

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



HEART-ISTIC ATTITUDE for A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I would like to take you back to the word of Jesus, the perfect teacher, "Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart" (Mt 11,29). In parishes and at our homes we have the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue to embody the same heart of Jesus in our lives as Catholics. In Jesus, God the father revealed His own heart which we firmly believe stating, "God is Love." In the words of our founder we acclaim 'In Omnibus Charitas', which should be echoed in our deeds of charity to the whole of humanity.

We find the foundation for the Heart of Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist which is the source and summit of Christian life (LG 11). In it we lift up our hearts unto the Lord as pinnacle of our learning from Jesus. The Eucharist is a school of love and we are educated by Jesus who keeps us alarming on the unconditional love of God which should be experienced by every individual to transmit it into the love of one's own neighbor who needs

love, care and concern. From His Sacred Heart, our hearts can possibly learn meekness, humility, mercy and love.

May I take this simple way to wish everyone who goes on vacation to experience the love of parents and siblings to return to the ministry of the Lord and the Poor with evocative nostalgic feeling of the love of God and neighbor. I congratulate all (confreres, beneficiaries) those who have succeeded in the last academic/pastoral year and wish everyone a grand success for this new academic/pastoral year 2018-2019. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus strengthen us to be persons filled with life in order to give life for the sake of others irrespective of their various differences.

Have a Heart-istic attitude ahead.

Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC

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“Learn from Me,
for I am gentle
and humble of
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Child Poverty

By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

In September 2016, Pope Francis visited the United States. Throughout his remarks, the Pope called attention to the most vulnerable Americans: our young. "Their problems are our problems," Pope Francis remarked. "We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together, to talk about them and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions."

For millions of Americans, childhood means growing up in poverty without access to the basic needs and opportunities that everyone, especially a child, should have in our country. In the United States, over 21 percent of children under the age of five spent 2017 in poverty. Pope Francis's call to action is clear. The time is now to advance real strategies to care for America's children and eliminate child poverty. Creating a national target to cut child poverty is not unprecedented. It has been established in the UK with good results cutting the country's child poverty rate by 50 percent during the first decade's effort.

INSIDE:

Provincial	2
India	2-3
Philippines	4
United States	5-6
Calendar	7



This remarkable success starkly contrasts with what has happened in the USA during that same period: a more than 20 percent increase in child poverty between 2013 and 2017. The government cannot address child poverty alone. It is going to take a national commitment from both the public and private sector to act and end this crisis. Eliminating child poverty in the coming years is a moral and just cause around which we must all rally in order to move our nation forward.

The poverty of the children is a hidden problem. They have no voice. When they complain, they are told to be quiet. When they cry they are sent to their room. When they are hungry or thirsty they are told to wait.

We are talking about American children. Can we even imagine what the conditions of children in Africa, India, China and all the countries suffering starvation? The Gospel mentions more than once how much Jesus loved all the children. He took time to bless them and show His love for all of them. People were bringing children to Him that He might touch them but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this He became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to Me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such of these. "Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then He embraced them and blessed them, placing His hands on them.

When an argument arose among Jesus' disciples about which of them was the greatest, Jesus realized the intention of their hearts and took a child and placed by His side and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me."

India

Inauguration of the Tent of Love

BANGALORE - "It is God who does", these are the words our Founder clung to. It all began with a thought



to provide shelter to the needy, to have evening school activities for needy children, open house ministry, a place of prayer and much more. That is why it is called a Tent of Love where all activities glorify God. The community had the building blessed and inaugurated by Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior. The provincial councilors, Guanellian Fathers, Brothers, and Sisters, Religious from other Congregation, Guanellian Cooperators, Guanellian Lay Movement Members, benefactors, beneficiaries and well-wishers joined the celebration. God's Providence truly worked through a lot of generous hearts and the toil of the Guanellian Brothers

who played the roles of carpenters, engineers, painters and more. Fr. Gnanaraj, the Community Superior, was the backbone for planning, mobilizing and realizing this dream project. It was a beautiful experience for the community, they started with no financial support from the Congregation but, God helped them to accomplish His will. There were times of distress and feeling lost but God stood by and provided for them. The good works of the Guanellians will continue.

