

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## St. Louis Guanella: "A Father of the Least Ones"

As we prepare to celebrate the feast of our beloved founder, it is worth contemplating his vision and sensitive heart towards the least ones in society. Even at a tender age, Guanella and his sister Catherine used to prepare "soup for the poor" which was made out of mud. Louis Guanella, when he was a boy of twelve, had heard during Mass the parable of the "Good Samaritan." In his adolescent mind, he envisioned the Samaritan of this parable and, as a result, imagined himself as a volunteer nurse. For the young Guanella, this began his journey to spend his whole life helping the wounded people for whom no one cared. This apostolate he established would spread throughout the world with the encouragement given to his followers that "the whole world is your homeland." Fr. Guanella waited a long time for a guiding star and "the hour of mercy." Thus his passion blossomed for the poor and needy, who Guanella said, are nothing other than the face of God himself, veiled by suffering and discomfort. His eyes were able to see Jesus in the poor and he said: "**The most abandoned of all, bring him in, sit him at your table and make him yours, because he is Jesus.**"

"God is a Father, much sweeter than the best of cakes. He is a Father that cares about each one of His children, especially when they are abandoned, weak and in need." Fr. Guanella continuously presented God as a merciful and provident Father and the certainty of being loved by God as by a tender father is the fulcrum of his filial spirituality.

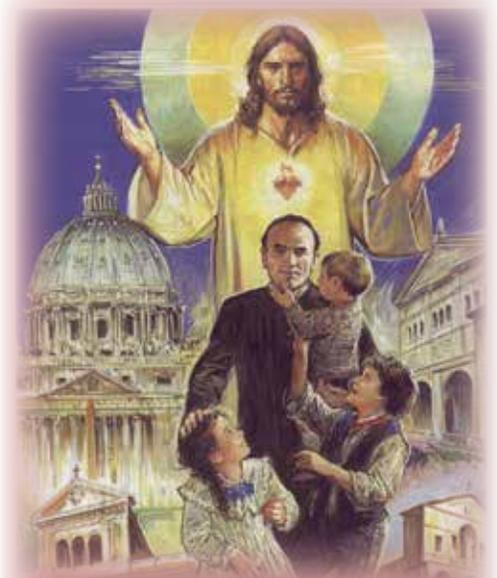
Fr. Guanella led the flock with the heart of a shepherd, a shepherd who suffered for his flock, which is the most suitable form of leadership for the world today. The world is characterized by domination, power and authority. Fr. Guanella proved that happiness and wholeness can be given to the other only in becoming powerless. He perfectly followed his master, who died on the cross totally powerless and empty, thus infusing the salvific power of God into the world. By our approach, filled with mercy and compassion, let us bring Fr. Guanella alive into the world again and again. He lives forever as long as the congregation lives for the physically, socially and economically marginalized.

*Fr. Soosai Rathinam.*

### October Calendar of Fr. Soosai

- 4 **Chennai:** Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph - Feast Mass
- 5 **Chennai:** Seva Missionary Sisters of Mary - Novitiate Day Celebration/Mass
- 6-12 **Chennai:** Visit of the Mother General of 'Suore Minime' from Cosenza, Italy
- 15-17 **Bangalore:** Class for GPN Novices

October 2016  
Volume 9 Number 10



“ The most abandoned of all, bring him in, sit him at your table and make him yours, because he is Jesus.”

*St. Louis Guanella*

### INSIDE:

Germany	2
India	3-8
Philippines	9
Solomon Islands	10-11
United States	11-12
Calendar	13

### 18-20 Desert Experience

- 24 **Chennai:** Founder's Feast - DGMS
- Nov 1-14 **Visit to Philippines & Vietnam with 13th Plenary Meeting**

## Fr. Guanella is Provided with German Philanthropy

This past September has been a month full of surprises; rich with events and wonderful visitors.

The feedback from our DPP confreres and those from Guanellian Africa has in a certain way, remunerated our constant engagement and close attention toward our missions. New projects from their stations have reached the Procure. We are now hopefully waiting for a positive response from our German Catholic agencies.



As announced in previous German reports, we have received the biographies of the theology students in our DPP, as well as those of our theological students in Africa. Now after the joyful visit of relatives and friends from the USA and Sicily, we are preparing for the submission of a funding request through the treasury of our Archdiocese in Freiburg. Responsible chief clerks there will seriously consider our request and give a signal to the other dioceses for the approval of a new generation of priests from outside of Germany for the re-evangelization of old Europe. Two projects from India will be submitted to the commission in October 2016, and we are encouraging Fr. Eduardo Dong to establish a new project for nutrition and physiotherapy for the disabled center at Legazpi to be conveyed to Kindermission.



