



# News and Views

## Divine Providence Province

### Easter: Gratitude and Hope

My dear Confreres!


As we celebrate the great mysteries of our Redemption during Holy Week and Easter, it is a great joy to greet you!

The resurrection of Jesus is not only the most important event that has taken place in the history of the world but also, we can say, that it is the very basis of our Christian faith. We can imagine what would happen to Christianity, if Christ is not risen from the dead: our faith in Jesus Christ, our hope for eternal life and the very meaning of our Christian life will crumble down. That's why St. Paul, in his first letter to Corinthians 15: 14 says that if Christ is not risen from the dead, then our preaching is without substance and our faith useless. In the case of Jesus, without the Resurrection, he would have remained forever in the history of humankind as a good person, may be a good teacher, who met with a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings and a handful of people might even try to live according to them. But we know that our faith, hope and very Christian life are founded on Jesus' resurrection.

The Gospels remind us that the power of the resurrection does not erase the wounds of the crucifixion. Jesus continues to bear these marks in his body. He invites Thomas to touch them and to place his hand in his wounded side. It is in this wounded world that we are called to witness to the power of the resurrection to heal and transform, and to accompany those who suffer with compassion. The power of the resurrection does not 'rescue' us, as if by magic or miracle, from the wounded world which we call home. Rather, the experience of the resurrection of Jesus empowers us to embrace this world with compassion, to accompany those who suffer with hope and understanding, and to forge new bonds of solidarity among ourselves and with the abandoned and the poor. It is the wounds of the Redeemer himself whom we touch in the wounds of the world. And the Redeemer also touches our wounds with healing and peace.

"Be not be afraid! Jesus is truly risen!" – That's the message announced by the angel at the Easter morning. And that is message for us too, at this moment. By his resurrection Jesus has overcome sin and death and thus opened the door of salvation for each one of us. Therefore, we can say that resurrection is both a promise given to us and resurrection is our hope.

APRIL 2023



Constitution 81 captures the very heart of our vocation: In view of the great good and the great tasks of our vocation we feel like a little flock, trusting however in the promise of the Lord: “Be not afraid, I am with you every day”

Like the women in the Gospel for the Easter Vigil, we are 'fearful yet overjoyed' as we go forth to announce the power of the resurrection to all our sisters and brothers. May his peace and his joy touch and transform us all! Bearing in mind Jesus' exhortation, “Do not be afraid...” (Mt. 28:20), let us entrust everything to the Lord, with full conviction because God is with us always. May the experience of His presence strengthen us in our daily life, giving us hope and a reason to live! May the Risen Lord accompany us in every moment of our life! May the miracle of Christ's resurrection fill our hearts with love, hope, gratitude, peace, and joy.

Wishing you an egg-ceptionally wonderful Easter

**FR. RONALD. J SDC**  
Provincial Superior

## PROVINCIAL CALENDER APRIL - 2023

**03 - Annual Evaluation in DGMS Chennai**

**06 - Maundy Thursday in Cuddalore Sagayamatha Church**

**07 - Good Friday in Erukanchery**

**08 - Easter Vigil in Avadi**

**11 - 30 Visit to Communities in US & Plenary Meeting**

APRIL 2023



# EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT OF EASTER



Many writers have evoked the beauty of starlit nights. The nights of war, however, are riven by streams of light that portend death. On this night, brothers and sisters, let us allow the women of the Gospel to lead us by the hand, so that, with them, we may glimpse the first rays of the dawn of God's life rising in the darkness of our world. As the shadows of night were dispelled before the quiet coming of the light, the women set out for the tomb, to anoint the body of Jesus. There they had a disconcerting experience. First, they discovered that the tomb was empty; then they saw two figures in dazzling garments who told them that Jesus was risen. Immediately they ran back to proclaim the news to the other disciples (cf. Lk 24: 1-10). They saw, they heard, they proclaimed. With these three verbs, may we too enter into the passover of the Lord from death to life.

The women saw. The first proclamation of the resurrection was not a statement to be unpacked, but a sign to be contemplated. In a burial ground, near a grave, in a place where everything should be orderly and peaceful, the women "found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they went in, they did not find the body" (vv. 2-3). Easter begins by upsetting our expectations. It comes with the gift of a hope that surprises and amazes us. Yet it is not easy to welcome that gift. At times – we must admit – this hope does not find a place in our hearts. Like the women in the Gospel, we are overtaken by questions and doubts, and our first reaction before the unexpected sign is one of fear: "They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground" (v. 5).

