

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Champions of Charity: St. Louis Guanella and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

In a very remarkable event, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, is canonizing Mother Teresa (Blessed Teresa of Calcutta) during this extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. There are many similarities between the two saints of charity. "It is God who works" - our founder had an unshakable faith in Divine Providence. "Carrier of God's tender and merciful love" - this is a theme for the canonization of Mother Teresa. She totally abandoned herself by saying, "I am a little pencil in God's hand- that is, He does all of the thinking and He does the writing." Father Guanella said, "abandon yourself confidently in the loving arms of Providence, because we are chicks under the wings of Divine Providence. I do not move a hand or take a step without being sure that God is explicitly calling me."

Father Guanella founded the "Servants of Charity" and Mother Teresa the "Missionaries of Charity." Charity is the foundation for both toward brothers and sisters in difficulty and in crises of any kind: spiritual, moral, emotional or material. They discovered the pearl of dignity in every disabled and marginalized person- that of being a child of God. "Truly

I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Both cherished in their hearts this Gospel passage and gave life to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

For Father Guanella, "The Eucharist is the treasury of God's love and life of the institute, a day without Holy Communion is like a day without the sun."

"The Mass is the spiritual food that sustains me without which I could not get through one single day or hour in my life," Mother Teresa said and confirmed that His presence was the reason for her work.

Regarding holiness, our founder said, "Personal Holiness lived in joy produces peace and souls dedicated to God are purified through suffering so as to be holy and to make others holy."

For Mother Teresa, "Holiness is not the privilege of the few but the need for all. Holiness means carrying out God's will with joy and faithfulness and it forges saints."

In both of their lives, they faced countless hardships, suffering, and enormous criticism but actually opposition only served to strengthen their dependence on God and reach monumental achievements in favor of the least in society.

Let us praise and thank God for the gift of the Modern Apostles of Charity as the Church canonizes Mother Teresa and has already recognized our founder. Following their inspiration and the fire of charity we can rekindle our Religious life. "We are not called to be successful, but faithful"- Mother Teresa

Fr. Soosai Pathinam.

September 2016

Volume 9 Number 9



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

September Calendar of Fr. Soosai

- 1 **Melrosapuram:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Flag Hoisting and Mass
- 2-3 **Cuddalore:** Study of Community Project
- 4 **Pattnam Kurichi:** Wedding Mass
- 6-7 **Kolli Hills:** Intensive missionary preparation with confreres going to USA
- 10 **Madurai:** Zonal Recollection

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- 11 **Madurai:** Wedding Mass
- 13-14 **Chennai:** Superiors/Residence in-charges meeting
- 15 **Chennai:** Wedding Mass
- 24 **Bangalore:** Departure of Indian Confreres to USA
- 26-28 **Chennai:** Regency Brothers' Gathering
- 29 **DPP Skype Council Meeting**
- 30 **Chennai:** Conferring 'Declaration of Intent' - DGMS

Guanellians Reach the Fifth Continent

Guanellians listened to the voice of providence for service in Solomon Islands after a fraternal invitation by Bishop Luciano Capelli of the Diocese of Gizo. Gradually the dream of visiting the fifth continent, a place without Guanellians, has become a reality. In August 2015, Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, General Councilor of the Servants of Charity, and Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial

Superior of the Divine Providence Province, made the long trip to Honiara, the capital. "I felt at home," said Fr. Luigi. "St. Guanella is blessing the poor even on this continent. Thank you for sending your representatives here," Bishop Capelli wrote in a letter to Fr. Alfonso Crippa, Superior General of the Servants of Charity, continuing, "We are enriched with their precious thoughts and their example. We hope to become the fifth continent for the Servants of Charity." Fr. Soosai prepared a team of confreres for the new mission. They are Fr. Tony from the Ooty Diocese, Fr. Mathias and Fr. Arockia Raj. Fr. Tony began his missionary journey on May 4th from Chennai. His only hope is that the Lord will provide him strength and endurance to conquer any challenge he may face. The historical project in the Gizo Diocese was officially inaugurated by the arrival of Fr. Luigi, the founder of the Solomon mission, and Fr. Mathias in Honiara the capital on 12th August. They were solemnly welcomed by Fr. VG and the local people.

