

News and Views

Divine Providence Province



BEGINNING THE YEAR WITH THE DIVINE MOTHER

"The beginning is the most important part of the work" – Plato,

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1st



Dear Confreres!

Celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary as Mother of God and our mother marks the best way of beginning the first day of the New Year. Let us show some light on this important solemnity with which we have begun the New Year. In fact, every time we pray the Hail Mary, we proclaim Mary as the Mother of God: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen." Every time we use this wondrous title as we pray the Hail Mary, we sing in chorus with the third ecumenical Council of Ephesus which convened in 431 once and for all to settle and declare that Mary is truly "Mother of God." It was the first Marian dogma.

Mary's divine motherhood broadens the Christmas spotlight. Mary has an important role to play in the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. She consents to God's invitation conveyed by the angel (Luke 1:26-38). Elizabeth proclaims: "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Luke 1:42-43). Adding with Elizabeth's words at the Annunciation, the Catechism reminds us (495) adding, "Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God' (Theotokos)." Without naming Mary, Paul asserts that "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4).

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen loved to write and speak much on the Blessed Mother. He has this beautiful reflection in his magnificent book appropriately titled *The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God*: "When Whistler painted the picture of his mother, did he not have the image of her in his mind before he ever gathered his colors on his palette? If you could have preexisted your mother (not artistically, but really), would you not have made her the most perfect woman that ever lived — one so beautiful she would have been the sweet envy of all women, and one so gentle and so merciful that all other mothers would have sought to imitate her virtues? Why, then, should we think that God would do otherwise? When Whistler was complimented on the portrait of his mother, he

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said, 'You know how it is; one tries to make one's Mummy just as nice as he can.' When God became Man, He too, I believe, would make His Mother as nice as He could — and that would make her a perfect Mother. She existed in the Divine Mind as an Eternal Thought before there were any mothers. She is the Mother of mothers - she is the world's first love."

In the same book, Sheen asserts: "Any objection to calling her the 'Mother of God' is fundamentally an objection to the Deity of Christ. The consecrated phrase 'Theotokos,' 'Mother of God,' has ever since 432 been the touchstone of the Christian faith... As [Doctor of the Church] John of Damascus said: 'This name contains the whole mystery of the Incarnation'... It implies a twofold generation of the Divine Word: one eternal in the bosom of the Father; the other temporal in the womb of Mary. Mary therefore did not bear a 'mere man,' but the 'true God.'"

We must not forget Mary is both Mother of God and our mother too. Jesus gave her to us, and us to her, from the Cross. Bishop Fulton Sheen had a wonderful way of explaining this in *The World's First Love: Mary, Mother of God*: "If Mary were only the Mother of another man, then she could not also be our mother, because the ties of the flesh are too exclusive. Flesh allows only one mother... But Spirit allows us another mother. Since Mary is the Mother of God, then she can be the Mother of everyone whom Christ redeemed."

So remember what we pray in both the Angelus and the Hail Holy Queen - "Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ." As we have begun this New Year, May Mary, Mother of God help us and guide us in all our undertakings.

"For last year's words belong to last year's language, And next year's words await another voice.

And to make an end is to make a beginning." - TS Eliot

Communication from the Provincial Superior's Office:

- Ø Have a good preparation to partake in the Annual Retreat (1st batch - 23rd January to 28th January and 2nd batch - 30th January to 4th February).
- Ø Arrange your travel in accordance with the dates mentioned for the retreat.

FR. RONALD. J SDC
Provincial Superior

**Have questions or comments
E-mail to Don Guanella
Communication Center at
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PAPAL CHAPEL FOR THE FUNERAL OF POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” (Lk 23:46). These were the final words spoken by the Lord on the cross; his last breath, as it were, which summed up what had been his entire life: a ceaseless self-entrustment into the hands of his Father. His were hands of forgiveness and compassion, healing and mercy, anointing and blessing, which led him also to entrust himself into the hands of his brothers and sisters. The Lord, open to the individuals and their stories that he encountered along the way, allowed himself to be shaped by the Father’s will. He shouldered all the consequences and hardships entailed by the Gospel, even to seeing his hands pierced for love. “See my hands”, he says to Thomas (Jn 20:27), and to each of us: “See my hands”. Pierced hands that constantly reach out to us, inviting us to recognize the love that God has for us and to believe in it (cf. 1 Jn 4:16). [1]

