

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## Interculturality... and Universality of our Mission

My recent meeting in Rome, **January 9th-13th**, with our General Council along with all the Provincials and the Delegate of Africa was an enriching mutual learning experience for me. Our Superior General solicited us to live and witness to our fraternal life in a renewed way by revisiting the priorities of the 7th General Consultation.

Fr. David Glenday, former Superior General of the Comboni Missionaries and the Secretary General of the Union of Superiors General touched upon **four key words with respect to "interculturality:"** **1. Experience:** one's own experience, family background and personal growth along with the missionary experience; **2. Charism** of our founder so that none other than his experience of the spirit should be transmitted "our mission-ad gentes;" **3. Formation:** promoting or stimulating an awareness of inter-cultural formation; creating a manifold perspective of entering into a "new world" feeling the call to go beyond by emptying oneself; **4. Together:** we are not called to live alone but with others. Therefore, we should promote and encourage collaboration with other religions through mutual acquaintance and the sharing of charism as well as some shared experiences of charity.

### Meeting Summary:

**Exchange of confreres:** it is necessary to have an attentive discernment in the choice of the confrere and offering prior formation concerning one's new mission. The receiving community should present a clear proposal of a project for which the confrere is expected to carry out. We also discussed how to promote missionary spirit and intercultural openness

during the formative years.

**Our works:** the need for the closeness of the confreres with our poor and cooperation with the laity. We have to offer not only professional formation but also charismatic and pastoral formation.

**New foundations:** The aspects of dynamism of discernment, prudence and consolidation should be taken into consideration.

**The formative commitment in the Congregation for different stages:** the necessity of formation of the formators and supporting them to live and experience the Guanellian Charism and transmitting it to the formandi in a vibrant way. We also spent some time in analyzing the fragility and departing of some confreres.

**Pastoral Vocations:** great attention and sensibility in every community is needed and creating an environment of a "vocational culture."

**Reflection on the organization of the congregation:** concerning the organization of Provinces and their geographic distribution, we need to raise awareness towards a better interprovincial collaboration.

The late, beloved Pope St. John Paul II indicates three borders that missionaries have to cross: **people, groups and the socio-cultural context** (*Redemptoris Missio* 33). Henceforth, plurality is not just a "matter of fact but a matter of principle." Let us become a border-crossing person- across cultures, religions, genders, races-in order to embrace the life of the least and the lowly.

*Fr. Soosai Rathinam.*

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*"The missionary thrust therefore belongs to the very nature of the Christian life, and is also the inspiration behind ecumenism: 'that they may all be one...so that the world may believe that you have sent me' (Jn 17,21)"*

St. John Paul II

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## February Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 2 **Chennai:** World Consecrated Day/Candlemass - DGMS
- 6-10 **Bangalore:** 14th DPP Plenary meeting - GPN
- 11 **Chennai:** Perpetual Profession
- 12 **Chennai:** Diaconal Ordination & Groundbreaking for Don Guanella Residential Home
- 13-14 **Chennai:** Superiors and Treasurers meet
- 22-23 **Chennai:** Regency Brothers Gathering
- 27-28 **Andhra:** Centennial Celebration - Sacred Heart Parish

## February Calendar of Events

- 2 **Presentation of the Lord; World Day of Consecrated Life**
- 9 **Chelsea:** Guanellian Cooperators Meeting - SLC
- 11 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys  
**Grass Lake:** Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 11-12 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day-PUSJ

- 16 **Chelsea:** Securing the Future for Special Needs Families Seminar - SLC
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 22 **The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle**
- 24 **Chelsea:** Polar Plunge to Benefit Special Olympics
- 28 **Chelsea:** Pasta Dinner with the Priests

## Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. George:** birthday
- 2 **Fr. Kannikai Raj:** feast day
- 4 **Fr. Britto, Fr. T. Anandhan, Fr. Arul:** feast day
- 10 **Fr. Kuriakose:** birthday
- 11 **Bro. Joseph Rajarathnam:** birthday; **Fr. S.A. Lourduraj, Fr. C. Lourduraj:** feast day
- 12 **Fr. Soosai Rathinam:** ordination day
- 14 **Fr. Amalorpavanathan:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. Silvio DeNard:** birthday
- 18 **Bro. Juvie O. Ortea:** birthday
- 19 **Fr. Sagayaraj:** birthday
- 24 **Fr. Chandra Nevis, Fr. Aputharaj:** birthday
- 25 **Fr. Francis:** birthday
- 26 **Bro. Gnana Vijay:** birthday

## Food for the Soul

By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

Did you have to change the hole in your belt after the Christmas holidays? I did: ashamed and worried. Your body is the temple of the spirit of God. Respect it. There is food for the body and food for the soul. So, what are we waiting for? A person is not just a physical being, but a unity of body and spirit. And while the body may be finite, the spirit is indestructible. What if we learn to tap the power of our spirits in order to nourish our hearts and bodies? Miracles happen in countless people's lives, but they all have one common denominator: they were believers. We need to realize a truth: there are more life sustaining nutrients in a positive mind and a cheerful disposition than there is in a prime rib.

Good health starts with a good soul. It begins with a kind and giving heart. It also means that one should be forgiving. Our body is the temple of the spirit of God. Respect it by looking after yourself. Do not desecrate your body. If you do, then you also taint your spirit. There is nothing wrong with comfort food. But when you are depressed, turn to spiritual matters to lift you up. Find comfort in prayer and meditation instead of finding solace in food. It will not give comfort because it can give you more calories. Thus one week of overindulging will lead to weight gain.

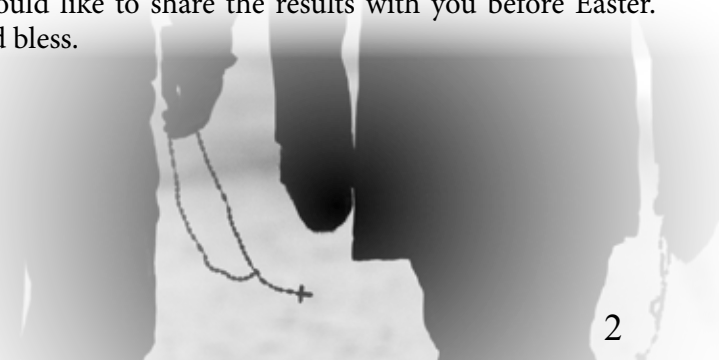
Walking is one of the best forms of exercise. While doing your daily walk, exercise your mind on uplifting matters.

When you train your body, remember to keep your soul fit too. Feel the love. It is called the most powerful force on earth. When there is love, there can be no fear. The heart needs to stay in good shape as well. So allow yourself to love and be loved. People who do not accept the love of others feel that they are unworthy of love. Think healthy to be healthy. Focus on the beautiful, awe inspiring and noble in life, in yourself and others. There is always a redeeming quality in people, especially you. You just need to let go of your biases. Think big to see the big picture. Think small and you get to see only the smallness and pettiness in life.

This, plus the negativity you are feeding on. Avoid gossip at all times. It can only lead to self destruction. If you have nothing good to say, zip your mouth. Practice kindness. Be kind to yourself and others.

This is what I preached to myself. Does it sound to you like a New Year's Resolution?

I would like to share the results with you before Easter. God bless.





## Tamil Day



**CUDDALORE** - The children of St. Joseph's Evening School gathered in the evening on January 13th to celebrate the feast of the harvest and to give thanks. The event included competitive games, cultural events and prizes for the children. The celebration was headed by the superior and other confreres. The community superior, Fr. Visuwasam, SdC, blessed the traditional Tamil food to begin the function. The priest in-charge of St. Joseph's Evening School presented his thought provoking message for the children. It was a memorable day for all of them.

