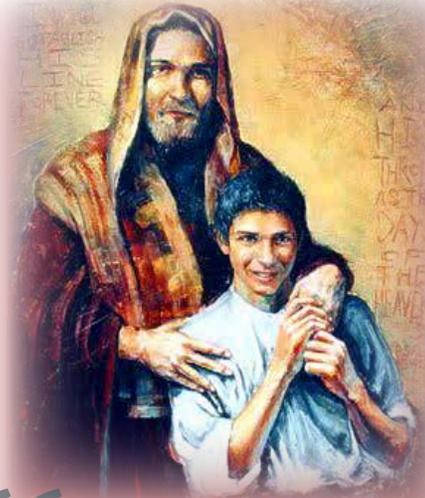
Every silence has a lot to say, you only need to listen to it carefully.

The most powerful thing you can say is nothing.

Fr. Ronald J, SdC
Provincial Superior

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“ St. Joseph .. express[es] an inner ... fullness of faith he bears in his heart and which guides his very thought and action. ”

Pope Benedict XVI

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!

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Regency Meeting

PROVINCIALATE - The confreres of the Provincialate house and Don Guanella Major Seminary had a monthly recollection on February 25th at St. Antony church in Palavakam. Rev. Fr. Nesamani gave a talk on "Handle Human Beings with Care", because human beings are precious in the hands of God. He also talked about the four pillars of faith where participants compared and identified psychologically their character. During adoration the fathers made use of the time with the Eucharistic Lord and for confession. Fr. Paul Arockia Raj celebrated



Everyone Wants to Go to Heaven, but No One is Ready to Die

By Fr. Leo Joseph, SdC

Mass and Fr. Ronald, the Provincial Superior, preached the homily. After Mass delicious food prepared by the parish priest was shared. It was a great day and good experience with the Lord.

This title reflects a basic truth about Catholics and Christians in general: if we really believed what we said we do, we should be anxious to get this life over with and get to heaven; yet no one seems eager to accept the reality of death. This is where St. Joseph becomes important.

Most people know there are churches and shrines attributed to St. Joseph

worldwide, but there is only one Shrine in the United States that is dedicated to St. Joseph, Patron of the Suffering and Dying, and that is none other than the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, MI. The Pious Union of St. Joseph emerged from the love of the heart of St. Louis Guanella. He perceived that the last hours of people's lives were the most important for every human life. In these hours, he understood the value of St. Joseph in assisting all those facing death in making the decision to abandon their lives to the bountiful mercy of God.

The first shrine dedicated to St. Joseph, Patron of the Suffering and Dying was instituted by St. Louis Guanella at St. Joseph at Trionfale in Rome, Italy. The Pious Union of St. Joseph was officially approved by Pope Pius X on February 17, 1913, and extended to the whole world on February 12, 1914. The Shrine in Grass Lake Michigan



was approved by Most. Rev. Bishop Kenneth Povish, Bishop of Lansing, MI on August 3, 1987.

Although the Pious Union of St. Joseph has as its focus to pray for those who are dying, it is also a beautiful place for prayer, worship, recollection, retreats, and other spiritual activities. There is a grotto and the Stations of the Cross that add beauty to the Shrine. The main purpose of the Shrine is to provide a place for those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit, a place where they can find peace and consolation in the heart.

Fr. Germano Pegoraro, SdC was the first director of the

Shrine. He was also an artist, and most of the paintings in the Shrine are his work. Here the priest offers daily Masses, with confessions before and after Mass, the Rosary before Mass daily, the Stations of the Cross every Friday and the Anointing of the Sick every first Saturday of the month (or whenever upon request).

Many people die every day throughout the world, and there are many Masses offered each day for the dying. In the Shrine, the priest offers daily Mass intentions, Triduum Masses, Novena Masses, Gregorian Masses, Perpetual Masses, masses for enrollment in the Golden Book and Masses for the Unborn - all for the benefit of souls.

Of these, the Gregorian Mass, offered in support of the dying, is most noted because of its history. Pope St. Gregory the great (540-604), the first pontiff to

receive the name 'great', was the first Benedictine monk to become pope. He tells us in his 'Dialogues' that he ordered thirty Masses to be celebrated on thirty consecutive days for the repose of the soul of Justus, a monk who had died in his monastery. Justus died without the sacraments for violating the vow of poverty for three gold coins he possessed in his cell. At the end of the thirty Masses, Justus appeared to his blood brother Copious, a physician who assisted him in his last days of illness, and said that he had been relieved from the prison of purgatory. Copious shared this with the monks, and they realized that on the 30th day of the celebrated Masses, Justus was released from his sufferings by the merits of the holy sacrifice of the Mass. On the same day, St. Gregory was assured of the deliverance of the soul of Justus. In the church of St. Gregory on Mount Celio is the original altar where these Masses were first offered. This same altar is where Pope Gregory offered Masses for the souls in purgatory.