All too often we look at life and reality with downcast eyes; we fix our gaze only on this passing day, disenchanted by the future, concerned only with ourselves and our needs, settled into the prison of our apathy, even as we keep complaining that things will never change. In this way, we halt before the tomb of resignation and fatalism; we bury the joy of living. Yet tonight the Lord wants to give us different eyes, alive with hope that fear, pain and death will not have the last word over us. Thanks to Jesus' paschal mystery, we can make the leap from nothingness to life. "Death will no longer be able to rob our life" (K. RAHNER), for that life is now completely and eternally embraced by the boundless love of God. True, death can fill us with dread; it can paralyze us. But the Lord is risen! Let us lift up our gaze, remove the veil of sadness and sorrow from our eyes, and open our hearts to the hope that God brings! In the second place, the women heard. After they had seen the empty tomb, the two men in dazzling garments said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (vv. 5-6). We do well to listen to those words and to repeat them: He is not here! Whenever we think we have understood everything there is to know about God, and can pigeonhole him in our own ideas and categories, let us repeat to ourselves: He is not here! Whenever we seek him only in times of trouble and moments of need, only to set him aside and forget about him in the rest of our daily life and decisions, let us repeat: He is not here! And whenever we think we can imprison him in our words and our customary ways of thinking and acting, and neglect to seek him in the darkest corners of life, where people weep, struggle, suffer and hope, let us repeat: He is not here!





May we too hear the question asked of the women: “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” We cannot celebrate Easter if we continue to be dead; if we remain prisoners of the past; if in our lives we lack the courage to let ourselves be forgiven by God who forgives everything; if we fail to change, to break with the works of evil, to decide for Jesus and his love. If we continue to reduce faith to a talisman, making God a lovely memory from times past, instead of encountering him today as the living God who desires to change us and to change our world. A Christianity that seeks the Lord among the ruins of the past and encloses him in the tomb of habit is a Christianity without Easter. Yet the Lord is risen! Let us not tarry among the tombs, but run to find him, the Living One! Nor may we be afraid to seek him also in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the stories of those who hope and dream, in the pain of those who we suffer: God is there!

Finally, the women proclaimed. What did they proclaim? The joy of the resurrection. Easter did not occur simply to console those who mourned the death of Jesus, but to open hearts to the extraordinary message of God’s triumph over evil and death. The light of the resurrection was not meant to let the women bask in a transport of joy, but to generate missionary disciples who “return from the tomb” (v. 9) in order to bring to all the Gospel of the risen Christ. That is why, after seeing and hearing, the women ran to proclaim to the disciples the joy of the resurrection. They knew that the others might think they were mad; indeed, the Gospel says that the women’s words “seemed to them an idle tale” (v. 11). Yet those women were not concerned for their reputation, for preserving their image; they did not contain their emotions or measure their words. Their hearts were inflamed only with the desire to convey the news, the proclamation: “The Lord is risen!”.

How beautiful is a Church that can run this way through the streets of our world! Without fear, without schemes and stratagems, but solely with the desire to lead everyone to the joy of the Gospel. That is what we are called to do: to experience the risen Christ and to share the experience with others; to roll away the stone from the tomb where we may have enclosed the Lord, in order to spread his joy in the world. Let us make Jesus, the Living One, rise again from all those tombs in which we have sealed him. Let us set him free from the narrow cells in which we have so often imprisoned him. Let us awaken from our peaceful slumber and let him disturb and inconvenience us. Let us bring him into our everyday lives: through gestures of peace in these days marked by the horrors of war, through acts of reconciliation amid broken relationships, acts of compassion towards those in need, acts of justice amid situations of inequality and of truth in the midst of lies. And above all, through works of love and fraternity.