## Relax a While

**CHENNAI** - The very moment we get up, we have plans to accomplish a lot before going to bed again. We sometimes forget to eat; parents even expect their students to excel and be over-achievers. We must be aware that students especially need to relax between activities to be successful. As part of the program at Don Guanella Evening School, a one-day picnic was organized for the children. Sixty-five children, seminarians and staff traveled to MGM, a theme park in Chennai. The morning was reserved for the different rides and afternoon for the water games. The children had a lot of fun and relaxation. They all expressed their joy for being involved with DGES which helps them have fun, learn educational values and gives guidance.



## On Holiday with God

**CUDDALORE** - "Our hearts were made for you; they cannot rest until they find rest in You" - St. Augustine. In order to help the young seminarians to rest for a while with God, the annual retreat for St. Joseph's Minor Seminary was offered January 13th-16th. The retreat theme was "Holidaying with God in order to cherish the Love of God and nourish the Soul with Holiness." The preacher was Rev. Fr. Xavier, a well known priest from Pondy-Cuddalore Archdiocese. The preacher meticulously guided the young scholastics on an inner journey with God and to have a richer spiritual experience. It was a blessed moment for all of them to discern and strengthen their vocation. Each day of the retreat ran in sacred silence and meaningful reflection. Finally the seminarians with a meaningful sacrament of reconciliation, solemn Eucharistic celebration and personal resolution ended the annual spiritual exercise.



## Month Begins with Blessings

**CHENNAI** - Don Guanella Special School had multiple occasions to celebrate and to be happy. To celebrate New Year's Amazon staff from the online company, sponsored school uniform T-Shirts for DGSS children. They entertained our children with a creative cultural program and various games. Staff and students were very thankful for the generosity of Amazon and the staff members.

Pongal is a festive celebration throughout India, but especially in Tamilnadu, as it is infused with their culture and tradition. On this special day, DGSS celebrated Pongal by sharing Indian traditions with the entire community. We also remembered and thanked God, nature, formators, and all those who helped us to celebrate the feast.

### Time for All

**CHENNAI** - Don Guanella Evening School celebrated the Pongal Festival on January 14th. The people of Tamilnadu mark this festival by making pongal, colorful Rangoli art and thanking the Lord for the harvest. Br. Praveen conducted party games and awarded prizes to the winners. All the children thanked Fr. Samson from DGMS who gave a beautiful explanation of the festival and blessed the pongal pot. Sweet pongal was served to all the children before they left went home. The following day Ms. Stella, a Guanellian Cooperators from Bengaluru, offered a class on "Motivation" for



the Evening School youth. She began by stating that the future depends on each young person, therefore everyone needs to maximize themselves for the good of all. The youth had the opportunity to ask questions and share puzzling aspects of their life. The class ended by singing a Marian hymn.

### Harvesting the Fruits of our Labor

**CUDDALORE** - "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest." (Lk 10:2). It was with joy the priests and seminarians of St. Joseph's Seminary offered a fruitful and beneficial harvest out of their hard labor of



cultivating the farms with paddy and other vegetables. As our holy founder St. Guanella said, "Pray and Suffer" for a holy way of living. The young seminarians, with due formation and holy ascetic experience through this labor, enthusiastically contributed their energy for the community. This further developed their sense of belonging and family spirit in the congregation. As God blessed the harvest in fruitfulness, He also blessed these servants with greater virtues and values. All praise be to God!

### Lay Good Samaritans Gather

**CHENNAI** - For the 5th consecutive year forming and bringing the GLM together was indeed a blessing. Our Founder taught that the Laity must participate in the Guanellian mission. It is evident where the GLM is present in Andhra, Bangalore, Chennai, Kumbakonam, Sivagangai and now Krishna Berry.



Around 40 representatives from each location gathered in Chennai for a 2 day retreat which involved seminars on Christian Values, Guanellian Spirituality, duties and responsibilities of the laity as mentioned in Vatican II. The group was enriched with these sessions by Fr. Visuvasam, Fr. Adaikalam and Fr. Francis respectively. The members were happy to look back and share their success stories. The baseline was that we walk together to be a Good Samaritan. The Guanellian Cooperators were also invited for the meeting as a means of grooming and mentoring the GLM members. The GC Secretary made a presentation on what is necessary to be a GC member, what is the vocation, how to prepare oneself, how important is the formation and that it is truly an independent decision made by a GLM member to become the third wing of the Congregation. The spirit of the group must be appreciated because the event took place during the festival time. The festival was celebrated as Guanellian Family with games to bond them and lift their spirits.