Tradition also holds that our Lord spoke to St. Gregory and said: "My friend, I want to grant in your favor a privilege that will be unique. All souls in purgatory, for whom thirty Masses are offered in your honor and without interruption, will immediately be saved however great may be their debt toward me". Still today people are astonished that thirty Masses offered consequently can obtain the grace of the release of the souls in purgatory.

The grotto at the Shrine also resembles a little Lourdes, creating a peaceful atmosphere encouraging us to spend some time with our holy Mother. In addition to that, the Calvary with the Stations of the Cross invites everyone to partake in the passion of Jesus. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated each year on the Feast of 'The Exaltation of the Holy Cross' at the Calvary memorial. Especially significant are the Chaldean pilgrims who are so very devoted to St. Joseph and come to the Shrine every year; this is especially true for the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th. In addition, the Shrine has witnessed many faithful who have presented testimony about St. Joseph recounting various incidents in their life through letters, emails, calls and presentations.

The Shrine has a beautiful gift shop with various religious articles including chaplets to St. Joseph and the Holy Cloak of St. Joseph. These are currently in high demand by the faithful. The Shrine publishes a monthly bulletin with events of the day and a bi-monthly magazine titled,



Now and at the Hour, that goes out to 13,000 members. Mass is offered for all the members of the Pious Union every Wednesday. The Shrine honors "The Unborn" by dedicating a book called "The Book of Innocents" where the names of children lost to miscarriage or illness are registered and a Mass for these children is celebrated every 16th day of the month. High solemn Mass is celebrated October 16th on the Feast of St. Gerard Majella, Patron for the Unborn, and special blessings are bestowed upon parents with the relics of St. Gerard. The Shrine has also spread devotion to St. Joseph by introducing the "Traveling St. Joseph" in 2018. People love to utilize the opportunity to host St. Joseph in their homes while praying for their various needs. The Shrine also has an active advisory board member, a men's group, a women's group, as well as a men's and women's faith sharing group. Sunday Masses are celebrated outdoors at the Calvary memorial throughout summer as the weather permits.

As Pope Francis has proclaimed this year as the "Year of St. Joseph," The Shrine has scheduled talks on St. Joseph and his qualities on every third Sunday of the month (except December). The talk begins with an evening prayer of the day, followed by discussion and ends with the Litany of St. Joseph and blessings. Bishops and priests from the area are invited to share their insights and experiences of St. Joseph. All the talks and Masses are live-streamed on the Shrine website and Facebook.

Some pilgrims make a consecration to St. Joseph in the Shrine by participating in the Mass, and confession. The shrine has also organized a 'Rosary with St. Joseph' on May 1st, 2021, with a special mass and car procession on the shrine grounds.

St. Joseph is not only a patron to many, but here in Grass Lake he is specifically the patron for the suffering and dying. We request that anyone who reads this article remember your loved ones who are suffering, and offer them up to St. Joseph for consolation, serenity and peace in the mind and the heart.

"Though you have recourse to so many saints as your intercessors, go especially to St. Joseph, for he has great power with God". – St. Teresa of Avila.

Come and receive the blessings of St. Joseph, Ready to be an intercessor for you - to God.

Make Our Globe a Better Place to Live and Love

By Fr. Franklin, SdC

“Prisoners have always been my teachers,” writes one religious brother who volunteered in prisons for sixty years. One of the truths he uncovered is that we Christians often delude ourselves that we are better than others. In His life, Christ willingly chose to stand on the side of the least. “In the prison passing by one cell after another, I see the death that lives within,” he said. But Christ tells him to keep going, to take them in His arms again. So he stops, listens, and proceeds to another cell. He never gives up on any of them.

Among his many listening encounters, he writes about one unique experience. A prisoner who spent more than 15 years behind bars told him that God would never forgive him; he felt he had committed grave sins that cannot be forgiven even by God. Listening to him, the brother asked him whether he knew the parable of the prodigal son. After the prisoner’s vague response, Brother began to tell him the parable and explain its meaning. The basic truth, he told him, is that God does not exclude or throw away anyone. Though we might often ignore Him, discount His value, and choose to go our own way, He patiently waits for us to come back to Him with a humble and contrite heart as the prodigal son did. St. Luke reminds us that, for God, nothing is impossible (Lk 1,37). None of us is worthy of eternal life simply on our own merits. As St. Augustine reminds us, “the God who created us without our help cannot save us without our consent. God’s saving love is sure for all of us; how are we going to merit it?”