Brothers and sisters our hope has a name: the name of Jesus. He entered the tomb of our sin; he descended to those depths where we feel most lost; he wove his way through the tangles of our fears, bore the weight of our burdens and from the dark abyss of death restored us to life and turned our mourning into joy. Let us celebrate Easter with Christ! He is alive! Today, too, he walks in our midst, changes us and sets us free. Thanks to him, evil has been robbed of its power; failure can no longer hold us back from starting anew; and death has become a passage to the stirrings of new life. For with Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever; and even in the darkest night, in that darkness, the morning star continues to shine. In this darkness that you are experiencing, Mr Mayor and dear Parliamentarians, the thick darkness of war, of cruelty, all of us are praying, praying with you and for you this night. We are praying for all the suffering. We can give you only our fellowship and our prayer and say to you: “Courage! We accompany you!” And also to say to you the greatest thing we are celebrating today: Christòs voskrès! Christ is risen!

**Pope Francis**

*Franciscus*




## MINUTES – EVENING SCHOOL TEACHERS MEET



The first Evening School Teachers Meet of Divine Providence Province was held from 4<sup>th</sup> March to 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Don Guanella Major Seminary, Chennai. Forty teachers from ten communities such as Chennai, Cuddalore, Kumbakonam, Sivagangai, Krishnapuri, Dindigul, Vatluru, Koppaka, Warangal and Bangalore participated in the meeting.

The meeting began with the prayer song and opening prayer by Fr. Raja Rathinam, SdC. Then, Bro. Yesu Babu and Bro. Philomin Raja organized the Ice Breaker session which was really helpful for the teachers to know each other and to grow in familiarity. Afterwards, the meeting began with the lighting of the lamp by the five representative teachers from among the group of the teachers. After that, Fr. Arun Kumar, SdC, In-charge of Evening Schools greeted and welcomed all the teachers and invited everyone to partake in the meeting actively. Then, Fr. Ronald, SdC was welcomed with the shawl by Ms. Suchitra. He thanked all the teachers for their interest in sharing the mission of alleviating ignorance by educating the students through ASCI Evening School project. In his introductory talk, he stressed on the importance of education to create the better future for our students.

After the tea break, Ms. Olga Miriam, Secretary of ASCI OdV presented about “ASCI and the Evening School Project” through Google Meet. First of all, she thanked for the presence of the teachers to take part in this meeting. She began her talk by mentioning that since 1992 the association has been working alongside the Guanellian Fathers to carry out the mission of serving the poor throughout the world. She explained that the support to run this project is mobilized from own funds, private donors, public funds and private foundations. She also stressed on the five goals of the Evening School project such as to offer a protected place with a supportive community atmosphere; to ensure the same educational support in the different locations; to improve language skills; to motivate children to value and develop their talents and resources; to raise families' awareness of the importance of education and the creation in society of a network of solidarity. In order to achieve these goals, she proposed the following tools such as experiential and collaborative teaching methodology; common education plan; project monitoring tools; short meeting reports and accurate reporting of expenses. She also mentioned about the future prospects in applying for funding from foundations. After her



presentation, teachers clarified some of their concerns in improving the project. Fr. Ronald, SdC, Provincial Superior suggested ASCI OdV to consider the increment of the salary of the teachers and to ensure the safe environment of the Evening School program.

After the lunch, Coordinator of every evening school presented about the functioning of their respective evening school program in their particular places. After their sharing, Fr. Arun Kumar, SdC, In-charge of Evening Schools stressed the following instructions to be followed for the smooth running of the Evening School program: to organize short meetings once in two months for the teachers; to provide snacks for the students at least twice in a week; to be aware of the words that we use in the prayer; to make sure that the salary is paid through NEFT/Cheque; to look for the possibility of organizing language class for the children during vacation time; to organize games and other skills developing programs for the students and to award them with the gifts; to make sure the celebration of Inauguration, Independence day, Christmas and Annual day; to celebrate the birthdays of students, Teacher's day, Children's day, important celebrations of all the religions; to make sure the proper maintenance of the students' register. Ms. Olga suggested that ASCI will consider to include the picnic in the forthcoming proposed budget for the Evening school program.

At last, Fr. Ronald, Fr. Arun Kumar and all the teachers thanked Ms. Olga for her presence and presentation on the Evening School Project and took a group picture with her. On the next day, Holy Eucharistic Celebration was celebrated by Fr. Ronald, SdC, Provincial Superior, after which he congratulated everyone with the gifts. Soon after the breakfast, all the teachers went for the sight-seeing to Divine Mercy Church, Kelambakkam; Mahabalipuram; Santhome and Marina beach. After that, everyone went back to their respective places to continue to carry on this mission of education with full vigor.