## 'Pongalo Pongal'

**BANGALORE** - Pongal Festival is an expression of thanksgiving to nature and God. The Guanella Preethi Nivas community fathers, brothers, sisters and the oratory children were so happy to celebrate this festival



on January 14th. The staff and children dressed up in dhoti and saree creating a complete festive mood on the campus. The celebration began with traditional games and a cooking competition. The children were divided into three groups, provided with rice and ingredients to prepare the traditional food in an earthen pot. While the food was cooking, the children enjoyed games like tug-of-war, sack race and sugarcane eating. The highlight of this celebration was Rangoli. The groups presented massive, colorful works of art that were judged by the chief guests, GLM members Mr. Chinnaraj and Mrs. Shanthi Mary. Everyone was astounded by their creative and innovative Rangoli. When the Pongal was ready the crowd cried out, "pongalo pongal!" Fr. Ganaraj tasted each pongal and appreciated the groups who prepared it. Afterwards it was distributed among the children who went home with warm, sweet pongal and happy memories.

## Honor for Hard Work

**CHENNAI** - A sports meet called, "Special Olympics Bharat" for differently-abled children was held on January 21st with the motto "let me win but if I cannot



win, let me be brave in the attempt". Don Guanella Special School students participated, winning the Gold medal in Throw Ball and 50M Running. The well-known actor, Mr. Santhanam, celebrated his birthday with the special children and during the program encouraged everyone to have patience with children and spent the day meeting each school.

Another celebration was in honor of Republic Day of India. LC Project Nagapatnam distributed candle making certificates for DGSS students who were trained in candle making. Two of our school staff gave the training, producing various models of candles for students to get ideas of the concept of candle making. The work of staff and students are praiseworthy.

## Inter-Novitiate Program

**BANGALORE** - Consecration is a sacred purpose and it is a joyous sacrifice. Consecration of oneself is the core belief of religious life. Each and everyone offers themselves to God by saying 'Yes.' First of all we need to have a comprehensive understanding of what consecration means. To know this at the very beginning of religious life, our Guanellian novices and novices from other congregations, attended a course entitled, 'Consecration for the Mission' in order to consecrate for God's mission. Fr. Jerry SJ, a world renowned



and versatile person, gave a challenging insight on the demands of Consecrated life and the Mission of God. The program was organized at National Biblical Catechetical Liturgical Centre, NBCLC, Bangalore. Around 71 novices from 10 Congregations attended. The talk was so enriching and inspiring for the novices to live the mission of God through genuine dedication.

## Our Lady of Periyanyagi

**KUMBAKONAM** - It was a great joy for our Parish to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Periyanyagi in Perumpandi. The feast began on January 21st with flag hoisting and solemn Mass celebrated by Msgr. A. Amirthsamy, Vicar General, Kumbakonam. Each day

of the novena the Rosary was prayed followed by Mass celebrated by diocesan and religious priests. During the homily, the priests shared their reflections on Mother Mary and the virtues that must be learned from her. Each day snacks or lunch was shared by the participants. Celebrants included: Fr. A. Anandhan, Sdc; Fr. Justin Sudhakar, OCD; Fr. Felix Samuel; Fr. Ligory, Sdc; Fr. Suresh, OCD and Fr. Kulandainathan. The culmination of the celebration was on January 28th. Fr. A. Soosai Rathinam, Sdc, Provincial Superior, presided over the solemn Mass and blessed the car procession which carried the statue of Our Lady of Periyarayagi throughout the streets of the substations. On the following day Fr. Vincent, SdC celebrated the Holy Mass and lowered the flag ending the celebration. A finer note to be mentioned is that many Hindus and Muslims also participated; offering candles and even generous contributions for the success of the Feast. Every day Bro. Kalai Kovan, Sr. Christy and Sr. Kumari were helping the people to animate the liturgy well. The fabulous guidance of Rev. Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC, the parish priests and tireless work of the village leaders made this celebration successful.