From there the St. Josef German Confraternity has received and paid 1000 Christmas cards. Brother Mauro Cecchinato has also been generously granted donations for the new Good Samaritan Pharmacy in Manila from the German Pious Union. The simultaneous visit of Fr. Luigi DeGiambattista and Fr. Joseph Rinaldo have brought hilarity, joy and hope in confirming that our long efforts are now starting to open a good harvesting season.

The last gift goes to the newborn shelter of charity in

the Solomon Islands. The German Pious Union has requested and paid for commemorative Masses for their

living and deceased members. This gesture will be continued for two months. From the other side, our confreres at the Guanellian Mission at Pforzheim have begun a well organized cycle of conferences for the recently founded GLM. Also, an intensive pastoral ministry for the Catholic refugees of Syria will soon be begun. This includes my personal commitment to teach German to them, as we did some fifty years ago for the

first immigrants from our sunny island of Sicily.

This month, we'll celebrate the liturgical feast of St. Louis Guanella. This year for the first time in Germany, upon request of a Catholic publisher in Munich, we are

preparing a portrait of our Founder which later will be included in all German missals when the "Saint of the Day" is commemorated. This special flyer will be translated later into English for all of our readers and confreres in the Guanellian Missions of the DPP.

All these events will allow us to reflect and thank Fr. Guanella

for his brilliant vision, trusting the generosity of German Catholics during his short and historical stay at Treviri in August 1912.

May the Lord and Holy Mary of Divine Providence send more workers into His vineyard, because the harvest has increased but the old Guanellian "Front soldiers" are diminishing.

*Gerò Lombardo* Guanellian German Procure

## Two Great Feasts

**KUMBAKONAM** - Guanella Nagar Parish celebrated the feast of St. Francis Xavier in Thirupurampiam and Our Lady of Good Health in Chinammal Kallarai. The First feast at Thirupurampiam began on August 26th

with flag hoisting and solemn Mass, celebrated by Fr. Amaithi Arasu, Chancellor of the Kumbakonam Diocese. The following two days events included solemn Holy Mass followed by the



Car Procession Blessed by Rev. Fr. B. John Bosco. On the final day, the flag was lowered after Mass. This event brought Ecumenism among the Hindus and the Christians. It was well organized by the Hindu faithful who assisted with the grand celebration.

To mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Second Feast at Chinammal Kalarai began on August 29th with the flag hoisting, a penitential service and solemn Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Felix Samuel, Secretary for the Family Commission. Fr. A. John Bosco, Parish Priest, arranged for the Sacrament of Penance. Fr. Felix prepared the people spiritually for many who desired Confession. Fr. Kirubakaran, Liturgy Commission, preached the Homily. He said in his homily that the parents of our Mother Mary were simple people of great hope.

The culmination of the celebration was High Mass on August 30th. Rev. Fr. T. Devadoss, parish priest and V. F, of St. Mary's Cathedral, was the main celebrant and Fr. B. John Bosco, Secretary for the Bible Commission, preached the Homily and blessed the Car procession which followed Mass. The statue of Our Lady of Good Health was carried through the streets. On the following day, \Fr. G. Christhu Raj, \ Director for St. Mary's ITI, celebrated the feast day Mass and lowered the flag. Mr. Socrates and Mr. Thavidhu honored the priests, sisters and brothers with shawls. The faithful shared cake and tea to bring the celebration to a close.

## Mercy Camp

**CHENNAI** - To make the year of mercy more meaningful, the Chennai Guanellian community arranged a free medical and eye camp September 3rd-4th. It was mainly set up for the poor in and around Poonamallee, including the homeless, slum dwellers,

special children and other destitute. This program was efficiently run by the confreres, staff, and various volunteer groups such as, 'Feed the Needy' and 'Care and Welfare'. In particular, the contribution of Guanellian Youth member Dr. Maria was indispensable.



Hundreds of people benefited from this work of mercy. Mercy is contagious, it just passes from hearts to hearts; a divine infection for a divine healing. All praise be to God!

## Honoring Teachers

**THALAVADI** - Teachers' day is celebrated throughout India on September 5th in remembrance of our former president Dr. Radhakrishnan. The Nazareth Illam community arranged a special function to felicitate the staff and the really tough job of caring for our residents with kind hearts and gentle words.



Special programs were performed by the residents. The staff were so happy and were gifted for their valuable and dedicated service. The task of an educator is not to cut down the jungles but to irrigate the deserts. Our staff with their abilities and practical experience try everyday to make our residents' life beautiful. The function made us realize that everyone of us is a teacher if we lead anyone to truth, to light and to immortality.