## ALMS GIVING



**BANGALORE:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, Fr. Antony Samy, the parish priest, along with his parish council members and all the pious associations' members visited our Old Age Home. They spent their valuable time with our residents entertaining them with singing and dancing. They also prayed the Holy Rosary with them offering the prayers for the seniors' good health and peaceful stay. This visit made our senior citizens happy.

## A DAY OF TALENTS EXPOSURE AND HEALTHY LIFE TIPS

**BANGALORE:** On the 24<sup>th</sup> of March the members of Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Chikka Patai Branch conducted an indoor cultural event for our Don Guanella Evening School Bangalore. Approximately 68 children took part. They were provided with an exam kit, consisting of a pen, pencil, colored pens, and other necessary things for the exam. Mr. Karthic, the Assistant Manager of TMB, taught our children the basics of Asanas yoga to help them keep themselves healthy. These lessons and tools helped to build the health consciousness of our children and senior citizens.



## VISIT OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA TO GPN

**BANGALORE:** March 14, 2023, was a blessed day for GPN. A pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima with the holy relics of Francisco and Jacinth was brought to our community. It was on display for public veneration for two days. Fr. Joseph Susainathan, the priest in charge of the pilgrim statue, Archdiocese of Bangalore, handed over Our Blessed Mother to Fr. Mathias. As the head of the family, Fr. Superior, crowned Our Lady and happily welcomed her into the community. The following day around 600 people visited and received the choicest of blessings from Our Beloved Mother. On the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> during Solemn Mass, Fr. Joseph Susainathan along with the community, consecrated all the faithful to Our Lady, and Fr. Susainathan gave an inspiring sermon on Our Lady's apparition. At the end of the day, with joy-filled hearts, we gave a fond farewell to Our Blessed Mother.



## “CHARITY BEINGS AT HOME”

**BANGALORE:** As part of a Lenten activity, GC and GLM joined together to celebrate the Lenten theme of “Praying | Fasting | Almsgiving”. The members sought to experience the togetherness and enrichment of fraternity which is the purpose of Guanellian Charism and Spirituality.

As one Guanellian Lay family, we planned the Lenten activities very thoughtfully. The first activity was designed to bring to life the slogan “Charity Beings at Home”. On March 12<sup>th</sup> the lay family started off by coming together with the intent of cooking a meal with love for our own Grandpas at GPN. The members started early to cook a sumptuous meal which was nothing less than a wedding meal served on a plantain leaf. This beautiful tradition is the mark of a special meal in the south of India. There were varieties of dishes cooked by the members that the grandpas enjoyed. It was indeed a family environment where the members not just cooked the food but served it with love to our grandpas and received the same in return. For these good souls at GPN Aged Home, who seldom receive visitors, this was indeed a great treat.



## LENTEN MISSION BY GC & GLM

**BANGALORE:** As a continuation of the Lenten activities, the members chose to extend the love to our own Guanellian Mission House in Thalavadi which has MI & MR patients. The members have been focusing on good works during Lent at this mission house for the last 8 years but each time it is a little different. The representatives raised funds to help meet the needs of the house: which included food items/groceries, hair trimmers, and steel tumblers. Feeding the patients and looking at their smiling faces was priceless. These people in Thalavadi, who are struggling and lost, have no expectations of others. The group decided to replicate the meal provided at GPN for Grandpas, the inmates at







Thalavadi enjoyed this special meal more than on their usual days. This was nothing less than a wedding meal with taste and variety. So many wonderful people of all ages gave of their time and treasure to contribute and cook for over 100 guests. The members also made a short pilgrimage to the Poor Sisters of St. Clare carrying loads of love and gifts. The sisters appreciated this, and all came together to pray at the conclusion. The members also made a visit to the new Church of St. Joseph, prayed, and carried many blessings back home.