First Religious Profession



BANGALORE - "To Serve Him Gladly." With these motivating words and a humble attitude the novices on the Solemnity of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary professed their Vows and entered the Guanellian

Institute as Religious with great joy and enthusiasm. The 12 months of Novitiate under the guidance of Fr. Adaikalam was a time to discern their call and as Samuel heard the voice of God and answered, "Here I am Lord," the Brothers said 'yes' to their call. In the august presence of Fr. Soosai Rathinam, the Provincial, his Councilors, Guanellian Fathers & Brothers from other communities, religious from other congregations, Guanellian Cooperators & Laity, parents and families of the Brothers celebrated a solemn Mass praying for these five. Purity shone on their faces, giving them an angelic look in their white cassocks. Joy radiated while their parents stood by offering their Sons for the holy ministry of God. They are truly blessed. In his message to the Brothers, Fr. Soosai concluded that God alone will be by your side throughout this journey. The community hosted an agape meal for the guests.

Guanellian Cooperators Renew Promise

BANGALORE - It takes a second for God to touch, a few days to realize the call, a blessed moment that draws you close to what God wants and a life time to sanctify one's soul. Eight Cooperators were benefactors for 8-10 years, lay members and finally they professed

way they can. They promise to be like yeast among the world; setting an example to live a life of goodness and as good Catholics. The members prepared themselves through a day of recollection with Adoration, reflection, Holy Mass and confession. Fr. Adaikalam the Delegate who formed them was filled with pride and joy. Amidst the religious and laity vows were renewed during the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Soosai, con-celebrated by his council members Fr. Visuvasam, Fr. Kulandai, the Guanellian Fathers.

Pledge Renewal

BANGALORE - Our Founder trusted the Laity by



the Promise to follow the life as a Guanellian. This is the 3rd year of renewal and by the grace of God the flock has stayed together, grown in the Guanellian spirit and today stand with an experience to share with the aspirants. The world offers beautiful things, there are struggles in their lives, each one is busy doing some work but God has called them to serve His people. They renewed their Promise to continue as Cooperators and join hands with the Congregation to support them any

joining hands with and making them part of the mission. He understood that we can go those extra miles with the laity and this will spread charity among many where the religious cannot reach. The Founder's dream continues; 20 Members made their pledge, 14 members renewed and six were added. The Guanellian Lay Movement has no boundary of caste, race or religion. The only thing they need is a heart to serve the needy. The members have been instrumental in many ways helping the Community and the Congregation. They actively

take part in the mission activities and thirst to grow in the Charism of our Founder. The members, under the guidance of Fr. Adaikalam, were formed and prepared to make their pledge. The day was a very memorable with Mass celebrated by our Provincial, Fr. Soosai Rathinam. This was a witness to other laity who will be motivated to join the work of charity.

Learning the Life of the Founder

LEGAZPI - From May 1st-29th, under the instruction of their Novice Master, Novices prepared, summarized and presented on the book "The Life, the Spirit and the Works of Father Louis Guanella" with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. The novices took turns presenting a summary and reflection that they prepared from a five-chapter section of the book and other references. It was a good exercise for them to prepare and report themselves because it helped them to easily memorize the important points of the book. Through this kind of learning, they get used to teaching methods and profoundly learn The Life, Spirit, and the Works of St. Guanella, so that they can understand and emulate his example in their own lives and their future missions.

Maddi's Birthday at Sagrada Familia

LEGAZPI - Maddi, a three year-old girl once again celebrated her birthday with the children of the Feeding Program at Sagrada Familia May 12th. Her parents threw a simple party and she shared the gifts she received with the under nourished children. Maddi gave school bags for each child in preparation for the upcoming school year. The children were thankful and happy upon receiving the gifts.

JCI Daraga in Action

LEGAZPI - The Officers and members of JCI Daraga conducted an outreach program to the feeding children of Harong Kan Sagrada Familia on May 16th. The event included a simple lecture about cleanliness and saving money. A film showing how to separate garbage was shown to the children and they were taught how to make a coin bank from an empty soda bottle. After the activity, simple snacks and school supplies were given to the children.