God’s saving love and His passionate care for the fallen and wayward of humanity is clearly stated in the Gospel, “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jn 3,16) When people were

trying to kill Jesus (5:18), he responded with a love that wanted to save them (5,34). From the cross, Jesus did not condemn those whose hate had led to His cruel passion and crucifixion. Instead, He prayed “Father, Forgive them.” St. Paul reinforces the power of God’s love to save us, “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will



hardship, distress, persecution, famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake, we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rm 8,35-39). There is nothing in this world that can separate us from God unless you and I decide to go our own way.

The brother’s experience in the prison brings us all to the need to turn to God for His mercy. “At the heart of the Gospel,” Pope Francis reminds us, “lies the beauty of God’s saving love, manifested in Jesus Christ who died and rose again.” We need to speak to God with the simple faith and trust of the good thief crucified with Christ who turned to Him and said, “Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus immediately responds, “. . . today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Lk 23,42-43) If you have ever experienced and felt the saving love of God in your life, you know that it is marvelous and beautiful; there are no words to explain it precisely. In this Lenten journey, we are called to open our hearts to His saving love, to cherish those moments in our lives, and to share that saving love of God with our brothers and sisters.

Pongal Celebration

MADURAI - May God bless and keep us safe and well. The confreres of Madurai were very glad to celebrate Pongal and their charitable work.

“The Lord upholds all who are failing and raises up all who are bowed down, They eyes of all look to you, and you feed them with the food of the season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.”
Ps 145:14-16



By reflecting upon these lines, the celebration began with the prayer of St. Guanella followed by holy Mass celebrated by Fr. John Doss, the superior of Madurai, and concelebrated by his confreres. The good children were happy to be present and participated with full enthusiasm in all the programs including competitions for singing, dancing, saying “thirukkural” and rhythms. Everyone was taken aback by their expression and talents.

For this special event, downtrodden people invited for the function who were really craving for the love and distributed good attires and have given sumptuous food. They were filled with joy and happiness. and we recited Holy Rosary and offered all the mysteries for the formers. finally, we end the day with the blessing of Rev. Fr. John Doss..

Second Classical Academy

CUDDALORE - Farmers protesting in large numbers around the capital of India is a significant event that attracts the attention and concern of the world. Like never before in Indian history the farmers have come to ask for the revoking of Farm bills that were passed in parliament. St. Joseph's Minor Seminary celebrated its second classical academy on this topic for their discussion



and reflection. What was so beautiful was among the five speakers that day, three were beginners, initiation brothers who prepared themselves to speak in English and their oration was mind-blowing. They spoke about the three bills, why the farmers are opposing them and how it is going to be detrimental to the livelihood of farmers and ultimately to every common man. The mime by brothers about the farmers' plight and the awareness song about the same were heart-wrenching. The chief guest of the day was Dr. Santhana Raj, a professor from St. Joseph's College History department. He appreciated the efforts taken to understand and voice the current social issue. He congratulated the brothers for their talents.

Open House Ministry Reopened

CUDDALORE - Outreach ministries always very much witness to Christ's love and at the same time can be very risky. Guanellians have always taken up the risk to begin and continue such services to the nearby villagers in the past. COVID-19 stopped many of these ministries and with God's grace as things return to normal the good works are beginning once more. St. Joseph's Seminary came forward and decided to start this beautiful mission together with other missions by the students. The 35 seminarians go to different institutes like St. Mary's Aged Home, Global Special School, Sathanguppam Girls Orphanage and Guanellian Boys Home. On



February 11th the Open House ministry began anew. With the return of the Omni to the seminary, we feel revitalized to continue the ministry. We bring from the neighborhood people who are handicapped, I/DD whom we call 'Good children,' people who are aged, destitute and mentally ill. There are about 15 coming to our ministry. We pray with them, we shampoo their hair, shave them, cut their nails and we teach them some moral stories. We sing, dance, and play music for them. We also feed them a delicious lunch. Our ministry evangelizes them and at the same time evangelizes us too. We proclaim Christ to them as well as receive Christ through them. The ministry moves with the spirit of the Founder. To add color and vigor to this

mission the GLM members participate and collaborate very effectively especially Mr. Bosco Ezhilan and Ms. Anitha. They contribute towards sponsoring lunch for these children of God.