### LENTEN RECOLLECTION FOR GC & GLM

**BANGALORE:** On the 18th of March, the Guanellian Lay Family had to nourish itself spiritually. A recollection was organized at the Montfort Monastery and "The Bond of Charity 3D" was the topic. The presentation was given by Fr. Adaikalam who has been instrumental in providing formation to the group. The



subtopics were: the importance of this topic, why we have taken up the Bond of Charity, how it evolved, our Founder's perspective about this bond, how we are to sustain it, and how to progress and build up a climate or environment of charity. This was an interactive session that provided lots of food for thought for the participants. The ambiance of the setting was appropriate for creating a serene session. The Day of Recollection was concluded with a solemn Mass. The group came to understand how the congregation looks at the laity and the role they play. The testimony of the participants demonstrated how useful and fruitful this recollection topic was and how the group sharing helped bond the members.

### HEALTH IS WEALTH



**SIVAGANGAI:** "The doctor of the future will give no medicine but will instruct his patients in the care of the human frame, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease" (Thomas Edison). On the 17th of March, a government staff nurse from Primary Health Centre, Pallithammam, conducted a medical camp for our children. The primary check-up included such things as BP, sugar, and pulse rate. The children were encouraged to maintain a healthy diet and take prescribed medications regularly.

### IT'S NOT ONLY ALMS-GIVING, BUT IT'S A GRACE

**SIVAGANGAI:** On the 16th of March, the Yesuvanam community was filled with good souls from Holy Redeemer Church, Ramnagar, Devakottai. Rev. Fr. Jesu, Parish Priest, along with Rev. Dn.



Sebastian and some parish children, altar servers, catechism children, and youth, numbering around 33, came to our house and spent their time with our children. The parish priest celebrated Mass and prayed for our children. Next, a short cultural program was organized. Asst. Director of the school welcomed the gathering, and Fr. Superior honored them with a shawl. Mr. Sathish greeted our special children with some remarks and others guests sang songs and put on a dance recital. Finally, Fr. Jesu said a few words of appreciation for our service and our mission which he said it's very challenging. He and the children he brought gave some donations collected by the children themselves from their own pocket money. Fr. Superior thanked all for their generous hearts and their service to these children. Then all shared in the agape meal.

### LENTEN PILGRIMAGE



**CUDDALORE:** On the 4th of March, the parishioners of Sagaya Madha Church Cuddalore went on a Lenten pilgrimage to Coimbatore and the surrounding holy places. We visited and prayed at sixteen churches. At each of the churches, we prayed and meditated on the Way of the Cross. When we reached St. Francis Xavier Church at Savariyarpalayam, we celebrated Holy Mass. One hundred and twenty people participated in this spiritual event. The people were very happy and participated with devotion.

### CELEBRATING THE PATRON'S FEAST

**CUDDALORE:** On the 19th of March, the SJS community celebrated the feast of their patron, St. Joseph. It was a joyful evening and we shared it with our neighboring community Fathers, Boys' Home children, DSMP sisters, and the parishioners. At about 5:30 pm we had a car procession around the seminary followed by the Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev. Fr. Ligory. Rev. Fr. Francis was the





homilist and he underscored the obedience and the humility of St. Joseph as a pattern to be followed in everyone's lives. During the celebration, there were showers of blessings from the sky and after the Mass, all enjoyed the delicious dinner sharing love, joy, and prayer with one another.

### ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATIONS



**CUDDALORE:** On the 22nd of March, the children from St. Joseph's Evening Schools were invited for the annual day of celebrations at the SJS community. There were around 20 children from Nehru Nagar and 60 children from Gundu Uppalavadi along with their teachers and a few parents. The day was well coordinated by fathers, brothers, and teachers who organized the cultural events and animated the provision of tea and tiffin. The chief guest insisted upon unity among the kids and its development day by day. The children were presented with gifts which was followed by a tasteful lunch. They returned to their homes joyfully accompanying one another.

### COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATIONS

**CUDDALORE:** On the 26th of March, the SJS community was extremely privileged to commemorate the 115th Foundation Day of the Servants of Charity along with Community Day. Rev. Fr. Ronald, the Provincial Superior of Divine Providence Province, was the chief guest. In his talk, Fr. Ronald advised the seminarians to cultivate the habit of learning and studying along with the growth in





the human dimension which is very fundamental at this stage of formation. The essential part of the celebration was releasing of VIZHUDUGAL; the brothers showed their talents by writing articles, poems, drawings, songs, and other intellectual pursuits. The brothers were awarded prizes for the Bible and Founder quiz competitions. All those who sponsored the seminarians were invited to this event and they encouraged the brothers to develop and cultivate the sense of becoming priests. All the brothers demonstrated their talents and abilities in various ways. On behalf of the sponsors, Mr. Arockiam, our Tamil teacher and well-wisher, highlighted the works of the forefathers and their efforts to which he was an eyewitness. Following the cultural events, all were provided with a delicious meal.