Cleansing Our Temple By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

We hear in the Gospel how Jesus entered the great Temple in Jerusalem—which for a Jew of that time was everything—and began to tear the place apart. Precisely because the Temple was supposed to be so holy, Jesus was flabbergasted at what had happened to it, how the trading of merchants had come to dominate what was supposed to be holy ground.

From the earliest days, Christian writers and spiritual teachers saw the Temple as symbolic of the human person. In fact, St. Paul himself referred to the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. Your very self is meant to be a temple, where God's spirit dwells and where prayer, communion with God, is central.

But what happens to us sinners? The moneychangers and the merchants enter in. What is supposed to be a place of prayer becomes a den of thieves. And so the Lord must do in us now what he did in the Temple then: a little house-cleaning.

The Servants of Charity are evangelizers and with their lives witness the love of God and the love of others. The Guanellian Priests and Religious Brothers are the most visible among all the Catholics. Do we need a little cleansing, perhaps after summer vacation or summer break? Do we need a fresh start? Fr. Guanella used to say: "We can never stop as long as there are poor to assist."

One of the best ways that we can cooperate with this process is to go back to the basics of our Religious

Profession, Ordination and the Ten Commandments. Let's just look at the first three. The first three commandments have to do with the question of one's fundamental spiritual orientation: who or what, precisely, is the object of your worship? What do you hold to be spiritually basic? If we're honest, a lot of us would say something like sex, pleasure, money, power, status, or to sum all of this up, our own egos. And so we need to hear the very first commandment: "I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods besides me."

Next, you shall not disrespect God with your speech, for this leads rather quickly to a denigration of God: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." This can seem fussy and puritanical, as though "swearing" is a terrible sin. But speech is a terribly powerful thing. What we say profoundly influences how we think and act, which in turn shapes our attitudes and behaviors.

And thirdly, you must worship God on a regular basis. There is no place for the attitude of, "I'm alright with God; I have time for Mass but I get nothing out of the Mass." We are obliged to concretize your worship and the duties of our Profession and Ordination. We are temples of the Holy Spirit. What shape is the Temple of our soul with regard to these first three commandments? Where do we stand with the love of God and neighbor? Where are the poor I am supposed to love and assist?

Fr. Guanella: Passionate Hope for Amatrice Earthquake Victims

It could be that in the last few days Fr. Guanella received special permission to return to Earth to visit his tortured homeland. It's easy to imagine that he would be working beside the first responders during the recent Earthquake in Central Italy, just like he did at an advanced age in Avezzano in 1915. Earlier, he ran into a similar tragedy that occurred in Messina, Sicily in 1908. Our first thought following that terrifying instant went to our House in Perugia; very close to the epicenter of the quake. Fortunately, nothing has happened there so far. A fire brigade from our town immediately organized a convoy to help a sister community near Amatrice. Some German GLM friends volunteered, taking a small picture of Fr. Guanella for their identity, in case other Guanellians were within the search parties; as Fr. Piero Lippoli has done before.



Our recent daily work has been more than satisfactory due to a series of good events. We organized a barbecue to benefit the Good Samaritan Pharmacy in Manila with a few friends. And we were pleased with the exchange of ideas between the Procure and several DPP missions in India asking for financial support for their centers for people with I/DD and religious structures. The Guanellian delegation in West Africa has also resumed close contacts with the Procure to insure major financial support from our German solidarity agencies.