The Art of Yoga

CUDDALORE - Yoga is a journey of the self, through the self, to the self. Yoga is one of the inventions and a gift from India to the whole world as an art of living. Learning and practicing Yoga is very helpful to everyone especially to spiritual persons. It was always a tradition in the minor seminary to teach the young to know and practice yoga personally and as a group. On February 20th the Yoga Master was invited to teach the brothers the different Asanas and the importance of this special exercise. Brothers learned this and they practice as a group on Friday morning in the seminary.



with the help of the GC & GLM and animated by Frs. Praveen & Gabriel. After the Way of the Cross, holy Mass was celebrated in Tamil. It was a moment for all of us to recall the words of our savior Jesus Christ, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (Mt 16,24).

Kitchen Renovated

BANGALORE - On February 27th, the renovated kitchen at Guanella Preethi Nivas was inaugurated and blessed by Fr. Gabriel. It was the sacrifice of the entire community that we were able to save money from the ordinary budget (FC) and spent almost Rs. 3,00,000/- for the project. Some of the evening school children were invited for this small inaugural function. Thanks to the people who worked hard on the renovation and the inauguration may God bless them.



To Be with the Lord

BANGALORE - On February 25th we had monthly recollection in our community. Fr. Vijay D'Costa OCD was invited to preach for us. The reflection he gave was on the silence of St. Joseph under which he shared his reflective thoughts on three different topics: 1. inner silence, 2. silence before others and 3. silence before God. After the talk we had adoration followed by confession and with the final blessing of the Eucharistic Lord the recollection ended.



BANGALORE - On 17th February, three Holy Masses were celebrated. One in English, and two in Tamil. Holy



Ash Wednesday Masses

Way of the Cross Conducted

BANGALORE - On February 19th & 26th in the evening the passion and the death of our Lord Jesus Christ was prayed with the lay faithful. It was organized by Guanellian Sisters



Mass was organized and celebrated with the lay faithful following the precautionary methods (social distancing, sanitizing and wearing face mask) given by the Karnataka government. Each Mass was attended by the faithful in a consistent number so they could begin their lenten season fruitfully. We sincerely thank Mr. Stanislaus who always helps organize the spiritual activities with a generous heart.

Give with Two Hands

BANGALORE - On February 15th, Mr. Simon, with the help of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, sponsored geysers, towels and other personal care items for our senior citizens. Also this month our senior citizens were blessed to get volunteers - a family from Kannur parish - to keep Don Guanella Aged Home neat and clean. They expressed their willingness to help our grandfathers and keep things in order throughout the Lenten season. Thanks to the Providence of God. It is said "God has given us two hands, one to receive and the other with which to give."

Feast Day Celebration

CUDDALORE - Don Guanella Boys Home Community celebrated the Feast Day of our beloved Fr.



C. Lourduraj, Director of the Boys Home, on February 11th. The community offered a special Mass and prayers for the feastorian, interceding for his good health and long ministry. On the same day we had car procession



at Sagayamatha parish. People were very happy for to honor Mother Mary on her special day, Our Lady of Lourdes. It was a wonderful celebration.

A Golden Jubilee

BANGALORE - On the occasion of the 72nd Republic Day Mr. and Mrs. Nathan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Because they are good friends of our institution, Our priests were invited to preside over a special holy Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church. Mr. Nathan and family regularly help our institution and this graceful occasion of their golden jubilee was no

different, they provided dinner for the elderly of Don Guanella Aged Home and the entire GPN community. May God bless them and their intentions.

GLM Meets Provincial Link Councilor

CUDDALORE - Fr. Gnanaraj visited the GLM members February 13th at Don Guanella Boys Home. Fr. Francis,



DGBH Superior, welcomed Fr. Gnanaraj and the GLM members for the meeting and introduced him to the members. Fr. Francis also explained the purpose of the meeting. Fr. Gnanaraj gave a talk during which he thanked them for their service; encouraged them in their commitment and motivated the members to declare their intention to become aspirants. There was fruitful sharing and discussion by the members. The meeting ended with holy Mass.

Committee Meeting

CUDDALORE - A house managing committee was held on February 23rd by the CWC (Child Welfare Committee)

officers. It was the first meeting at Don Guanella Boy's Home for this year after the pandemic. Fr. Francis, superior, welcomed the officials. The



Committee members had verified 23 records of the boys. The committee members also verified the ICP (individual care plan) of each boy in the home. Fr. Francis requested the government officials to support the home financially. The government officials were served grand tea and tiffin. Fr. Lourduraj the director thanked them all at the end of their visit.