“Father into your hands I commend my spirit”. This is the invitation and the programme of life that he quietly inspires in us. Like a potter (cf. Is 29:16), he wishes to shape the heart of every pastor, until it is attuned to the heart of Christ Jesus (cf. Phil 2:5). Attuned in grateful devotion, in service to the Lord and to his people, a service born of thanksgiving for a completely gracious gift: “You belong to me... you belong to them”, the Lord whispers, “you are under the protection of my hands. You are under the protection of my heart. Stay in my hands and give me yours”. [2] Here we see the “condescension” and closeness of God, who is ready to entrust himself to the frail hands of his disciples, so that they can feed his people and say with him: Take and eat, take and drink, for this is my body which is given up for you (cf. Lk 22:19). The total synkatabasis of God.

Attuned in prayerful devotion, a devotion silently shaped and refined amid the challenges and resistance that every pastor must face (cf. 1 Pet 1:6-7) in trusting obedience to the Lord’s command to feed his flock (cf. Jn 21:17). Like the Master, a shepherd bears the burden of interceding and the strain of anointing his people, especially in situations where goodness must struggle to prevail and the dignity of our brothers and sisters is threatened (cf. Heb 5:7-9). In the course of this intercession, the Lord quietly



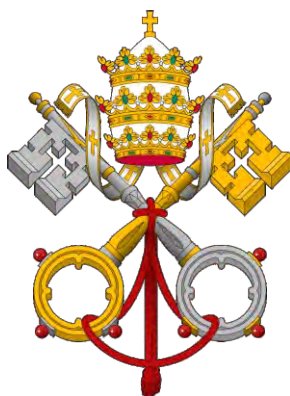
bestows the spirit of meekness that is ready to understand, accept, hope and risk, notwithstanding any misunderstandings that might result. It is the source of an unseen and elusive fruitfulness, born of his knowing the One in whom he has placed his trust (cf. 2 Tim 1:12). A trust itself born of prayer and adoration, capable of discerning what is expected of a pastor and shaping his heart and his decisions in accord with God's good time (cf. Jn 21:18): "Feeding means loving, and loving also means being ready to suffer. Loving means giving the sheep what is truly good, the nourishment of God's truth, of God's word, the nourishment of his presence". [3]

Attuned also in devotion sustained by the consolation of the Spirit, who always precedes the pastor in his mission. In his passionate effort to communicate the beauty and the joy of the Gospel (cf. *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 57). In the fruitful witness of all those who, like Mary, in so many ways stand at the foot of the cross. In the painful yet steadfast serenity that neither attacks nor coerces. In the stubborn but patient hope that the Lord will be faithful to his promise, the promise he made to our fathers and to their descendants forever (cf. Lk 1:54-55).

Holding fast to the Lord's last words and to the witness of his entire life, we too, as an ecclesial community, want to follow in his steps and to commend our brother into the hands of the Father. May those merciful hands find his lamp alight with the oil of the Gospel that he spread and testified to for his entire life (cf. Mt 25:6-7).

At the end of his Pastoral Rule, Saint Gregory the Great urged a friend to offer him this spiritual accompaniment: "Amid the shipwreck of the present life, sustain me, I beseech you, by the plank of your prayer, that, since my own weight sinks me down, the hand of your merit will raise me up". Here we see the awareness of a pastor who cannot carry alone what in truth he could never carry alone, and can thus commend himself to the prayers and the care of the people entrusted to him. [4] God's faithful people, gathered here, now accompanies and entrusts to him the life of the one who was their pastor. Like the women at the tomb, we too have come with the fragrance of gratitude and the balm of hope, in order to show him once more the love that is undying. We want to do this with the same wisdom, tenderness and devotion that he bestowed upon us over the years. Together, we want to say: "Father, into your hands we commend his spirit".

Benedict, faithful friend of the Bridegroom, may your joy be complete as you hear his voice, now and forever!



Pope Francis

Franciscus



CAROL SINGING IN GPN

Bangalore: The Advent and Christmas seasons are a time of joy and love as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our dear Savior. Recently, we had the opportunity to share these emotions with the senior members of our community. The prayer group, called Jesus Christ, is the Lord's ministry and is under the leadership of Mr. Nelson Roy. On the 11th of December 2022, the group visited our grandpas. They performed multilingual Christmas carols for our elderly and our grandpas. The audience also participated by singing along and dancing with the performers. It was a great way to raise everyone's spirits and release stress. The singers looked like little angels with red caps, symbolizing Christmas joy. The team also distributed gifts to the elderly. Our Senior Citizens felt the nearness of and connection to the community. The time spent together was a wonderful sharing of the joy and love that marks the Christmas season.