## Time to Relax and to Honor

**CHENNAI** - Don Guanella Special School organized the program, "Look and Learn" for the special children. The children were taken first to Koyambedu Market to see and learn how the market would be, from there they rode the metro train for an experience of train travel.

It was thrilling for the children to see the whole city from the train. After this the children were taken to Sky Walk, a shopping mall, for window shopping and to watch a movie which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks



During the meeting, the parents were instructed to give extra time and care for their children especially their character and intelligence. The tutors who volunteer to teach the poor children were honored with gifts and



mementos. They were asked to educate the children first by the ways of the heart and then the head. Finally the students were asked to increase their love for discipline and

to the support of the shop owners, managers of the shopping mall and railway department, the program was smooth and remarkable. There was also a teacher's day celebration on the birthday of Dr. Radha Krishnan, the teacher and contemporary Indian philosopher. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, was the chief guest for the program. Fr. Soosai appreciated and honored the hard work of the teachers. The parents of the students presented a wristwatch to the teachers to honor them on the special day.

intelligence in order to become honorable people in the world. The program ended with the final blessing.

### Zonal Recollection

**MADURAI** - On September 10th the communities and residences of Madurai, Sivagangai, Krishnaberi and Dindugal came together for a remarkable event. Fr. Soosai Rathinam was the resource person for the Zonal Recollection. Before starting the recollection Fr. Soosai expressed the words of the Superior General that when larger communities come together, the richness of the spirit is magnified. The core message of his talk was based on the Encyclical "Misericordiae Vultus." Jesus is the reflection of God the Father, God's mercy, infinite love

### Triple Celebration

**CUDDALORE** - September 10th was a blessed and joyful day for St. Joseph's Evening School. There was a triple celebration: 'Parents Meet, Teachers' Day and Student's Academic Exhibition'. The presence of all priests, confreres and scholastics added blessings to the program. The poor but skillful students, using all opportunities, brought out their educational talents and performances. The parents were amazed and overjoyed seeing their children's gifts. The very presence of parents was a great enthusiasm and esteem for the children.



and compassion. Mercy welcomes, accepts, respects, supports, forgives and provides. The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, treasured the divine mercy in her heart for the profound history of incarnation. So we shall entrust our religious life, especially our consecration of priesthood to the Mother of Mercy. The day of recollection ended with the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Mass.

### Parents – the First Formators

**CUDDALORE** - The St. Joseph's Seminary is the place where young seminarians for the Guanellian religious life are nurtured and formed in their discernment. It is one of the programs of formation to convene a parent's congress every year in order to express the importance of the parent's role and accompaniment in religious formation. The parent's meeting for the current scholastic year, was held on September 11th. The day included spiritual nourishment, cultural amusement, parents' common and personal dialogue. During the day, the rector clearly insisted the significant role of parents in priestly formation; and the importance of self-formation. He said, "Parents' spiritual maturity, moral testimony, charismatic inspiration and financial assistance are very much essential to form an exemplary servant-leader in the church; the seminarians too should cherish and rectify the lights and shadows from background of the family". The final part of the meeting was private dialogue with the parents and their student; paving the way to go deeper into the person and his formation. All praise and Glory be to God for, "It is He who Does!"



essential to form an exemplary servant-leader in the church; the seminarians too should cherish and rectify the lights and shadows from background of the family". The final part of the meeting was private dialogue with the parents and their student; paving the way to go deeper into the person and his formation. All praise and Glory be to God for, "It is He who Does!"

### A Little Will Opens A Heavy Door

**BANGALORE** - On September 11th Don Guanella Evening School children opened the doors of their minds to endeavor for their future. Twenty-seven children from 4th standard to 10th along with five



teachers were taken to the Viveshwaraya scientific museum, which stirred something within them. The visit to the museum opened their minds by seeing all

the inventions and new scientific discoveries which allowed them to dream about their futures. They were also provided an experience about the origin of the planets in the planetarium and 3D show. This really provoked in them some interest to think big and to look ahead. Thereafter they were taken to Cubbon Park for lunch and enjoyed some time in the park.

### With the Heart of a Father

**CHENNAI** - On September 13-14th, all the superiors and resident in-charges of the Divine Providence Province in India had an on-going formation meeting at Don Guanella Major Seminary. All participated in



the gathering with enthusiasm and interest. The first input session was on "Being a compassionate shepherd towards the flock" - explained with various traditions from the Old Testament by Prof. Jagan. Provincial Superior Fr. Soosai Rathinam enriched the gathering with the topic "With the Heart of the Father" and offered some concrete proposals on how to live an Evangelical and Merciful life in the community. They took the opportunity to revise the Statutes of Divine Providence Province with guidance from Fr. Soosai. Fr. Kulandai Samy expressed some thoughts about the ten major mistakes that superiors generally commit and encouraged us to become compassionate leaders. Fr. A. John Bosco offered suggestions on how to coordinate efforts between the Superiors, Directors and Treasurers in light of the Congregation's Constitutions and Canon Law.