Fr. Uche is efficiently preparing his African confreres for the future by initiating activities for his pastoral needs as well as for their structures, using diversified sources from abroad. We recently learned that Fr. Furah, a Tanzanian diocesan priest, is preparing a residence for our Confreres at Mbeya, using his contacts in Central Europe and the mediation of our Procure. We can also inform you that our Procure has made formal attempts, through the Archdiocese of Freiburg, for periodic support of the Guanellian Major Seminaries in Africa and India to benefit our theological students. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, and Fr. Uche, African

delegate, are working together to prepare a proposal for funding. This is happening because since their arrival, the Servants of Charity have been recognized for their commitment, and because they are also interested in placing more Guanellian priests throughout our Diocese, due to a scarcity of vocations to the diocesan priesthood in Europe.

More good news is a joint effort between the German Pious Union and our entity for a new branch of the Confraternity of St. Joseph in the Province of St. Marc in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, India. Cardinal Mar George Alencherry of Kochi/Kerala and Bishop Chacko Thottumarickal of Indore Diocese, will be asked for their approval to open a branch of the German Pious Union in their dioceses. If approved, an official request will be transferred to Fr. Mario Carrera in Rome at the Central Office of the Guanellian Pious Union.

Our confreres in India, principally Fr. Rathinam, were asked to consider this initiative involving the SdC and later the DSMP's for this opportunity to join our forces for good, and to eventually benefit our own financial needs. Please contact Sister Pushpa Madassery of the St. Marc Province via email:(pmadassery@gmail.com).

Let us conclude this report with a simple prayer of soon to be canonized Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

Lord, through your intercession and our Mother Mary, let us become the little pencil in your hand in order to spread throughout the world your merciful tenderness toward the voiceless, suffering and abandoned children in this egotistical society.

As a new season begins. Let us mobilize all of our resources for God's greater glory and passionate love for His Son, Jesus Christ.

Gero Lombardo Guanellian German Procure

Pilgrims of Nazareth Illam

THALAVADI - The patients began this month with God's favor and blessings by going on a pilgrimage. In the Tamil calendar, July is known as the month of Aadi, a special month for the Hindus in Tamil Nadu. They celebrate an event called 'Aadi Peruku' during this month. Respecting and recognizing



the religiosity of the patients, the Nazareth Illam community arranged a pilgrimage to the Bannari Amman temple where the patients worshipped their goddess with deep devotion in their own style. The other devotees, who had come to worship the goddess, were astonished on seeing the faith and devotion of the patients. The pilgrimage was a time of letting go as well as a time of spiritual inheritance for the patients. It was also the first time in this academic year that they were taken off campus. The pilgrimage ended with cake provided by the community. The pilgrimage helped everyone to relax and realize that we are all earthly pilgrims to reach the ever-living God.

Kaanbom Karpom: Look and Learn

CHENNAI - At the end of July, Don Guanella Special School visited St. Thomas Mount, a planetarium and a children's park for an experiential program called "Look and Learn" conducted each month for the betterment of the DGSS students. Fr. Lourdu Raj, Program Director



of DGSS, took the children first to St. Thomas mount after spending some time in prayer and meditation, children had the view of takeoff and landing of flights. The next stop was the the planetarium, Periyar Science

and Technology Centre, to learn about space and what is beyond earth. Some of the seminarians and school teachers accompanied the kids to these important places. Fathers, brothers, teachers and parents had lunch together and headed to the children's park to play before returning home that evening.

Seminary Begins Scholastic Year

KOPAKKA - June 27th was a great day for Ankanagudem Guanella Bhavan seminary officially kicked off the feast day of St. John Maria Vianney on Aug. 4th. There are 29 first year students and two college students from various Indian states. This one-year program is



considered an orientation which aims at initiating the youngsters into seminary life while verifying their inner motivations and enriching their

knowledge and skills. Fr. Peter Sebastian along with other community members celebrated the Holy Eucharist and inaugurated the scholastic year entrusting the formation program into the hands of the Mother of Divine Providence.