We are one Family

LEGAZPI - To keep up and "warm up" the family atmosphere of Harong Kan Sagrada Familia, the community organized an outing for staff, residents and their family members to the beach on May 25th. It sounded very interesting to everyone in summer season. Early in the morning, everyone was busy preparing his/her own stuff. They enjoyed going swimming and playing in the sand. The residents especially went home happy; even with unforgettable marks of sunburn on their faces. Everyone was tired but joyful.

Renewal of Vows

LEGAZPI - On May 26th Harong Kan Sagrada Familia commemorated the ordination anniversary of Father Guanella, the memorial of St. Phillip Neri and the 11th ordination anniversary of Father Dong, Community Superior. The community, residents, and local villagers were present especially for the 4th Renewal of Vows of Br. Roger. Being a servant of the Lord amongst his poorest of the poor, with a heart of compassion and caring and love, Br. Roger has been a treasure of community through his life. Please pray for him that he might serve the Lord faithfully and enthusiastically.



Hope Network visits St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - SLC hosted a visit from two special guests on Thursday, May 3, 2018 when former Detroit Lion All-Pro placekicker Eddie Murray and his colleague Phil Hickmon paid a visit representing the Hope Network of Michigan. The Hope Network specializes in breaking down barriers for people with disabilities, and assists people with brain or spinal cord injuries, mental illness, and children with autism. Jeffrey Brindley, a financial advisor who also volunteers for SLC's Golf and Glory Outing, felt that the two organizations had much in common and helped to facilitate the meeting. As Vice President for Business Development, Hickmon will seek out opportunities for SLC and the Hope Network to work together collaboratively.



First Sacred Meal

E. PROVIDENCE - The children of Sacred Heart Parish and School received First Holy Communion Sunday, May 6th. Fr. Silvio DeNard celebrated Mass, inviting the children onto the altar for the Consecration.



Grand Opening Planned

CHELSEA - A special Grand Opening Celebration will take place at St. Louis Center on Tuesday, June 12th, 2018. The St. Louis Guanella Village is designed to best serve the unique needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities with the added ability to be home to their loved ones.



Fr. Enzo Addari announced that, "St. Louis Center will officially be referred to as St. Louis Guanella Village and our new identity will be unveiled during this event. We welcome current and new friends to join us in celebrating our vision for the future becoming a reality."

The construction of the new Children's Homes is the

culmination of a seven year capital campaign effort that has modernized St. Louis Center's operations and includes a Family Welcome Center, a Special Needs Playground, and a new assisted living home for older adults called Fr. Guanella Hall. The new Children's homes will replace the homes, which are a part of the original facility that was built in 1960 as the St. Louis School for Exceptional Boys.

See How our Garden Grows

CHELSEA - Back in April the St. Louis Center Day Program went to the Chelsea District Library and checked out books about plants and gardening. They began studying and learning about the different parts of plants and all the things that plants need to grow.



Next, they started some seeds indoors. They watered and cared for them each day and were able to observe them growing. On May 29th the residents transferred their plants to the garden outdoors. They are really excited about caring for and watching the garden grow. There are tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, peppers and cantaloupe that will be harvested and shared with everyone in August.

Seize the Day

CHELSEA - On Sunday, May 20th several of the adult residents of St. Louis Center went to the Spring Concert of the Langsford Men's Chorus. Saman Dawisha, an SLC employee, sings tenor in the choir, even performing a trio in the repertoire that day. The residents especially enjoyed 'Seize the Day,' from the musical Newsies. During intermission there was an opportunity to meet with



members of the Chorus as well as men from the Wayne State University Men's Glee Club. Special thanks to the Langsford Men's Chorus for the tickets to the performance. It was a beautiful way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Carf Summary for St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - St. Louis Center is happy to announce that we have received full accreditation for the next three years from CARF. The surveyors had many positive things to say about what we are doing here. Please see our website for a summary of the findings.

St Louis Center recently completed the CARF audit, and were successfully reaccredited for three years! The auditors had many great things to say about us, including the following:

The CEO and the COO provide excellent leadership to St. Louis Center. The executive director is very competent, is closely involved in all aspects of the organization's day-to-day operations, and has been able to develop a team of staff members and board members who are also very well aware of its operations. The organization is fortunate to have such an array of leadership staff members and the steady guidance of an experienced and capable administrator.