Fr. Visuvasam has updated us regarding the financial matters of the province and practical guidelines to be practiced between Superiors and Procurators. Fr. M. Peter Sebastian offered Lectio Divina on the topic "Feed my Sheep," (John 21, 15-23). We had fruitful Eucharistic Celebrations of "the Exaltation of the Holy Cross" with the active participation by the seminarians of DGMS. Fr. Soosai gave a nice homily on the Cross of Jesus

and on Our Founder. The gathered community prayed especially for serenity and peace among the states (Tamilnadu and Karnataka) due to the Kaveri Water issue. All superiors were joyful to come together, “how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity” (Psalm 133,1) and to exchange their thoughts and views on merciful leaders. May St. Louis Guanella form us into compassionate superiors and servants who live well in the present and program for the better future of the community.

### Hellos and Goodbyes

**YESUVANAM** - At Anbagam on September 18th, the Guanellian Lay Movement had their monthly meeting where they discussed various ways to carry out the mission of St. Louis Guanella. Then the new Guanellian lay members made their promises during



Mass. They were filled with inner joy in cooperating and extending their hearts and hands for the works of mercy in the vineyard of our Lord. They also held a farewell celebration for Fr. Franklin Arockia Dass who was going to leave for his new ministry abroad. He was honored and thanked for his tireless service and ministry for the surrounding community. The local Guanellian Family assured him of their prayers for good health of mind and body. They wished him well in spite of all forthcoming challenges that the Lord may bless his missionary zeal and strengthen him.

### A Powerful Thank You

**KOPPAKA** - With a great sense of gratitude, the generator was installed at Guanella Bhavan seminary. The community and the brothers thank you and the donors for your generous contribution. The seminary has been functioning in this remote locality for the past ten years and the students had a lot of inconveniences due to power outages. I am sure that your contribution will enhance their life style and formative journey. On



the day of installation we offered a special Mass in memory of the donors and thought of all our benefactors especially Fr. Joseph Rinaldo for his paternal care. Please assure the donors of our continuous prayers on their behalf. I personally thank our provincial team for accepting our proposal and fulfilling it.

### Time to Equip

**CHENNAI** - Don Guanella Evening School has organized different programs during the quarterly holidays. There were thirty students from different groups. All of them were eager and enthusiastic to learn new skills such as spoken English, stress management and the use of mass media communication. Fr. Samson took a class on Stress management, where the participants of the course enthusiastically participated and benefited. Br. Praveen used a power point presentation to give some input and impart knowledge on the usage and



disadvantages of media in current times. In the last phase of their vacation, Br. Regent introduced them to Basic English grammar to help them secure good marks, help them fare well on their exams, and have a better understanding of the English language. In addition, it was good for the students to keep busy and happy as our Founder preferred.

### Pilgrimage for the Elderly

**BANGALORE** - It was a memorable day for the senior citizens of Don Guanella Aged Home to relax. The residents were taken for a one-day tour to Mysuru along with Fr. Lourdh Raj the director, Fr Adaikalam novice master with some novices, Mr. Chinna Raj (GLM) and Mr. Anthony (GC) accompanied them. This special day began in Mysuru by visiting St. Anthony's church in Doornahalli where they offered a rosary and prayer to St. Anthony. Thereafter they visited some historical places like the Palace, Zoo, the Chamundi Hills and they paid a visit to a minor seminary in Mysuru. The day kept our residents so active and youthful they were able to walk all the way to enjoy the tour, irrespective of their age. It allowed them a break from their stress, to create new memories and to enhance past memories. The Mysuru resident house was so helpful in arranging a good location for our lunch in the Monfort Seminary in Mysuru. Finally, the day culminated in a visit to our residence in Mysuru with dinner. The residents were contented and enjoyed the tour.



### Year of Mercy Celebration

**KUMBAKONAM** - The intensive care and approach of the Catholic Church on the shepherd-less sheep has brought the importance of the Sacrament of Penance and the Jubilee of Year of Mercy to the world. This proclamation of the Church is penetrating the hearts of the faithful to deepen their faith. Our Guanella Nagar Parish too has a share in having it for the faithful in and around the Church. Rev. Fr. A. John Bosco the Parish Priest has indeed made a great effort to have the Year of Mercy celebrated meaningfully for the



faithful in the substations of Asoor and Perumpandi. In Asoor, Fr. Felix Samuel, Secretary for the Family Commission of Kumbakonam Diocese, exposed the Blessed Sacrament and gave a talk in preparation for Confession. At Our Lady of Periyanyagi Shrine in Perumpandi, Fr. Suresh, OCD, the Director of ITI, Valangaiman, prepared the people with his lively preaching. Fr. Albert Pushparaj, Secretary for Charismatic Movement; and Fr. Kirubakaran, Liturgy Commission Secretary of the Kumbakonam Diocese heard the confessions of many people. Fr. Felix Samuel, Fr. Suresh, OCD, and Fr. Vincent, SdC con-celebrated Holy Mass. The village leaders honored the priests with shawls..