LITTLE BIRDS SINGING CAROLS FOR OUR SANTAS AT GPN



Bangalore: Voices raised in song help spread the joy of Christmas to all. On December 1st children from the Tunbridge School along with their teachers and staff came to the GPN community to sing Christmas carols for our grandpas. This experience of sharing joy and happiness through music and singing melted the hearts of our grandpa. Because they knew the

words, our grandpas joined in with strong voices. The students and staff were very happy to be a part of this wonderful outreach. Fr. Mathias, the Superior, thanked our visitors and took this opportunity to share about our mission and its importance in society, which was an eye-opener to the young students.

EVENING SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH BABY JESUS

Bangalore: In early December, we had a special Christmas Program to celebrate the holiday with our evening school children. Mr. Antony Cruz, a Guanellian Lay Movement member and constructor of our Home for the Aged, was the chief guest. About 75 children and 7 teachers participated in the event. A variety of activities comprised the celebration, such as a Nativity Pageant, choral singing, and dancing all performed by the children. Christmas gifts were distributed to the children and all shared in a sumptuous dinner. Fr. Mathias, the Superior, welcomed the chief guests, and Bro. Maria Paul, the Regent, thanked the gathering. And it was a memorable day in our community.



MAGIC SHOW FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOR THE EVENING SCHOOL CHILDREN

Bangalore: The GPN and Tunbridge School principal, Mr. Tony our benefactor, organized a special show for the elderly and the children to bring happiness to all in these days before Christmas. The poor children of our locality enjoyed a magic show performed by Mr. Jone. The show lasted for 1 hour and 20 minutes and mesmerized all of our inmates and children. A magic show is a perfect vehicle to bring amazement and laughter to an audience and at the same time help them forget the worries and stress of the day. After the show, they were all given snacks.



16TH WORLD DIFFERENTLY ABLED DAY IN GPN

Bangalore: The 16th World Differently Abled Day was celebrated in grand fashion in Guanella Preethi Nivas on Saturday, December 3rd. The celebration had been planned well in advance. Many people were involved in the preparation process including our Guanellian Sisters, the Guanellian Cooperators, members of the Guanellian Lay Movement, youth, and various other volunteers. The responsibilities were divided among us, and members of the laity volunteered to share in some of the tasks. Special people from 31 institutions in Bangalore were brought in by bus which brought the number to about 1000 differently-abled people participating in the observance this year.

The day started with the Holy Eucharist at 10 am presided over by Rev. Fr. Ronald SdC, the Provincial Superior. It was a meaningful celebration with the angelic choir of the children from the DSS Convent providing the music and voices. The cultural aspects of the day started after Mass. Mr. Ramachandra, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bangalore, and some other officials had been invited as the chief guests for this event. Special people from different institutions presented their own unique cultural events and it was delightful to witness their talents and share in their happiness.

As a token of our love, a quality speaker system was gifted to each institute. We extended our appreciation to all those who, by their generosity, helped to defray the cost of the day, especially the parishes in which we had gone for outdoor collections. Thanks go to our GYM and volunteers from the parishes who provided a sumptuous meal for all the special people. It was a wonderful day. We thank our GC and GLM members for being the backbone of this celebration and for their sense of commitment and love for the poor.





BOYS HOME CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



Cuddalore: In the month of December, we celebrate two important birthdays: St. Guanella and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. On the 19th of December, the Boys Home Community commemorated the birthday of our holy founder, with a suppose Christmas celebration. We began with the Holy Mass. Following Mass, we blessed the crib and started the suppose Christmas. Gifts were distributed to all our Boys Home students and the domestic staff. Our boys presented a cultural program, and the domestic staff joined the boys in singing and dancing. Everyone enjoyed the festivities of the day. We shared the joy of our founder and Christ's birth together with fellowship, peace, and charity.