Birthday Celebration

CUDDALORE - It was a day of blessing for the Don Guanella Boys Home community because they celebrated the birthday of Fr. Francis, community



superior, February 25th. The birthday celebration was grand and the neighboring community Fathers, DSMP Sisters, GLM and the Youth members were also invited. There was a special Mass offered by the birthday celebrant during which he invoked God's blessing for us. There was a cultural program conducted by the boys. The event ended with a delicious supper.

Special Athletes Compete

MADURAI - Tamil Para Olympic Sports Club and Aalayam Charity trust conducted the 16th Senior Sports Meet at Coimbatore Nehru Stadium for the



Special Students of Various States on February 14th-16th. Five of our students participated: N. Sankar Sathya, M. Soosai Raj, R. Ragul, K. M. Shashaithrin and S. Sathya Nathan. They participated in several different events: 400m dash, long jump and shot put, the meet was quite difficult for them even though our students N. Sankar Sathya won first prize in the Shot Put 400m and also participated in the long jump event, winning 3rd prize. R. Ragul won 3rd prize for the 100m dash. Others were also involved and competed at their level best. They had gotten enough practice because of the Covid-19 lockdown still they performed and got the golden cup. N. Sankar Sathya was selected for a national shot put event which will be held March 24th-26th.

St. John de Britto Celebration

SIVAKASI - On February 4th we celebrated the feast of St. John de Britto at Vadapatti Mission parish with popular devotions. During the 13 days of novena, each priest offered holy Mass with a homily about St. John de Britto. The feast Mass was celebrated by Fr. Arul, SJ, and he preached the homily. After Mass Fr. Arul, Fr. S.P. Samy, Fr. Vincent and Fr. Vimal blessed the two car procession.



Then the statues of St. John de Britto and Our Lady of Velankani were processed through the streets of the area. Each day of the novena a fellowship meal was offered to all the devotees of St. John de Britto. The feast came to the fine ending by lowering the St. John de Britto flag on February 5th.

Lenten Services

KUMBAKONAM - We are very happy to share our lenten services to the substations. As St. Louis Guanella said, "we have to win souls for the Lord." During this season of Lent we will go to all the substations and conduct the Way of the Cross, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and holy Mass for the Velakudi faithful.



Annual Day Celebrations

KUMBAKONAM - 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.

GLM Meeting

KUMBAKONAM -A Guanellian Lay Movement meeting was held on February 14th. Ten GLM members participated in the meeting. They each spoke about



their activities and collaboration that they render to the parish. Then Fr. Gnanaraj took the opportunity to share his ideas about the new council that has been established for the GLM to maintain the chronicles of the events. He talked about our founder and the effective work of the GLM in the congregation at various levels. There was also time for an open forum during which members could express their views and learn how to be more effective in the Guanellian mission..

Revival of the GLM Spirit

DINDIGUL - On February 12th an input session was organized for the GLM members of St. Antony's



Church. Eleven members attended the session. Fr. Gnanaraj, SdC, was the resource person; he motivated the gathering on the purpose and value of being a member of the Guanellian Lay Movement. His talk also highlighted the vocation of the laity who are being

called to participate in the divine mission of the Church through the Institute. Being inspired by the mission and vision of the Institute; the members assured their tireless participation and efforts to inspire more lives to join the movement.

Physiotherapy Discussed



CHENNAI - Don Guanella Special School organized a webinar on February 6th about Physiotherapy by staff Dr. Ezhilarasi, and the parents were welcomed to an orientation program during their meeting to discuss the growth of their children. Prizes were distributed to our special children, and organized through the Thiruvallur District online program for drawing, dancing, cooking and singing competitions. Mrs. Deepa the special education teacher of our school, taught the parents how to care for their children during the pandemic through home based activities. The program went well and the parents were happy to participate.

Special Medical Camp

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Special School organized a Special Medical Camp for cerebral palsy children on February 14th. The director of the camp was staff Dr. Porselvi, physiotherapist. The camp was conducted by Dr. Subramaniyan, Dr. Mangalam, Dr. Aruna, and Mr. Balaji, the city's best doctors. The program was well organized by our school staff, and we followed the safety requirements to ensure the security of the participants. Nearly 15 children with cerebral palsy benefited from this medical camp. The parents were grateful and thanked our DGSS school management.



Lessons for 4th Theology Brothers

CHENNAI - Annette White says, "Design a life that you are inspired to live." The first two weeks of the month of February was an optimal period of time for the fourth year theology brothers to experience the Guanellian way of living and performing our mission in the communities of Cuddalore, Sivagangai and Banjara Mission, Warangal. It was an awesome experience to learn from Fr. John Bosco, SdC who taught on 'canonical implications on the religious vows and the Holy Orders.' He explained about the gradual development and the difference of the religious life before Vatican II and after Vatican II. He dealt with the canons that explain religious vows and religious life, and mentioned that the perfection of life is the origin of consecrated life. So the evangelical counsels are added together with the Word of God and the Ten Commandments to achieve the perfection and holiness of life. He also highlighted that there are only three canon laws (C.599-601) which speak about the evangelical counsels as inspired by Perfectae Caritatis (no.12-14).