### NEW ARRIVAL

**KOPPAKKA:** "All work is as seed sown; it grows and spreads, and sows itself anew" (Thomas Carlyle). A small initiative was taken by the community to acquire a two-wheeler for the pastoral ministry in and around Koppaka. The petition was made in written form to one of our benefactors who resides abroad. The entire family of the sponsor was in favor of our request and provided the quoted money, thereby, we were able



to obtain the two-wheeler for the community. On the 2nd of March, Fr. Arun David, the House Administrator, prayed for God's blessing over it, and the whole community with grateful and thankful hearts remembered and prayed for the sponsor's family. A sincere note of thanks to Rev. Fr. Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Dennis Weber, and Rev. Fr. Francis for their permission and support. The Providence of God is so gracious towards us. It is God who does. May God's name be glorified forever.

### COMMON EVENING SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

**KOPPAKKA:** On the 11th of March, we organized the common Evening School Annual Day Celebration in Guanella Bhavan, Koppaka. Children frequenting Vatluru evening school, boys home children, and seminarians joined us in the celebration. Almost 400 children participated in this





function and exhibited their talents on the dais. The program was animated by Bro. Manohar and the Chief Guest, in his presidential address, invited the teachers to inculcate in the young budding flowers discipline so as to help them have a foundation to build a better India tomorrow. Teachers and children were honored with small gifts. In the end, the program reached its culmination with a fraternal meal.

### SPIRITUAL EXERCISE

**KUMBAKONAM:** "Lent is a time to experience God's Mercy and a time to extend God's Mercy to others," said Pope Francis. During the Lenten season, the Stations of the Cross were animated in substations of Guanella Nagar Parish: Thirupurampiam, Velakudi, Santhanalpuram, Swamimalai, Asoor, Jabamalipuram, Kadichampadi, Chinnamalkallari, and Perumpandi. The



Community Fathers participated in this holy event. Holy Mass was celebrated after Stations of the Cross. The people were motivated by the inspiring thoughts. "This is a season of grace all over the world and Lent is a time to renew our relationship with God and neighbor" (Pope Francis). Fr. A. Bernandas, the Parish Priest, thanked them and urged the people to make a good confession during Lent. Parish groups such as the Legion of Mary, Guanellian Lay Movement, Parish Council Members, and parishioners also attended. Tea and snacks were served.

### LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

**DINDIGUL:** Lent is a time when we meditate, reflect, and practice some of the acts of charity. The lay faithful of Kallathupatti took up a Lenten pilgrimage to various places in Kerala namely, Chalakudi - St. Antony Church, St. Mary's Church, St. George Church, Malayattoor Church and mount, St. Alphonsa Church - Kuravilangad, Kochi - Vallapadam Church, and Kottayam - St. John of God. It was a new experience for the faithful to reflect on the passion of Christ in a different manner. All the faithful were filled with blessings and graces by visiting all these holy places.





## WORLD SICK DAY CELEBRATION

**DINDIGUL:** Guanella Karunai Illam invited all the sick, aged, and differently-abled persons to pray together. We offered a special Mass and a healing Adoration with the Blessing of the Holy Sacrament. People were very happy to get this blessing for the first time. It was animated along with GLM.



## LENTEN RETREAT

**ANTHONYARPURAM:** On the 12th of March, we arranged a one-day Lenten retreat for our parishioners. We begin at 9:00 am and ended by 4:00 pm. Four Hundred and fifty people participated in the day. It was a meaningful retreat and people were happy about it. In a special way, the healing service was the climax to inspire the faithful to pray to God with tears. We provided sumptuous lunch. At the end, all the participants were given tea and snacks followed by departure. We thanked the Lord for His blessings and continuous guidance.