SIX NEW GC IN CUDDALORE

Cuddalore: The 18th of December was a historical day for the Guanellians in India. Six new Guanellian co-operators made their promise in Cuddalore. They had participated in a one-year formation and preparation program. The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr. Kulandai, Vice Provincial. In the presence of World GC members and Mr. Dominic, in charge of India, the



new GC members recited their promises and signed the document on the altar. It was a joyful day for Guanellians, and mission-supporting hands were extended. Fr. Francis, the Local Superior, gave thanks to Fr. Adaikalam, Fr. Vincent, and all other well-wishers.

CRI CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Cuddalore: On the 18th of December, Boys home community hosted the local CRI Christmas celebration in our Don Guanella Boys' Home, Cuddalore. Guests arrived at 5:30 pm and the Christmas program began. Fr. Francis, Superior, welcomed all the local superiors and honored them with a shawl. All the communities sang Christmas Carols, and we animated the party games. The Christmas message was given by Fr. Francis on the topic of Giving, Sharing, and Caring. More than 60 religious sisters and fathers participated in this event.



CHRISTMAS GIFT SHARING WITH OUR BOYS

Cuddalore: On the 17th of December, Sagayamadha parishioners brought Christmas gifts to our Boys Home students. It was a generous deed on the behalf of the people. In all, sixty-four boys were helped by the parishioners. We began with the Holy Mass praying for the Sagayamadhan parishioners and giving thanks for their generosity. After Mass, the people shared the Christmas gifts with our boys. Many of them took the time to chat with the boys. All the students were happy and came away with smiling faces.

WORLD DIFFERENTLY ABLED DAY CELEBRATION

Cuddalore: On the 4th of December, the Don Guanella Boys Home Community, and the St. Joseph Seminary Community celebrated World Differently Abled Day in Cuddalore. We began the program at 10:30 am with prayer, song, and lighting of the kuthuvilaku. We honored the chief guest with a shawl and a memento. More than 250 individuals benefited from the day. We distributed everyday useful things like towels, bed sheets, and other materials. About 400 people participated. We planned some cultural events to entertain all who attended. All the chief guests, as well as those in attendance, appreciated our service and mission. We served them a delicious meal. They were very happy and went with smiling faces. We thank the community confreres, DSMP Sisters, GLM members, benefactors, volunteers, and well-wishers.





FOLK DANCE DEBUT



Cuddalore: The SJS community organized folk dance classes for the Initiation Brothers for five days extending from December 12th to 16th. Mr. D. Stephen was invited to train the brothers in various folk arts, street theatre, and plays. On the evening of the fifth day, the brothers gave a recital incorporating all that they had learned. The concert was greatly appreciated by all the guests. Fr. Rosario, the Diocesan Minor Seminary Rector, along with his seminarians, encouraged the performers and the audience to take an active part in bringing out the arts of the soil. In conclusion, Mr. Stephen was honored and appreciated for all his efforts. Finally, the invitees were offered a delicious meal.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHILDREN

Cuddalore: On the 18th of December at 3 pm, the SJS community campus was filled with the smiling faces of the Evening School children. Fr. Adaikalam, the Superior and Rector, along with the teachers and brothers, organized a day full of exciting events. The children were thrilled to celebrate Christmas in such an exuberant way. The students performed cultural events to entertain the gathering. All in attendance were energized by the folk dances of the brothers along with a few street plays which portrayed the love of the Mother. Finally, everyone was treated to tea and snacks. The celebration ended around 6 pm.





SPORTS AND BIRTHS CELEBRATED

Cuddalore: On the 19th of December to celebrate the birthday of our Holy Founder, we organized a friendly volleyball match with the St. Agnes Archdiocesan Minor Seminarians. This match strengthened the bond between us and provided an excellent opportunity to develop team-building skills. As is



customary, the community joined together for the Intercontinental Mass on the birthday of our Founder, St. Louis Guanella. This was combined with the celebration of a suppose Christmas for the seminarians. Fr. Periyamayagam celebrated the Holy Eucharist and Fr. Antony Xavier was the homilist who highlighted the significance of the day. We took the time to remember Fr. John Bosco also as it was the anniversary of his ordination day. Our beloved DSMP Sisters joined the celebration. After Mass, Fr. Ligory carried the baby Jesus in procession to the decorated crib at the main entrance and blessed it. Bro. Rayar, who designed the nativity and crib display, explained the parts and significance of each. During the meal, the seminarians were given their Christmas gifts which had been sponsored by a few of our benefactors.

THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER



Vatluru: "It is impossible to find a saint who did not take the 2 "P's" seriously—prayers and penance" - St. Francis Xavier. The feast of St. Francis Xavier, who is the patron of the substation of Showripuram, was celebrated on the 3rd of December 2022. The day began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by the Most Reverend Jayarao Polimiera, D. D. the Bishop of

Eluru. The renovated church and flagpole were blessed by his Excellency and the people participated in the festal celebration in a very devoted manner. There was a car procession in the evening and the feast was concluded with agape.

ADVENT CELEBRATION

Vatluru: "Advent is the time we are given to welcome the Lord who comes to encounter us, and also to verify our longing for God, to look forward and prepare ourselves for Christ's return." says our Pope Francis. The Don Guanella Evening School in Vatluru had an advent celebration. All the children of the evening school participated in and performed their cultural program.



The students were given Christmas gifts and the teachers were felicitated. Our special guest was Mrs. Gujjula Rathna Kumari, the Panchayat President of Vatluru.



AT CHRISTMAS ALL ROADS LEAD HOME

Koppaka: On the 18th of December, children from five of our tuition centers (Koppaka A, Koppaka B, Koppakagudem, Ankanagudem, and Singavaram) were invited to Guanella Bhavan to celebrate Semi-Christmas. The day was filled with colorful dance programs. Seminarians entertained the children and kept them active until the end of the day. Fr. Praveen delivered a Christmas message wishing them and their families a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2023. At the end of the program, taking into consideration the needs of the school-going children, lunch boxes were provided as their Christmas gifts. Teachers, too, were honored and gifted. Finally, with Christmas cake and a cool drink, the program concluded.



INTERCONTINENTAL MASS ON THE 180TH BIRTHDAY OF ST. LOUIS GUANELLA

Koppaka: On the 19th of December, as scheduled by the General Council in Rome, our Guanellian Fathers from Vatluru and Guanellian Sisters from the Formation House came together to celebrate our founder's 180th birthday at 7:30 pm in Guanella Bhavan. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Francis Assis and the homily was preached by Fr. Praveen. It was a day to remind ourselves that, as religious corporations of faith, it is important to add virtue and the grace of Jesus Christ to elevate a Guanellian, from simple human order to the immensely higher level of supernatural order. After being fed the spiritual food of the soul, we gathered around the table to enjoy the simple birthday meal of our founder as sons and daughters of the same Father.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO OUR BENEFICIARIES

Koppaka: Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas. Yes, on the 22nd of December, GLM members along with Fr. Praveen visited Jeganathapuram, Janampet to distribute Christmas gifts to 13 beneficiaries. All the beneficiaries were brought to the house of Mr.



Anil Kumar (one of the members of GLM) and with a small prayer service, the Christmas message was delivered by Mr. Shasha Rao. Mr. Sathiyam sang a Marian hymn, Mr. Premkumar prayed a small prayer, and Fr. Praveen gave the final blessing over everyone gathered there. In the end, beneficiaries were gifted with bedspreads. Tea and biscuits were served and then we concluded the gathering. Sincere thanks to all the GLM members especially Mr. Shasha Rao, who came forward to sponsor gifts for the needy. May God bless them and their family members.



BANJARA MEGA CHRISTMAS AND WORLD SPECIAL PEOPLE'S DAY

Warangal: It was our great joy and privilege on the 18 of December 2022 to observe Special People's Day together with Banjara Mega Christmas. It was a special Christmas celebration for the tribal / Banjara people to emphasize their culture, way of life, and a type of evangelization. We invited priests, sisters, and parishioners from Mahabubabad Denary; about 1000 people were able to participate in the festivities. It was a day filled with immense joy and happiness. For the celebration, we invited thirty-two special children from the Mahabubabad area. The Most Rev. Dr. Udumula Bala (Bishop of Warangal) and Mahabubabad MLC were the chief guests. Our Bishop explained the importance of the Banjara Matha Shrine and his future plan for this mission station. He also expressed the desire to establish a mission station for people with special needs and to construct a Shrine Church on the site. Bishop Bala also stressed the importance of respecting special people since they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. The MLC encouraged our mission because of its focus on differently-abled people. He assured his support to further develop our mission in this Mahabubabad district. At the end of the program, we honored the special guests by giving them groceries as gifts.