Fr. Peter Sebastian, SdC, Superior of Yesuvanam Community focused on forming oneself by knowing and practicing the personal project of life and then exploring the Guanellian mission by learning about the relevance of the preventive method and the basic document for the Guanellian mission. He mentioned that there is no growth and development without the personal project of life and so it should never go against the Word of God, teachings of the Church and the constitutions and the regulations of the congregation. It is a walk of creative fidelity to the gift of God. The key points of the personal project of life are realistic descriptions of vocational goals, actual situations of life and a practical means to reach one's goals. He explained that the qualities to implement it are the interior search of meaning, a sense of responsibility and commitment, and an urge to be prophetic with deeper self-awareness. He clarified the different phases in preparing it such as vocational values, current situations, formulating specific objectives, decisions and evaluation. He also highlighted that the actualization of the personal project of life was given importance in General Chapters 17-18, and in Constitution article no. 26. He stated that it is not as an imposition, but makes one grow in the creative fidelity of one's vocation toward holiness. He mentioned



regarding the preventive system that its single aim is the salvation of the soul. It can be attributed to three words in the view of Don Bosco; kindness, reason and religion. It is better to prefer the preventive method in education rather than a repressive method of education. It was exciting to hear about the historical development and the importance of the Basic Document for Guanellian mission, (PEG – Documento Base per Progetti Educativi Guanelliani). He expressed that the primary motive of PEG was for the proper way of doing charitable work 'for evangelization.' Then he concluded his sharing by explaining the key points that are explained in detail in PEG.

As the famous saying goes 'better to see something once than to hear about it a thousand times,' the fourth year theology brothers set off to undergo a weeklong experience in the Warangal mission in Telangana. The residence fathers, Fr. Peter Joseph, SdC and Fr. John Paul, SdC arranged the schedule so that the brothers could listen to some experienced missionaries and the Lombardi people of some of the villages of Mahabubabad district in Telangana. Mr. Babu Rao, whose siblings are a religious priest and nun, shared his

expectation of the laity from the clergy. He said that lay people expect the clergy to imbibe the qualities of patience, tolerance, respect for others, perseverance, and a strong determination to the call of God. Not to aspire for positions, or be discouraged by failures & tortures, but to set an exemplary life as a Christian and to live a virtuous chaste life. Next, two experienced missionaries, Sr. Vijai Mani, MSI (Nirmala Sisters) and Bro. Vinoth (Missionaries of Poor), who were missionaries in the countries of Papua New Guinea, Jamaica, Philippines, and Africa shared their missionary experience. They explained that it is better to first learn and study the place and people where we are assigned, and to get accustomed to their food gradually. There are many things not only to teach but also to learn from the ordinary people of our mission areas. Fr. Peter, SdC shared about our Guanellian presence in the Banjara mission and the plan of opening an institution for the differently abled persons of the locality of the Mahabubabad district. Fr. Francis Assisi, SdC shared some of the practical points to live a better clerical life in a community. He highlighted to be 'humane' in every activity and to live an interdependent life rather than an independent life.

He also recommended that we progress in the spiritual realm by following up our spiritual activities such as not skipping the mass & divine office, daily rosary and visiting the Blessed Sacrament. He encouraged us to bloom where we are planted and to have big dreams for our religious life. Then, Fr. John Paul taught the class on Religious Life. He mentioned that persecutions paved the way for religious life. Once the persecutions stopped, the religious started persecuting themselves by slashing, wearing thorn belts and other mortifications. He clarified the difference between the terminologies such as chastity – showing the whole world that our love is for everybody, and the love that surpasses everything, continence – controlling sexual thoughts/behaviors/urges, virginity – not just the physical and celibacy – and the state of not being married. He expressed that poverty depends on the providence of God and relies on sharing with others. He mentioned that obedience means to listen and to forego the ego. Moreover, the Guanellian obedience is the filial obedience. He highlighted that we don't know whether Charism or mission comes first, but Christ alone is the principle means of our mission. Aside from the talks, the brothers were accompanied by Fr. Peter Joseph, SdC to the Lombardi villages to have a practical experience with them by speaking with them, listening to them and participating in spiritual worship with them. The practical experience taught the brothers the evangelizing mission that is carried on among the Lombardi people.