Well Begun Is Half Done

MYSORE - With the blessings of the Merciful Father and St. Louis Guanella, Preethiya Sevakaru Evening School was officially inaugurated for the 2016-17 school year on August 5th. The program began with fifty-eight excited children gathered. They enjoyed the simple benevolence of the Guanellian family. Miss Shilpa and Mr. Nagendra, teachers of the evening school, along with the brothers, prepared the children for the celebration.



The children exhibited their talents through dancing, singing and skits. The village officials were present to honor and encourage the children by their presence. After the simple introduction the meeting was arranged to plan the new academic year focusing on behavior, studies, health and extracurricular activities. Study materials were given to the children and after a simple snack and prayer the gathering dispersed with the promise of a better future.

Filled with the Guanellian Spirit

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Major Seminary had a joy filled August 7th as they celebrated the 3rd year Anniversary of the local Guanellian Lay Movement, the Ordination Anniversary of Frs. Samson and Prakash, and GLM Family Day. About 30 GLM members arrived with their families. Events began with Eucharistic Adoration followed by Mass celebrated by Fr. Samson. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, preached the homily, mentioning the importance of the role of the Priests and Laity in the Guanellian family. After Mass there was a short cultural program in which the GLM actively participated. To close the evening, dinner was provided for all; filling everyone with joy and the Guanellian Spirit.



Triple Joyous Celebrations

SIVAGANGAI - To commemorate the 150th jubilee of the ordination of St. Louis Guanella; the Jubilee Year of Mercy and the 9th Anniversary of



the foundation of Yesuvanam, the local community arranged a joyous celebration. Fr. Soosai led the event both spiritually and culturally. Along with the local community, confreres from different Houses of India attended this historic event. Eleven young seminarians showed their willingness to enter the postulancy and to experience the Guanellian way of life by knocking on the Yesuvanam door. Fr. Soosai gladly accepted their request and opened the gates to their Guanellian experience. He advised the postulants to be faithful and fruitful disciples of our Master, Jesus Christ, and to become fires of mercy and compassion. Later, Guanellian Lay Movement members made their pledges as co-operative members in the Guanellian institute to Fr. Soosai, who warmly welcomed them. They are more easily able to live the Guanellian mission at home and in their local area. They will be responsible ministers, fulfilling the expectations of the Holy See by practicing charity, mercy and sensitivity towards the needy. An announcement was prepared and made by Fr. Paul Francis, and officially released by Fr. Soosai for the fundraising to begin for the new construction. The evening ended with an agape meal.

The Corner Stone

KUMBAKONAM

- It is with great joy that the Guanellian family steps into the 'Dindigul' diocese with a new home for charity, Kallathu Patti. The corner stone was blessed and laid for this new home by Fr.



Soosai, Provincial Superior, in the presence of Most Rev. P. Thomas Paulsamy. It is an added inspiration to all parishioners and neighbors to become Guanellian workers of Mercy. The local civil officials also showed their solidarity and fellowship with us through their fraternal support. All praise and glory be to God.

Aspiring to be a Servant

CUDDALORE - It was a day of blessing and conviction for 12 Guanellian scholastics of St. Joseph's Seminary who confessed their aspiration and conviction to become a servant of love in the footsteps of St. Louis

Guanella. With a great deal of preparation both internal and external, they presented themselves as faithful stewards for God's kingdom, especially to aid suffering humanity. The event was headed by the Local Superior, Fr. Visuwasam and the Rector In-Charge, Fr. Francis Assisi. The main themes of the day were Discernment, Conformity to Jesus Christ and Passion for the Poor. St. Louis Guanella said that Religious life is a voyage of grace, where one can both nurture and feed. We hope to attract more servants for God's work through our exemplary life.