### A Father's Visit...

**CUDDALORE** - 'The superiors are representatives of God'. To felicitate the presence of God, Rev. Fr. Soosai visited the Cuddalore community: St. Joseph's Seminary, Don Guanella Boys Home, Sagaya Matha Parish, Guanella Communication Center, Guanella Open House Ministry and St. Joseph's Evening School. After the community meeting,



Fr. Soosai studied the common project of the community and the projects of all the other entities. He made valuable suggestions and innovative contributions. He also took time for personal dialogue with each confrere. The students and other beneficiaries of the community had the privilege to enjoy quality time with Fr. Soosai. Thus, the Provincial's visit left the fragrance of paternal care and fraternal accompaniment to one and all.

### Medical Camp

**THALAVADI** - There is a saying, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," so our Nazareth Illam community arranged a skin medical camp with the co-operation of doctors from the Primary Health Center. The goal of the medical



camp was to identify whether any of the residents suffer with any kind of skin diseases. The camp was useful because any skin diseases were diagnosed and the doctors gave valuable suggestions for the good health and well-being of our residents.

### Tailor Training Certificates Awarded



CHENNAI - Don Guanella Special School honored the tailoring students who received certificates and scholarships. This program was conducted by the vocational rehabilitation center for persons with disabilities. Twenty children were awarded with certificates and some economic assistance. Mr. Deva Raj, Deputy Commissioner; Mr. Thangaraj, Deputy Director of VRC; and Mr. Rao were the chief guests for the program. It was a special moment of happiness and encouragement to the parents and children. The parents thanked the director, assistant director and the tailoring teacher for their hard work leading to this achievement.

### Manual Work at Guanella Bhavan

KOPPAKA - The seminarians do a lot of hard work during their formative journey. Except cooking, the seminarians take up almost daily, the tasks of dish washing, house cleaning, garden maintenance and other sorts of works, along with their spiritual and intellectual formation. Some of them do minor repair work, plumbing and electrical. This sort of manual work brings out their creativity and decision making skills, and nurtures strong fraternal relationship



among them. Thus they beautify nature and produce some fruits and vegetables for the house. May God bless their hard work.

### Stop, Watch and Proceed

CHENNAI - Four of our regency brothers from different houses gathered for the regency meeting held in our province from September 26th-28th. It was an occasion to share the joy of their first direct mission experience in which they are fully involved. The first session was started by Fr. Rathinam, Provincial Superior and followed by the encouraging and vibrant talks of Frs. Peter Sebastian, Kuladai and other fathers from DGMS. From all the classes, reflections and input of the fathers, the regents have learned enough for their



mission that God gives them in the days to come. They also expressed their views and experiences that they encounter in our mission centers. The sessions of the meeting concluded with the one day exposure in DGSS and half day sightseeing in Chennai. Brothers departed to their communities with vigor and rejuvenated spirit. Finally it was a time for all to stop for a while and to look back to watch and to proceed further for the mission that God entrusts to us.

## Annual Pilgrimage

**MANILA** - The annual pilgrimage for persons with intellectual disabilities had the theme: "The Mercy of the Lord is for Everyone." A lot of preparation went into the event with set up beginning August 29th. The Marshalls were represented by the Servants of Charity



seminarians and Brothers from Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary and San Carlos were there to help and organize. On September 10th, beloved persons with intellectual disabilities from Quezon City, Mandaluyong, and of course from Alabang set out for the pilgrimage. Activities during the pilgrimage included mimes, coloring, and animations. The activities were held in the Cuenca court near Saint James the Great Parish, the host Parish for this year's pilgrimage. The day's events ended with Mass celebrated by Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. During Mass, Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales assisted by his con-celebrants conferred the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation upon some of the 'good children' in attendance. The Cardinal confirmed the host for next year's pilgrimage to be held in Batangas on Sept. 16, 2017.