WORLD DIFFERENTLY ABLED DAY IN ERODE



Thalavadi: World Disabled Day was celebrated in the Erode District in December. A program for the good children was organized by the DDAWO and those in attendance were from about 25 different institutions. Approximately, two hundred children

participated in 40 different events. The District Collector inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. Our residents, staff, regent, and director traveled by car to the program. Many of our residents participated and won prizes. Mukilan, one of our residents, won First Prize in the dance competition. After a nice lunch, we all returned home. It was a wonderful day, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

WORLD DIFFERENTLY ABLED DAY IN NAZARETH ILLAM

Thalavadi: On the 7th of December, Nazareth Illam celebrated World differently abled Day. Fr. Francis was the chief guest for the day. The guests, residents, and staff joined together in an opening prayer. The day was filled with a variety of activities, games, and competitions for our residents. Several games were animated by the fathers and staff. Gifts were distributed to all our residents and the staff. The day was a tremendous success, and everyone present enjoyed themselves. At the day's end, all departed with smiling faces.



DECEMBER 15TH CHARITY DON BOSCO



Thalavadi: Christmas Eve was a day of outreach, sharing, and mission. Students from St. Don Bosco School extended charity and a helping hand to the mentally challenged people's home in Bosconagar, Thalavadi. A number of students came to the home and participated in the day's activities with the residents. Students and residents had an

opportunity to engage in conversation about the upcoming Christmas celebration. Cultural events were arranged to provide entertainment for all. As part of the outreach, grocery items such as soap, toothpaste, oil, biscuits, and towels were distributed. Students came together as a group to share fellowship and prayer.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Thalavadi: On the 23rd of December, we celebrated the semi-Christmas celebration at Nazareth Illam with the residents and staff. Rev. Fr. Lawrence, Superior of the Community, celebrated the Holy Mass and preached a homily explaining the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. After Mass, the members sang the feast day song and enjoyed the cake-cutting with our residents, staff, and fathers. We enjoyed a fellowship meal. After that, we had Christmas gifts shared by fathers and staff. With the final prayer of the Superior, the day came to end.

THE HARMONIOUS CAROLS

Anthonyarpuram: "The spirit of Christmas exists in harmonious carols like those sung by angels on the day of Christ's birth" The harmonious Carols were trained to sing like angels to proclaim and announce the gospel by singing Carols to every house for ten days. Invariably we visited all the family and prayed for them with Christmas



greetings. Baby Jesus was the center of attraction carried by Santa. It was a good opportunity to meet the elderly and sick to share our joy with Christmas cake and calendar.

SHARING JOY AND HAPPINESS



Anthonyarpuram: "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" Christmas is the season of sharing joy and happiness. We celebrated the great event of Christmas on a grand scale. After the Holy Mass, there were cultural events and sharing of Christmas cake. As a token of love and sharing we have given clothes to 250 people with the help of Providence.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN THE PROVINCIALATE

Provincialate, Chennai: Don Guanella Evening School celebrated Christmas day with the children on 16th December, 2022 in Provincialate. The Provincialate campus was beautifully decorated with flowers, festivals, lights, and posters. All the students and teachers were excited and enthusiastic about the celebration. Confreres from DGMS, Parents of the Students and the neighboring



families of the Provincialate also participated in the Celebration. Students exhibited their talents through dance, song, and detailed speeches about Christmas. Santa Claus was roaming the campus and giving presents to all the little children. Then Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior; Fr. Benson, DGMS Rector; Fr. Anandhan, DGSS Director, distributed Christmas gifts to the students and teachers. Then, Fr. Ronald wished everyone a very happy Christmas and also gave a short motivational speech. At last, everyone was provided with sweet and sumptuous dinner. Children went back to their homes happily to celebrate meaningful Christmas at their homes.

USA NEWS

SANTA IS IN THE HOUSE

Chelsea - Santa came to town, Saturday, December 3rd, kicking off the Holiday festivities for the residents of St. Louis Center. For over 10 years, a celebratory Christmas Party has been planned by the Friends of Al Chirco. After a two-year break due to covid restrictions, they returned with cheer to spread to all residents. Months of preparation had been done by the group. From gathering resident wish lists, shopping, and preparing a menu; everyone pitched in their skills to make this happen. The St. Louis Center gym was filled with presents while members of the group began to prepare lunch in the kitchen. Mass was held in the Center's chapel and the residents and guests made their way to the gym afterward for lunch. After lunch, a few residents were selected to give greetings and thanks to the guests. It was a wonderful start to the Christmas Season.





CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

Chelsea - St. Louis Center welcomed over 100 guests from Chelsea and the surrounding communities to an evening of Christmas Spirit on Sunday, December 11th. After weeks of hard work and preparation, St. Louis Center residents invited friends and neighbors to join them as they presented their 2022 Christmas Program. Families and friends gathered around 5:00 pm awaiting the 5:30 performance. A tradition for many years, the residents look forward to this event and being able to share their love of performing with the communities that support them. After the show, everyone was welcomed to enjoy a cookie and eggnog, along with other refreshments. Parents and other guests congratulated the residents on doing such a great job.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ST. LOUIS CENTER

Chelsea - On Thursday, December 15th, members of the Scio Twp. Meijer made a special visit to the St. Louis Center. In the past month their community giving team, led by employees who enjoy making a difference in the community, held a vote to pick their store's recipient for yearly giving. Different organizations were considered, but one stood out to the employees: St. Louis Center. Center resident Joey B. is a long-time employee at this Meijer store in Ann Arbor, MI. His personality surely had a strong influence over the decision to award the gift to St. Louis Center.





NEWS FROM THE PIOUS UNION

Grass Lake - This season has been quite busy for the Pious Union Shrine. A group of about eighty home schoolers visited from St. Stephen church in New Boston, Michigan on December 9th. The following day, about 20 people came for an Advent retreat that was led by Fr. Amal. After Mass in the Shrine, lunch was served in the Pastoral Center. The Guanellian Cooperators even stayed for a short meeting to learn more about the early life of St. Louis Guanella. On December 18 the Pious Union hosted a Live Nativity. Even with the cold weather, over three hundred people attended the outdoor event, enjoying the program, the live music, and the hot chocolate and cookies served by the Women's Guild. As we prepared for Christmas, a group of volunteers decorated the church. Many trees, ornaments, and lights glowed brightly as we shared in the joy of Our Lord's birth.

HAPPY NEWYEAR - 2023

Chelsea—To help the residents celebrate the coming of the New Year, Laura Rayer, St. Louis Center Activities Coordinator, led them in a craft on Wednesday December 28th to make party hats. She also made plans for a celebration on Friday, December 30th. The residents all came to the bus stop area of the main building after dinner where they danced, sang, made noise with party favors, colored hats, masks and New Year's greetings. Kristen was the special guest at the party since it was her birthday. She got to wear the special birthday cake hat. The residents were filled with joy and laughter as they enjoyed the fun and each other's company.



A CHRISTMAS OUTING



Chelsea - Christmas is the time to spend time with family sharing joy and presents. For many, St. Louis Center is the family and home. For those who couldn't be with their family, the Center staff organized



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THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY



The students at SHS school participated in the Christmas Pageant at our school Christmas Mass right before leaving for Christmas break. The students from Grades K-2 and a student from our CCD program did a fantastic job presenting the Story of the Nativity at our 5:00 Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve.





Birth days

5 - Fr. Paul Arokiaraj. C

6 - Fr. Paul Dhinakaran. C

7 - Fr. Charles. A

9 - Fr. Francis Xavier

Bro. Ajis Aravinth

10 - Bro. Arockia William. L

22 - Fr. Periyannayaga Samy. A

26 - Fr. Kulandai. P

28. Fr. Peter Sebastin

30 - Fr. Vijay Pilla

Feast Days

22 - Fr. Vincent. S

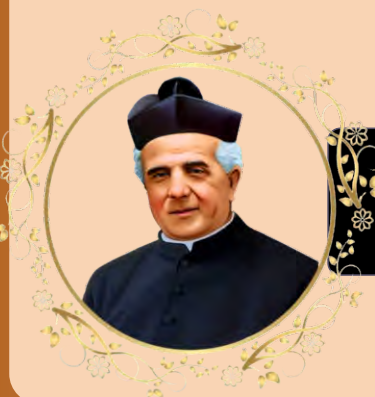
Fr. Vincent. M

23 - Fr. Periyannayaga Samy. S

Fr. Periyannayaga Samy. A

Fr. Periyannayaga Samy. A

Fr. Periyannayagam. M



Happy New Year