First Death Anniversary

VATLURU - Guanella Karunalya and Sacred Heart Church celebrated the First Anniversary of the death of our beloved confrere Fr. Visampalli Maria Bala Yesu. Fr.



Benson presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and Fr. Christu raj gave the homily saying a few words about Fr. Bala. Fr. Abraham SdC, our Guanellian confreres, Sisters, Brothers and people participated in the eulogy. Meals were served in memory of him for all, especially to his family members and to all the parishioners of Vatluru. At last we went to the cemetery for paying homage to the demised soul of Fr. Bala.

Feasts and Flag Hoisting

VATLURU - “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love”. Sacred Heart Church of Vatluru rejoiced while celebrating the annual Feast of the 20th Sacred Heart of Jesus Jubilee Tower and 103rd Sacred Heart Feast of our parish on February 28th.



This Joyous Celebration invited every one of our parish members, all the sub-stations of our villages, and the nearby parishes to participate and to receive the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ. In this juncture we started our novena for nine days by hoisting the flag by Fr. Dr. Inje Paul, V. F. of our Vicariate of RCM Diocese of Eluru. He insisted in his homily that love is the greatest virtue and plays a vital role in human life. The Guanella Bhavan community confreres were part of our celebration. Fr. J. Ronald Jesiah, SdC the Provincial Superior of DPP (Servants of Charity) presided over the holy Mass with Fr. Balathasar, the diocesan priest. There were numerous pilgrims who participated in the festival celebration and received the blessings of God along with a grand agape meal.



Preparing for Christ

WARANGAL - The Brothers who are preparing for their Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination came to our residence at Yesu Gutta, Mahabubabad and stayed with us for four days (February 8th-11th). Two missionaries shared their life experiences with them. They

visited Thandas were the Banjara Tribal people live. Then we made a half day pilgrimage to Kammum Cathedral. We thanked Fr. Benson, the Superior and Rector of DGMS, who sent the brothers here.



Passion for the Kingdom

WARANGAL - Banjara Mission is our Warangal Diocesan mission with a passion to bring the Banjara people into the Kingdom of God through the saving faith of Jesus Christ. Our Guanellian fathers and Nirmala Sisters, are assisting in developing this mission. So after some time we've begun visiting the people with the guidance of the parish priest from Mahabubabad. In and around Mahabubabad there are Poosapalli, Bodathanda, Bhajanathanda, Boringthanda, Hanumanthanda, Ramsingthanda and Kottapallithand where the Banjara people are living. Now we have begun to visit their families with a regular schedule. They are very receptive and happy with our presence, and their simple faith strengthens our own faith. It is the passion of our Bishop to develop this Banjara mission and to develop our Guanellian mission. We are happy to be a part of this diocese and to collaborate in the development of this mission. May Our Lady of Divine Providence intercede for us.



Pilgrimage of GLM

KOPPAKA - "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, and they will walk and not be faint." (Is 40,31)



The purpose of the pilgrimage was to deepen their relationship with God and the Guanellian mission, a search to reach out to those who cry 'I have no one' by analyzing and accommodating a new mission at the Koppaka Minor Seminary, Guanella Bhavan.

Having this thought as a holy Lenten preparation, Fr. Arul Raj, superior of the Guanella Bhavan Community, arranged the Pilgrimage excursion for the GLM of the

Koppaka region in Eluru to strengthen them in their family life and in the Guanellian mission. All the GLM members gathered on February 8th after holy Mass in their respective churches. We arranged a vehicle for the trip to the sacred places called Nirmala Giri in the Telugu language which is dedicated to Mary Immaculate and the Godavari Mary Shrine situated on the banks of the river Godavari which flows in all seasons. It was a daylong spiritual journey. The GLM members prepared and brought food for the journey. They utilized the time of their journey to conduct a prayer service, in addition to recreation.

It was the first time the GLM made a pilgrimage to this shrine They spent their time praying and adoring the Lord in the shrine for the growth and flourishing of our mission in places where people really need us. They also enjoyed swimming in the river. Later on they visited Godavari Mata Shrine where they spent time praying the Rosary. After the Rosary we departed towards home. On the way, some of the GLM Members expressed that the pilgrimage intensified their bond and relationship towards each other. All the GLM members thanked almighty God and Mother Mary for their successful and meaningful pilgrimage.