## LENTEN PILGRIMAGE FOR OUR FAITHFUL



**ANTHONYARPURAM:** On Sunday, the 19th of March, we organized a one-day Lenten pilgrimage for our faithful. We started our journey with 200 people by 5:00 am to Our Lady of Periyannayagi, Konankuppam. We celebrated Holy Mass and prayed the Stations of the Cross, which was followed by breakfast.

We moved to Our Lady's Shrine Villianur where we had the opportunity to participate in Adoration, then we finished the Stations. We also went to Sacred Heart Shrine Pondicherry to continue our prayer service which was followed by lunch. In the evening, we went to the seashore for a relaxing hour and some purchases. Next, we moved to Cluny Convent, Tindivanam for our supper. At 12:30 am we safely reached back to the Parish. We thanked the Lord for His blessings, accompaniment, and a successful event.

## THANKING THE STAFF AND DONOR

**CHENNAI:** On March 8th, Women's Day, Fr. Anandhan spoke about the important contributions women have made to society. There were lots of fun games organized by male staff. On March 9th, Mr. Vincent donated provisions to all the staff which included 26 members. He also sponsors fish for children once a month. All of our staff members thanked him for this generous gift.





### AWARENESS PROGRAM

CHENNAI: On March 17th, Occupational Therapy students from Sri Ramachandra University came to our school to conduct an awareness program on Wheelchair Training. They discussed the importance of Wheelchair Claims, different types of government schemes to claim a wheelchair, and how to shift a person to a wheelchair and vice versa.



The program was highly informative and beneficial. On March 21st, World Down Syndrome Day, our school children, with Down Syndrome, along with a few staff and a physiotherapist from our school went to ACS Medical College to celebrate. They spoke about two Down Syndrome children who have achieved at the national level as a motivator to all the children, with Down Syndrome, and presented each child who participated in the program with a gift.


### PSYCHOLOGY COURSES



CHENNAI: The DGMS Community Brothers had an opportunity to participate in a psychology course on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The psychology class was handled by Fr. Francis, the parish priest of Pammal. We began the class with prayer and Fr. Benson introduced the professor noting his qualifications in the field. The professor started by eliciting

responses from the brothers as to their understanding of Psychology. It helped the brothers to gain many benefits, such as developing skills to better understand ourselves and others, improving communication and social skills, understanding why people think, feel, and act the way they do, enhancing problem-solving skills, developing empathy and understanding of diversity, increasing the





ability to analyse and understand facts, enhancing creativity and critical thinking, identifying potential signs of mental health issues, learning how to apply psychological principles in real-world settings, and exploring career options in psychology.

### LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

**CHENNAI:** The DGMS community, made a Lenten pilgrimage to Besant Nagar Church (Annai Velankanni Shrine). It is a traditional walk they make each year. Monday morning, the 27th of March, started their journey. We are grateful for the opportunity to make this journey. It was a reminder of the power of faith. It strengthened our own faith and commitment to our religious life. We are so glad that we were able to make this pilgrimage and experience the beauty and serenity of this special place during the time of Lent. The pilgrimage to the Annai Velankanni Shrine was an inspiring and awesome experience.



### LENTEN PENANCE

**ELURU:** The Holy Father highlights in his message that "Lenten penance" is "commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. This is precisely what Peter and the other disciples needed to do". Lent is a time of grace to the extent that we listen to him as he speaks to us through the word of God. So, we made a Holy pilgrimage to 14 parishes for the Way of the Cross as a Lenten pilgrimage where people of Sacred Heart Church participated in a devout and pious manner. We spend a time of prayer and penance.







## RENOVATIONS CONTINUE

CHELSEA - St. Joseph Hall was established on the east end of the St. Louis Center campus in 1984, thanks to the generosity of Mary Elizabeth Doyle. It has been home to adult men ever since, providing a cozy homelike atmosphere. As the 40th Anniversary of this home approaches, it was clear that it was time to do a bit of updating on the interior. The main goal is to provide individual bedrooms with private bathrooms for each resident. Work is expected to continue through spring.



## A THEATRE PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE OF ALL ABILITIES



CHELSEA - The practice began in February for a night the residents will not soon forget. 16 residents participated in the Open Spot theater production of a Talent Show. Participants learned skills from Open Spot Theatre directors to become more comfortable on stage and learn their routines. Directors listened to the participants, learned their skill levels, and helped them to pick a performance that would best showcase their skills. Open Spot Theatre has been proudly teaching music & movement therapy to people of ALL abilities since 2012. Theatre classes are designed for everyone, from students with developmental disabilities to seniors. Classes are led by trained instructors who are professionals in theatre, sign language, and/or special education. Singing, acting, and dancing are included in all our programs, along with sign language interpretations.