## STEP Program Resumes Classes

**LEGAZPI** - After a two week break, the STEP program children and youth with special needs are happy to be back to school and be with their classmates. The term break is for the children to get some respite from the school routine, as well as for teachers to evaluate the progress of the students and do planning for new strategies and interventions to be implemented in the next term. For the second term of classes we are blessed with 29 students ages 2-10 years old in one-on-one classes and 26 youths ages 11-28 years old in group classes. These students, with help from their parents, are preparing for theatrical/cultural presentation at the Annual "Dinner for Cause Celebration" for Harong Kan Sagrada Familia, Bogtong on October 1st. Indeed we are all looking forward to this happy occasion.

## Sportsfest 2k16

**MANILA** - The week-long Sportsfest began September 16th. A program was held with an opening prayer led

by Br. Marlon Baldesco and opening remarks given by Br. Michael Adlaon, both members of the sports committee. That night scrabble, table tennis and chess competitions began; continuing until the next night. The event was officially opened by Fr.



Charles Anthonysamy, SdC, and welcomed everyone talking about fraternity and brotherhood. This event was strengthening relationships and learning the true art of sportsmanship. On September 27th, the cheer dance competition was held in the Servants of Charity covered court.



Dra. Fe Bacungan, Mr. Marvin Lava and Mrs. Joy Montero were the judges. Four teams competed, aiming for the top spot, but the Red team was proclaimed the Champions. September 28th, the seminarians continued to compete in games like basketball, volleyball, and football. The competition was tough, yet the seminarians didn't forget the true purpose of the event: to strengthen brotherhood and to play for the Glory of God."

## Program Opens for more Children

**LEGAZPI** - September 19th the Physical Therapy Treatment Area for Children finally opened. Previously only the children enrolled in Special Therapy and Education Program (STEP) of Harong Kan Sagrada Familia were treated in this program. Due to the demands of other children in need of the services, the program has accepted 13 additional children. Cases include Cerebral Palsy, scoliosis, developmental delay, angel man syndrome, Pachygyria, down syndrome, microcephaly and Blount Disease. These children are from indigent and middle class families from the



Albay area. Children are our future...we hope to serve and rehabilitate as many as possible.

## A Fiery Sword in Solomon Islands

As the saying goes, "well begun is half done," missionary activities in Solomon Islands have successfully begun. The Bishop of Gizo, Luciano Cappelli, entrusted the Parish St. Eusebius. The Population is 521 from 96 families, among them 211 are employed, mostly in Soltuna and fish factories. The parish has a kindergarten with 69 children. The Parish is surrounded by many other denominations: Anglicans, South Evangelical Church and United Church. Therefore, we have mixed family realities. In the parish they started a small Christian community last year and this year we have started to celebrate masses there. Mass is celebrated everyday in the parish and two days in the small Christian communities. Groups are functioning well in the Parish. We are also planning to start a Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Couples for Christ, Eusebius Bureau for Employment Guidance and more.

There are four substations and a small group of Catholics on 3 nearby Islands with two schools where Catholic students need our presence. Thus we are trying to visit and celebrate Mass at least once a month. The population of substations is 820 from 150 families. The biggest substation is Canaan where the population is 614 and they have a kindergarten with 30 children and so have we started the weekend ministry here to stay from Saturday until Sunday afternoon. Though the official language is English, all are communicating in Pijin and normally each Island has their own dialect. We discovered that there are 145 persons with disabilities. Since they live on different islands the distance is challenging to reach out to them. With help from Fr. Luigi, we are preparing the Project for the CBR program. Therefore, we have lot of work to be done here. Let us pray for more laborers, for the harvest is plentiful!

## A Dormant Village Comes Alive

**CANAAN** - This island has a Biblical name, Canaan, though the official name is Kohigo. There are 116 families, with a Catholic population of 614. These are Gilbertees (Kirbatis) re-settled here from the islands that bear their name by the British in 1960, as their islands were drought prone. The Solomon Islands were also thinly populated and Oceania countries could not

be allowed to become pawns in the hands of emerging superpowers.

There is a church, a priests' residence, at the point of collapse; a forsaken store, and a school. The KG school is well-known in this region, a beautiful structure lying in hibernation. As priests visited and began spending time with the villagers, blessing the homes and the people, making an assessment of the villagers and the leadership, they were given insight into the local needs. The priests expressed concern at the well-being of the children, who spent a lot of time playing, eating what

is available (cassava, bread, rice and fish) and using a poor excuse for a toilet.

Church attendance increased and leadership was prodded to reopen the school. A meeting was called and the problems thrashed out. The school management was changed and representatives from three segments of the

village, named Rome, Bethlehem and Jerusalem; were established. The school's committee was recast, with women as the officers and some men to support them. School had to be reopened. Fundraising began on the main islands, Noro and Solumuni, by women gathered to honor Mary on the Feast of the Assumption. Four thousand was collected in a day. Fr Mathias raised \$400 in a 'tambola' game. On September 1st, the whole village gathered for Mass and proceeded to the school for a re-opening celebration to commemorate this joyous day.