St. Louis Center is characterized by strategic thinking that leads to effective strategic planning. The community advisory board members are strongly involved in this process.

St. Louis Center provides safe and healthy environments for work and service provision.

The organization's efforts at fundraising appear effective, both for the current capital campaign and for the annual requests for day-to-day operating donations. The development efforts are at a level that one would expect from a much larger organization.

The employee newsletter increases communication among staff members in this large organization where people work on three shifts.

The use of the Therap® electronic record-keeping tool is a real advance in effective and efficient monitoring of organizational activity in every realm.

The accessibility plan is very well conceived and could be used as a template for other organizations to follow.

The organization provides new opportunities for both aging and younger persons with intellectual developmental disabilities. Services are provided by a dedicated and carefully assigned staff of professionals who work with high values and quality as a guide.

St. Louis Center is complimented for the construction of several new homes to house all of the children currently receiving services. These new units are spacious, beautifully designed, warm, homelike, and anticipated to enhance the quality of residential supports provided by St. Louis Center.

The organization is praised for the quality of its newer residential units where most of the persons are supported. Many residents have their own bedroom that is furnished according to their tastes. Units are clean, sanitary, and well maintained and offer a quality homelike environment for persons served.

The organizational culture and the work atmosphere are warm, friendly, and comfortable. It is clear that staff members, board members, and the persons served all enjoy working together. St. Louis Center continually strives to enhance the quality of supports provided to persons served.

The organization's staff members are dedicated, thrive on teamwork and collaboration, and understand the value of establishing positive working relationships internally and externally for the residents' benefit. The close and warm connection between staff members and residents is evident.

St. Louis Center is complimented for its vision to develop comfortable, individualized, homelike, and high-quality residential supports for persons with significant cognitive intellectual and other limitations. The organization is committed to developing a community that provides safe, person-centered services.

The staff members at St. Louis Center are well trained, dedicated, compassionate, and committed to providing individualized services to the persons served. It is obvious that many of the staff members have the residents' best interests in mind and have made strong personal connections with the residents and their families.

We are so proud of all our hard working staff and their accomplishments!



June Calendar of Events

- 18 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- 12 Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 8 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 9 Immaculate Heart of Mary
- Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys - SLC
- Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 9-10 Manila: Vocation Seminar
- 12 Chelsea: Grand Opening of St. Louis Guanella Village
- 13 Anniversary of the Death of Catherine Guanella (1891)
- 19 Grass Lake: St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 20 Pforzheim: St. Calogero Feast Day Celebration
- 21 Anniversary of the Death of Alexander Mazzucchi (1890)
- 24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Chelsea: Paesano's Dinner to Benefit - SLC
- 25 Chelsea: Golf & Glory Outing to Benefit - SLC
- 27 Anniversary of the Death of Bishop Bacciarini (1935)
- 29 Sts. Peter and Paul

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 Fr. Bala Vissampalli: birthday
- 5 Fr. Rajesh: birthday
- 6 Fr. Mario Nava: birthday
- 7 Fr. Peter Sebastian, Fr. Arockia Raj: birthday
- 10 Fr. Paul Francis A.: birthday
- 13 Fr. Antony Kalai Selvan, Fr. Antony Samy: feast day
- 17 Fr. Alfonso Crippa: birthday
- 18 Fr. SP Samy, Fr. Vincent: birthday
- 19 Fr. Perianayagasamy A.: birthday; Nov. Divya Ruban B.: feastday; Fr. Constantain, Fr. Francis S., Fr. Francis Assisi, Fr. George, Fr. Johnpaul, Fr. Jerin, Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Lawrence Thambusamy, Fr. Lourduraj, Fr. Maria Paul, Fr. Rajesh: ordination day
- 21 Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, Fr. Gnanaraj: feast day
- 22 Bro. Stalin S.: birthday
- 23 Fr. David J., Fr. James Stanley Babu, Fr. John Paul Britto, Fr. Louis Baskar A., Fr. Periyamayagasamy A., Fr. Peter Joseph P., Fr. Praveen Jeba Kumar: ordination day
- 24 Nov. Karre Yohan: birthday
- 26 Bro. Arun, Bro. Thambusamy X.: birthday
- 29 Fr. Battista Omodei: birthday; Fr. Peter Sebastian, Fr. C. Paul Arockia Raj, Fr. Maria Paul, Fr. John Paul, Fr. Peter Joseph, Fr. John Peter, Fr. Paul Francis, Fr. P. Paul Raj, Nov. John Peter M.: feast day