Doormats for Sale

SIVAGANGAI - St. Guanella Anbagam Adult MR Home is privileged to sell doormats at Yesuvanam. This is the first time that the doormats have been available for sale. They are available in the shops for sale with a display of flux. Customers are happy to purchase the products. The quality of the product is improving from the feedback of the customers. It is noble and hard work for the adult MR students and the output of their vocational activities. Students are very interested and enthusiastic in learning and producing door mats. The vocational trainers help the students in their training and learning. The vocational education plays a vital role in the life of these special children. It makes every special child a responsible person and teaches independence. The Guanella Anbagam adult home is privileged to offer these vocational skills, and generates a local income source.



Building Repurposed

CHELSEA- As St. Louis Center grew as a program for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities during the past ten years, so did the need for additional Social Work Staff to provide special services for this unique population. Office space was at a premium, so once the Children's Homes were completed in St. Louis Guanella Village in June 2018, Martin Hall, (in the original part of the building), was soon emptied of its young residents who moved into St. Louis Guanella Village.



That left Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO, and his staff with an opportunity to provide additional office space for the staff. So the architects re-designed Martin Hall. The former children's dormitory unit was gutted during the summer of 2020. The new Social Services Suite was opened the first week of February with a special blessing ceremony conducted by members of the Servants of Charity Congregation.

Now each member of the social services department has their own beautiful office within the suite, and there is a large conference room where staff can gather for meetings with parents, family members, and other professional staff as needed. There is also a new waiting area for families who no longer have to wait in the main lobby area.

According to Chief Operations Officer Deana Fisher, these upgrades are extremely important in meeting professional standards. "Our new conference room also has advanced technology to allow us to have zoom meetings with others as a group. We've definitely improved our way of doing business."

Night to Shine - At Home

CHELSEA- The global Night to Shine event hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation on February 12th was a virtual event this year. The adult residents excitedly participated from their own living rooms through the hard work and planning of Laura Rayer, Activities Coordinator, and Rick Visel, Program Director. Each participant received a "swag bag" containing a



Night to Shine drink cup, for the evening's beverages, a bracelet and a crown or tiara for all the kings and queens of the prom who participated. They watched the live main event featuring Tim Tebow and even took photos wearing their royal regalia.



New Residential Home Opened

CHELSEA- On a cold Friday afternoon February 19th, there was plenty of warmth and happiness to go around inside of "D'Adamo House," a new six person cottage home for adult residents in St. Louis Guanella Village at St. Louis Center.

This new home, named for late benefactor Jerry D'Adamo, was formally blessed by the priests of the Servants of Charity to prepare for its occupancy coming soon



during the first week of March. The six young men who will be moving into the home participated in this event.

During the opening prayer, Fr. Satheesh Alphonse, the Community Superior, prayed that the Lord would "enter this home and bless it with His presence," then advised the residents present to "Seek to make your new home before



all else, a dwelling place of love, diffusing far and wide the goodness of Christ."

The confreres in attendance with the new residents included Fr. Satheesh, Fr. Enzo Addari, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Fr.

David Stawasz, Fr. Franklin Arokiadoss, Fr. Amalornathan and Fr. Leo Joseph Xavier.

Following the opening prayer, Fr. Satheesh blessed the new home throughout with holy water, and the residents and staff walked through the house to check out their new rooms and other great amenities for the first time. Watching the residents, Fr. Enzo remarked that, "They too were created in the image and likeness of God, and deserve to live in a great place like this."

March Calendar of Events

- 12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 19 St. Joseph, Husband of Mary
Grass Lake: St. Joseph's Table - PUSJ
- 24 First Religious Profession of Servants of Charity (1908)
- 25 The Annunciation of the Lord
- 28 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
Anniversary of the Death of Fr. Mazzucchi

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 Fr. Jesu Doss: birthday
- 2 Fr. Prakesh Philemen Raj: birthday
- 4 Fr. Maria Julian Bernard: birthday
- 5 Fr. John Joseph: feast day
- 6 Fr. Bernandes: birthday
- 10 Fr. Antony Kalai Selvan: birthday
- 13 Fr. John Bosco A., Fr. Paulraj P.:
birthday
- 15 Fr. Abraham A.: birthday
- 17 Fr. Jegan Patrick Daniel: feast day
- 19 Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Fr. Soosai
Rathinam, Fr. Jayasoosai, Fr. Edal
Vinoth Joe, Fr. Joseph Fernandez
S., Fr. Vellington: feast day
- 20 Fr. Louis Baskar: birthday
- 21 Fr. Rishar Raffee Jegan: birthday
- 25 Fr. Roosevelt: birthday
- 29 Fr. Alphonse Maria Ligori: birthday
- 30 Fr. Dominic Sebastian Baskar:
birthday



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

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Shrine Website: www.piousunionofstjoseph.org



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