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### Guanellian Lay Movement Meets

**CUDDALORE** - The GLM members in Cuddalore gathered at Don Guanella Boys Home for their monthly meeting. The meeting began with Eucharistic adoration conducted by Fr. Visuwasam, and a special prayer for the whole congregation and all of the fathers and GLM members was offered. After a short orientation by Fr. Visuwasam, an open sharing took place. The central thread of this sharing was meant to strengthen the local GLM and its charitable activities. Fr. Kanikkairaj shared that the GLM



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members should feel at home and become ready-made servants of charity to join in the works of charity initiated by the congregation. They must participate with all of their skills, be they spiritual, material or charismatic. The meeting ended with a final prayer.

### Prayers of the Pious

**KUMBAKONAM** - The pious Legion of Mary group held a special event in Santhanalpuram, one of the substations of Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish in Kumbakonam. During this meeting, they thanked the Lord for all His Blessings. They also held an hour of prayer followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC, the Parish Priest and Fr. M. Vincent, SdC, A.P.P. Fr. Bosco preached the homily and thanked them



for their lively activities. They eventually honored the fathers and the heads of the village with a shawl and our parish priest also honored the group with a shawl, ending with refreshments.

### 68th Republic Day

**CUDDALORE** - On the eve of the sixty-eighth Republic Day of India, the Cuddalore community animated a hilarious program. The students and seminarians were shuffled in groups and organized many competitive programs. Officials from the Cuddalore Judiciary Court came and headed the event which included cultural programs, adventurous events and a presentation of Indian brave arts. Brothers chosen from the group made speeches on the historic nature of Republic Day and merits and demerits of India. During his central oration, the chief guest said, "Though India became a free nation on August 15, 1947, it declared itself a Sovereign, Democratic and Republic state with the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950. A salute of 21 guns and the unfurling of the Indian National Flag by Dr. Rajendra Prasad heralded the historic birth of the Indian Republic on that day. Thereafter the 26th of January was decreed a national holiday and was recognized as the Republic Day of India. The importance



of this democracy is to secure for all its citizens, justice, liberty, equality, and gender and economic equity; and to promote fraternity, dignity of the individual, and unity and integrity of the nation.” He invited the young students and brothers to be brimming with hope and aspirations;



to pursue life goals for fame, success and happiness with single-minded devotion; to consider happiness as their existential objective, which of course is

understandable; to search for happiness in the highs and lows of day-to-day emotions, and in the fulfillment of the objectives they have set for themselves. Prizes and sweets were distributed to end the function.

### Republic Day Celebration

**BANGALORE** - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community joyfully celebrated the 68th Republic day of India on January 26th. The day began with solemn Holy Mass. We remembered and prayed for the martyrs who suffered for India’s freedom from the colonial power of England. After Mass was the flag hoisting ceremony to show patriotic respect to our nation. Mr. Melvin, our elderly resident, and Fr. Adaikalam were invited as the chief guests.

Bro. Babu gave a brief introduction to the ceremony, then Nov. Melvin led the



parade from the chapel to the arena. He led the chief guest to hoist the flag while the assembly honored the flag with a salute and recited the pledge. Nov. Justin briefly explained the history of Republic Day and the suffering of the freedom fighters; making us all proud to be Indians. The ceremony ended by singing our national anthem. In view of celebrating this day we had volleyball and basketball tournament between fathers and brothers.

### Visit of the Counselors

**THALAVADI** - The Nazareth Illam community arranged a daylong workshop for our staff to improve their service level toward our residents. Five psychological counselors from Dindigul under the head of Fr. David, Sdc organized the workshop. They helped our staff learn better approaches toward our residents, and taught ways to help cure them of their mental illness. Our staff interacted with the counselors and cleared many of their doubts. The counselors also provided books and videos

for the staff to equip their knowledge in this field. The community fathers felt very happy for the effort of Fr. David, Sdc and his companions



for their benevolent help to the mission.