Physical presence, walking and praying the rosary, spending nights there with inconveniences, eating what people offer, talking to people, inspiring them casually to plan and act, playing with the children and attempting to learn their language, appreciating their participation in the liturgy and singing, a wave of a hand, a smile - these are the incarnational strings in the missionary lute.

## No Questions Asked

Dolmer is the younger son of a well to do family, continuing the family legacy of an engineering contract at the companies in the island. With a young wife, four



children, a cozy palatial house, a number of employees to do the work, Dolmer could not ask for more from life. But the Catholic Church, only 200 meters away, was a far distant affair for Dolmer. Even the parochial festival that saw many new faces could not recognize him in the crowd.

He was young, well built, a sturdy body and quite healthy. He took care to exercise regularly to keep fit. His children, the eldest 7 years old, loved him deeply and he enjoyed spending time with them.

One Sunday evening after his usual walk, he felt uncomfortable and took some medicine. After a peaceful sleep, he went for a walk and returned home with even more discomfort. In pain and gasping for breath, he fell, his limbs lifeless. CPR was not helpful and doctors were not nearby.

Priests were sought by his father, an Anglican himself. They went, prayed the office of the dead and granted absolution, spent some time giving solace to the grieving. They went home after informing the family that they were available in the presbytery any time, day or night.

The community hall was requested in order to lay the body in state to help people pay their respects. The parish pastoral committee readily obliged. The Catholics from around the island gathered in the hall, praying the rosary, singing hymns, and in the company of the family members, kept vigil. The priests joined them for the rosary and the next morning to recite the office of the dead. The funeral Mass was celebrated on the second day and homily was preached: 'Mamma Maria could not stop the death of her son. We don't know why the Lord felled Dolmer at the age of 28!' A tearful farewell was bade to Dolmer.

Since then the widow is seen often in Church. Prior to the death of this young man, his elder brother, who too had been only rarely sighted in the Church campus, met with an accident, and with fractures in both legs, he is in plaster casts stuck in the hospital. He could not travel for the funeral mass. But changes are occurring in his life. He is asking his wife to teach him to pray the rosary. He tries to stay awake when people come to pray for him and asks the doctor to delay his sedative dose so that he can be awake and join their prayers. He now wears a cross necklace. His mother believes these changes will be long-lasting.

Presence, praying for the deceased, sensitive

to emotional upheavals of the bereaved family members, responsive to their needs, being flexible to their schedule – is all that we did. The Lord will do the rest

### New Year and New Faces

**E. PROVIDENCE** - The students of Sacred Heart School were greeted for the new school year with a new principle, Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, DSMP. She initiated a new program for the school: OWL, do everything **Only With Love**. As a special welcome back, Sr. Beth Ann treated all of the students to popsicles



### Knights Provide Food and Fun!

**CHELSEA** - Knights of Columbus members from the St. Louis Guanella Council in Chelsea spent an evening with the residents of St. Louis Center on Thursday, September 8, 2016 by preparing their dinner and playing a game of kickball afterward. Arriving at 4:00 p.m., members and their wives prepared the meal to serve the residents at 5:00 p.m., and residents enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, cold summer salads, and watermelon for dessert. When dinner service was complete, the residents challenged the Knights to a game of kickball, and thoroughly thrashed the "Old Guys."



### Blessings for a New School Year

**E. PROVIDENCE** - The children at Sacred Heart School began the year with the annual school outing on September 10th. Everyone enjoyed outdoor games and the chance to reconnect with their friends. There was a Mass during which Fr. Silvio blessed each class for the new school year and



officially commissioned the teachers for their year-long tasks. He announced that starting this year, that there will be Mass weekly school-wide. Fr. Peter DeTullio stopped by to check in with the first graders just to see that they are enjoying school.

### St. Louis Center Welcomes Classic Cars

**CHELSEA** - Over one-hundred classic and custom cars and trucks roared into SLC on Sunday, September 18, 2016 for the 4th Annual Car Show fundraiser to benefit the residents of SLC. Along with many beautiful restored and untouched vehicles, a large number of local residents visited the show to enjoy the weather, the grounds, entertainment and food. Some of the more unique vehicles present included a 1934 General St. Louis Firetruck,

a 1939 Ford Business Coupe, a 1964 Porsche Carrera, and a 1956 Dodge LeFemme (complete with original eyebrows). The Best in Show award went to a local farmer who had restored a 1933 Ford Stake Truck. The show turned out to be a huge success, and the proceeds benefited the residents of SLC.