Reflections

MIDWEEK
FROM PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH

In February, the Pious Union of St. Joseph will begin sharing an email offering a **Midweek Reflection**. Reflections will be quotes from the Bible or by Saints offering you a moment of reflection in the midst of your week.

Interested in receiving the weekly reflection to your inbox? Please share your email address with **Kelly Flaherty** at kellyf@stlouiscenter.org.

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

World Special People's Day

HO CHI MINH CITY - The Vietnam government does its best to organize special events for World Special People's Day each December. This year to bring attention to some who are often left-out, the local sisters asked Fr. Felicks to help them create a video interview with some physically disabled people who sell lottery tickets on the streets of the city. He visited the disabled people in their houses. They mostly live in groups; women stay with women and men with men. They come from different parts of Vietnam and stay in the city to do little jobs, especially selling lottery tickets. They were very happy to see the sisters and Fr. Felicks, a foreigner, speaking to them in Vietnamese. The project was meaningful for the creators and the subjects.

A New Gift to Vietnam Community

HO CHI MINH CITY - On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception December 8th, the Divine Providence Province gave a graceful gift to the Vietnam community with the arrival of Fr. Joseph Fernandez, SdC, a newly ordained Guanellian priest, to serve as an assistant formator. He will assist Fr. Felicks and Fr. Jerin in formation of young men for the Guanellian priesthood. Fr. Joseph's priestly motto is, "To be His Servant". Listen to his joyful acceptance:

"I have begun my priestly life serving Christ and others.

I am very happy to be a missionary priest in Vietnam according to God's will. As the scripture says, 'I have a plan for you' (Job 29,11). When I was a young seminarian, I was inspired by our Guanellian priests who went to other nations to serve the Church and Congregation. I was also motivated during my formation to be a missionary priest through the classes and recollections. Whenever the missionary priests came for holidays, they sowed the seed of missionary spirit during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I have inculcated the spirit of missionary aspects from them. I would say that missionary priests have really set an example for me. That's why I am convinced

and willingly accepted to be a missionary priest today. I have started my life with nothing here, but I am on cloud nine because our community fathers are looking after me very well. I am able to absorb their food and culture. I am picking up the Vietnamese language in the university. My humble request to all our Guanellians is to lift me up in your prayers constantly and continuously for my mission and perseverance."

'Cancer Cannot Defeat Me'

HO CHI MINH CITY - Miss Susan is a retired teacher from Singapore and a friend of Fr. Felicks. Recently she had a cancer operation which was successful. She always used to help the tribal girls in Vietnam through the Franciscan Sisters. This time she stayed in our house for four days and taught our students some crafts that can be taught to our special children. The seminarians enjoyed learning from her. She thanked God for her good health and she was renewed in body and spirit. Charity can help to defeat our sickness.



Christmas at Benhai Parish

HO CHI MINH CITY - Benhai Parish prepares a big stage outside the church every year and welcomes famous Catholic singers of Vietnam to perform before Christmas Day. This year on December 21st the parish organized a very big Christmas Carol program. All the Religious communities of the Parish prepared a wonderful drama on the theme of Christian family. The brothers and sisters brought out their talents and gave a meaningful drama. After the play and caroling, Fr. Jerin, on behalf of the Religious, was called to congratulate the performers with flower bouquets.

Celebrating with the Visually Impaired

HO CHI MINH CITY - On Christmas Day in the evening Fr. Felicks was called to celebrate Holy Mass for the visually impaired students at the blind school run by the FMM sisters. There were about fifty very poor girls from different provinces in the hostel who are studying in Ho Chi Minh City. Fr. Felicks celebrated Mass in Vietnamese and was taken up by their beautiful voices.