### Golden Jubilee

**CUDDALORE** - January 28th was a blessed day for brothers of St. Joseph’s Minor Seminary; because the entire Cuddalore community celebrated the sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC, an exemplary servant of our Province. The day began with solemn Mass followed by a grand cultural event and agape meal. The momentous occasion was significant and inspirational for the Guanellian seminarians at the beginning of their vocational journey. Fr. Joe encouraged the seminarians to persevere, be more faithful, and committed to the call and discernment. He exhorted everyone to be a person of joy and contentment in the religious choice and consecration. The community offered the celebration as

a gratuitous gift to God for the gift of Fr. Joe to our congregation and especially for the province.



### A Journey of Faith

**MANILA** - On January 11th the postulants went on a walking pilgrimage from the Servants of Charity Seminary in Quezon City to four churches in greater Manila: St. Domingo Church in Quezon City (where they prayed the Holy Rosary), San Sebastian Church, Quiapo Church (Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene) and St. Cruz Church (Parish of Our Lady of the Pillar). The journey took about four hours of walking through the busy and polluted streets of Quezon City and Manila. Although it was quite challenging, the annual pilgrimage taught them lessons that will remain in their hearts: perseverance, patience, compassion for the poor, fraternity and the joy of communion. This is the third year of for the event; the first was in 2014 when the seminarians walked from the seminary to Antipolo Church and last year was a five hour walk to Baclaran Church, the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.



### Feast of Santo Niño

**MANILA** - Annually the Servants of Charity celebrate the feast of St. Niño. The day before the feast, the seminarians went around the area to invite children to come over for the feast. This year the celebration started with a procession on January 15th followed by Holy Mass presided by Fr. Charlton Viray, SdC. About 200 children came to participate. During the homily, Fr. Charlton gave the children some examples of how we should be humble and how easy we should forgive. After Mass, games were arranged



for the children. The seminarians and the (GYM) Guanellian Youth Ministry were main facilitators of the games. The children really enjoyed the games and went home smiling. This day was really a celebration for the children.

### 4th World Apostolic Congress on Mercy

**MANILA** - The World Apostolic Congress on Mercy held the second day's events at the University of St. Tomas, Manila January 17th. About 5000 participants came from many different countries; arriving at the venue early to be assured of a seat. Fr. Battista Omodei, SdC, The representatives from the congregation of the servants of charity were there seminarians together with their professed brother and also.



The Congress was held in the Philippines for the first time with the theme: COMMUNION IN MERCY, MISSION FOR MERCY (CALLED BY

MERCY, SENT FOR MERCY). During the event all of the participants were welcomed by a festive dance led by the UST students. For its second day at UST, there was a series of talks and testimonies given by representatives from some congregations and chosen individuals. All of the participants' hoped to learn what Divine Mercy really is and were enlightened by the Congress.



### Vacation in Baguio

MANILA - Vacation is an opportunity to renew the bond of fraternity that unites all for the common good. At the end of the first semester of the 2016–2017 academic year, the temporary professed brothers of Venerable Aurelio Bacciarini Theologate spent their vacation in Baguio City, Philippines January 2nd-7th. This place is also known as the 'Summer Capital' of the Philippines because of its cool temperature.



It was a time to strengthen the fraternity and to deepen the brotherly love among the confreres. Each day began with the Eucharist, spiritual reading particularly on "Formation to Priesthood." Then after breakfast, they visited various places in Baguio. In the evening, they gathered for Vespers, and after the Night Prayer they planned for the next day. It was gratifying to celebrate the joys and happiness with one another: times of prayer, preparing the meals, visiting various tourist spots and helping each other in all their activities.

### Honoring a Hundred Years as Shepherd of Souls

MANILA - On January 21st, the Guanellian theological seminary in Quezon City celebrated the centennial anniversary of the episcopal consecration of Ven. Aurelio Bacciarini. Following his devotion to Our Lady, they went on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Regina Rosarii in Tanay, Rizal. Fr. Battista Omodei, SdC, the formator of the brothers, concelebrated Holy Mass in the morning. After Mass, they prayed the Rosary while climbing the hill where the biggest statue of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is located.