### Groundbreaking for a Citadel of Charity

**CHELSEA** - On Thursday, September 29, the Servants of Charity-Michigan Community celebrated a ceremonial groundbreaking for the next generation of direct care facilities coming to St. Louis Center; the new St. Louis Guanella Village. Approximately 250 - 300 people arrived at SLC on a rainy fall night in Michigan to enjoy a reception featuring tasty hors d'oeuvres provided by Lauren Gerrity of Food Art, and a local jazz ensemble from the University of Michigan. Following the reception, Fr. Enzo Addari gave an opening prayer and a program followed that featured benefactors, family members, and a U.S. Congressman. When the speakers finished, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, Provincial Treasurer, blessed the ground that the new facility will be built on, and a wave of SLC supporters and guests came



forward to turn a spade of soil signifying the start of the next project. Four children's homes are planned for construction during the next year as the first phase of the new development. Fr. Enzo concluded the ceremonies with a farewell blessing for a safe drive home.

### Pious Union Celebrates Labor and Love

**GRASS LAKE** - Pious Union of St. Joseph is a place of worship and prayer. It is a place of thanking God for the wonderful things that God has done in our lives. On September 5th, the Pellican family, a very good Catholic family who frequent the Shrine for liturgical celebrations, gave thanks to God for the past 25 years of their marriage. It was a gorgeous day to thank God since it was a holiday known as the Labor Day in the United States. The entire family, including their only son David who is a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Detroit, gathered for Mass to thank God. It was also an occasion to thank God for the family as a gift to the Shrine and the whole community.



### Children Visit Shrine

**GRASS LAKE** - On September 29th, as we celebrated the Feast of the Archangels, we had the visitation of the little angels from St. Stephen's Catholic School, New Boston, MI. Fr. John Hedges led the company along with the parents and the teachers. God was so good to us that when the kids came the sky opened up long enough for the kids to pray the Stations



of the Cross at the recently blessed outdoor stations; an opportune moment to pray and meditate on the suffering of Christ for the salvation of humanity. They participated in Mass and then went to enjoy pizza on the way back to their school.

**October Calendar of Events**

- 1 **St. Therese of the Child Jesus**  
**Legazpi:** Dinner for a Cause to Benefit HKSF
- 2 **Legazpi:** Mass and Procession - Our Lady of Viaje
- 3-5 **Bangalore:** Inter-Novitiate Program
- 4 **St. Francis of Assisi**
- 5-7 **Kumbakonam:** Our Lady of the Rosary Feast - Jebamalaipuram
- 7 **Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**Legazpi:** Parents' Meeting - Feeding Program
- 8 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys  
**Chelsea:** Taste of Chelsea to Benefit SLC
- 8-9 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 10-14 **Bangalore:** Inter-Novitiate Program
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 13 **Chelsea:** Guanellian Cooperators' Meeting
- 18 **St. Luke, Evangelist**

- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 20 **Legazpi:** Family Day - Picnic
- 23 **Grass Lake:** Founder's Feast Celebration - PUSJ
- 24 **St. Louis Guanella**  
**Kumbakonam:** Founder's Feast and Tuition Children's Celebration - Msgr. Dr. Amirthsamy
- Legazpi:** Mass for the Aged
- 25 **Anniversary of the Beatification of St. Louis Guanella**
- 28 **Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles**
- 30 **Kumbakonam:** Year of Mercy Celebration - Santhanalpuram

**Best Wishes and Prayers to:**

- 1 **Fr. Kulandaisamy:** feast day
- 4 **Fr. Assisi:** feast day
- 6 **Bro. John Bosco S.:** birthday
- 7 **Fr. Maria Arockiadoss, Fr. Visuwasam:** birthday; **Fr. Praveen:** feast day
- 8 **Fr. Satheesh:** birthday
- 10 **Fr. James Stanley Babu:** birthday
- 11 **Fr. S. A. Lourduraj:** birthday
- 13 **Fr. Eduardo Cerbito:** birthday
- 17 **Bro. Antony Xaviour R.:** birthday
- 19 **Bro. Arockiam Nathan:** birthday
- 20 **Fr. Soosai Rathinam:** birthday
- 21 **Fr. Francis Sunil Kumar:** birthday
- 26 **Fr. Peter Di Tullio:** birthday
- 27 **Fr. Arul S., Nov. Erwin Azurin:** birthday



Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Contact the Communications and Community Relations Office at:  
 16195 Old US 12  
 Chelsea, MI 48118 USA  
 Telephone: 734-475-8430  
 Email: [news@servantsofcharity.org](mailto:news@servantsofcharity.org)  
 Website: [servantsofcharity.org](http://servantsofcharity.org)