Seeing the benefits of music and dance in her daughter's life, Amy L. spearheaded the fundraising to bring Open Spot back to St. Louis Center. Amy's daughter was a participant with Open Spot before moving to St. Louis Center. Amy worked diligently to raise the funds to make the program a reality for the Center's residents, knowing the importance that this class has played in her daughter's life.



Residents took the stage and welcomed the crowd with a touching performance of “This is Me” from “the Greatest Showman.” They sang and signed the words along with the music. Each resident anxiously awaited their time to perform, while cheering on their fellow performers. David started the individual performances with a sing-a-long to his favorite songs from Barney, the purple dinosaur. Other performances included Jerome playing the classic “Moon River” on the keyboard, Sarah playing her recorder, and many others singing and dancing. Open Spot theatre did an amazing job working with the residents and the performances really showed their dedication and hard work. It was a fantastic performance!

### TASTING O'THE GREEN

**CHELSEA** – The entire world becomes Irish for a day on March 17<sup>th</sup>. At St. Louis Center, the residents get into the spirit by wearing green, enjoying an Irish feast and the new tradition of Shamrock Shakes in the afternoon. Day program staff gets out the blenders, mint ice cream, and milk so that they can make shakes for everyone on campus even people with dairy allergies.



### HONORING ST. JOSEPH

**GRASS LAKE** - Many Chaldean pilgrims traveled to the Pious Union of St. Joseph on Saturday, March 18th in anticipation of St. Joseph's feast day. Many people lit candles, prayed, and visited the gift shop. A few groups brought food and enjoyed lunch, coffee, and tea in the Pastoral Center. It is estimated that 800-1000 came to the shrine that day to honor St. Joseph. On March 20th, a group of 56 pilgrims came and joined us for Mass and lunch. March 22nd brought more Chaldean pilgrims honoring St. Joseph. They devoutly recited the rosary in Arabic, then attended Mass in their native language.







APRIL 2023

## GROWING IN HOLINESS



**GRASS LAKE** – A group of about 30 parishioners from Our Lady of Good Council parish in Plymouth MI took the time this Lent to grow closer to the Lord during a retreat at the Pious Union of St. Joseph Saturday, March 25 th . They had a spiritual talk, time for confession, Mass and finished off their time at the Shrine with lunch.

## CYCLE OF A CHICKEN



**SACRED HEART SCHOOL** : The second graders participated in Project Chick during the month of March. They learned about the life cycle of a chicken and witnessed the hatching of 10 eggs. And the students preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation learned about mortal and venial sins. They used large and small paper clips to represent the types of sins. A card with God written on it was stuck to the ceiling. As the students put the paper clips on the string of the balloon, it moved away from God, just like we do when we sin.

## HE BASKETBALL SEASON

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL** :To celebrate the end of the basketball season, SHS had a basketball game between our two teams and the faculty /staff. Fr. Peri and Fr. Bernad joined in on the fun! Fr. Silvio said grace during our recent Easter lunch. The students, faculty, and staff enjoyed lunch together. The students of SHS participated in Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent.





## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Fr. Fortunato Turati |  
Fr. Badugu Christuraj  
Fr. Anil Merugu | Fr. Johnson. V  
Bro. Rayappa Chandra Sekar
- 3 - Fr. Jerin Prasanna. A
- 4 – Fr. Jesuraj  
Bro. Edward Francis
- 6 - Fr. Francis Assisi. A
- 8 - Fr. John Paul Britto
10. Bro. Carlos
- 13 - Fr. Selvakani
- 16 - Fr. Vincent. M
- 20 - Fr. Gabriel. G | Fr. Packiyaraj. S
- 24 - Fr. Antony Samy. A

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

- 1 - Fr. Piero Lippoli
- 21 - Fr. Luigi De Giambattista  
Fr. Silvio De Nard
- 28 - Fr. Alfonso Crippa

*Best Wishes*

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CALENDER APRIL 2023