When they reached the top, they made an offering to the Blessed Sacrament, the first copy of their project and programs for a fruitful outcome in the life of the community.



### Celebrating Vietnamese New Year

HO CHI MINH CITY- Vietnamese New Year is a special day for all the people of Vietnam. It is interesting to notice how Vietnamese people give respect to the elderly and get blessings from them. The Servants of Charity celebrated Mass for the elderly poor people and gave them lucky money to help with their needs.

Fr. Felicks visited the family of Br. Khiet bringing greetings for the New Year. Fr. Felicks received special blessings from his grandfather who is more than 85 years old.



### Saturday Morning Challengers

**CHELSEA** - Bob and Nadine Pierce took on a challenge when they moved to Chelsea, MI in 1995, and needed help to establish a bowling league for their high school freshman son Michael, 14, who was born with special needs. That help came in the form of Pierce's friend Steve Daut, who worked at St. Louis Center at the time, and together they formed



a bowling league at Belmark Lanes in Ann Arbor for people in the community with special needs. Twenty-one years later, the league is still going strong with 117 bowlers registered in the league this year. It's a wonderful story that the Pierce family and SLC take a great deal of pride in. According to Pierce, "We shared this common passion for getting our population out there doing things, and so through Steve, we made our first connection with SLC and brought the residents in to bowl with us. It was pay as you go, and at Steve's suggestion, we joined together to create a sponsorship opportunity. Today, SLC is...our 'energy' sponsor. They provide so much energy for the league it's unbelievable." The photos tell the story, as DPP staff paid a visit to Belmark Lanes on January 7, 2017 to capture the fun.

### U.S. Congressman Visits St. Louis Center

**CHELSEA** - U. S. Congressman Tim Walberg, a longtime supporter of St. Louis Center, has a big heart for the children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities that live there. Before returning to Washington D.C. to begin his 5th term in office, the Congressman stopped by on Tuesday January 17th for a visit with Administrator Fr. Enzo Addari and his staff to discuss a number of policy issues that are impacting the Center at the Federal level, and to get a progress report on the new St. Louis Guanella Village under construction.



Congressman Walberg revealed that he had been appointed to the

House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and that the Affordable Care Act would be reviewed by his committee in 2017. He believes that he will be in a position to address several of SLC's concerns in the future, and promised to help wherever he could.

### Dinner Benefits St. Louis Center

**CHELSEA** - The Italian American Club of Livonia is made up of Italian-American descendents who live in the western suburbs of Metropolitan Detroit, and the majority of them are Roman Catholic. They have a special affinity for helping other Italian-Americans in need, and that love extends to St. Louis Center and the Servants of Charity. For the past 22 years, the IACL has raised funds for SLC through a dinner-dance fundraiser in late January called the "Guardian Angel Dinner-Dance" to benefit



the transportation needs of the center. On January 29, 2017, nearly 200 people visited the IACL to enjoy an Italian style dinner, live music, a silent raffle and raffle for a "mini-bar."

Event Chairwoman Mary Galasso also received the St. Louis Guanella Humanitarian Award for her leadership during the past twelve years in making this event such a success.

### Holy Hour for Life

**CHELSEA** - As US pilgrims headed to Washington DC for the 2017 March for Life, the Guanellian Cooperators in Michigan gathered in the St. Louis Center Chapel to pray for their safety, a successful March and for an end to the evil of abortion. Fr. David Stawasz, SdC, offered Adoration and Benediction for the occasion. Jerome, an SLC resident, played hymns on the organ and Cooperators read scripture. Fr. David gave a thought provoking homily and Judy Koenn gave her personal testimony as a mother, wife and Christian. Special thanks to Sr. Andrea Curran, DSMP; Fr. Amal, SdC; and Fr. Franklin, SdC for their assistance in preparing the Holy Hour.