Triple Salute

THALAVADI - August 15th is an important and unforgettable day for all Indians and was very special this year at Nazareth Illam with three reasons to celebrate. The first salutation was for India and the freedom fighters as we celebrated the 70th Independence Day with various colorful cultural events. A



parade was conducted and the chief guest was Mr. Shiva Shankar, the vice-principal of Don Bosco School. He was awestruck by and congratulated our patients for their talents and discipline. In the afternoon, the community saluted Fr. Gabriel on the first anniversary of his ordination and Bro. Deva on his birthday. Our patients enthusiastically participated in the cultural events, making the day joyful and colorful. The celebrations ended with cake and vadai. The events of the day helped everyone ponder the sacrifice of noble dignitaries of our nation, our church and our congregation.

The Forgotten Freedom Martyrs

CUDDALORE - Don Guanella Boys Home organized a 70th Independence Day in a solemn manner. The celebration mainly focused on the few forgotten freedom fighters of India. Making a short oration about them, the students were encouraged to personify the



values, ethics and spirit exhibited by them. Special programs such as quiz, debate, educational competitions, athletic events, cultural and other fraternal games were presented. August 15th was a day of inspiration and enthusiasm for all.

70 Years of Freedom

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Evening School happily expressed its love and patriotic concern for India as it celebrated 70 years of independence from the British Government on August 15th. There were 80 children who attended this program; gathering to hoist the flag and show their love and respect to India. Mr. Siva Kumar, the retired professor of Anna University, was the chief guest of the day; enlightening the students with his speech, in which



he mentioned the sacrifice and hard work that great men of the nation underwent for the cause of freedom. The students had time to ask questions. There were also speeches and colorful performances by the students expressing their love for India. The program ended with the party games and distribution of sweets.

Freedom - Our Breath

CUDDALORE - August 15th makes every Indian proud of their nation and life freed from all sorts of clutches.



Also it is the day which begs every Indian to ponder his or her human,

spiritual, emotional, gender, social and cultural freedoms. It compels everyone to appraise one's internal and external liberty. It was the central message of the Independence Day, celebrated at St. Joseph's Seminary. The young seminarians organized

the event with many cultural and martial arts. It was headed by the Superior, Rector, DSMP sisters and other confreres and brothers of the local community. The day taught everyone to be a person of reciprocal freedom, love, and peace. Jai! Hind!

Spiritual Food for the Guanellian Family

BANGALORE - Spiritual nourishment was offered at a day-long recollection for the Brothers, Sisters, Guanellian Cooperators and Guanellian Lay Movement members at Guanella Preethi Nivas on August 20th. The day started with a welcome from Fr. Adaikalam, invoking the Holy Spirit and reciting the Rosary. Bro. Anthony, a preacher from Kerala, gave a wonderful talk. He is a holy man to whom Mother Mary has appeared 8 times and there are many miracles that has happened. He shared his faith and insights about the power of the



Amal Raj, Vincent and Fr. A. John Bosco. Bro. Kalai Kovan, and Srs. Arputham and Kumari also attended. A historical recollection was shared by Fr. George after communion. Mr. Balu, Vice President, welcomed the Confreres while parishioners and Parish Councilors honored them with shawls. Fr. A. John Bosco presented a brief history of the erection of the Parish, dedication by the Very Rev. Bishop Peter Remigius and he mentioned the 'Pioneer Priest,' Fr. Paneer Raja, and Fr. S.P. Samy and Deacon Durai Raj. He thanked the Lord for His blessings throughout these 10 years. The celebration closed with coffee and a social. May Our Lady of Divine Providence help us with her providential hand that the parish may witness her love and care in the years to come.



Rosary. We were amazed to learn that when reciting the Rosary, verses from the Bible are repeated 136 times. It is a recitation of the words Abba Father told Mary through the angel and the prayer that Jesus taught. Bro. Anthony explained that for a good Catholic it is important to make confession at least once a month and practice family prayer to have peace in the home. The group spent time with the Lord in Adoration and had the opportunity for confession. The day concluded with Holy Mass, thanking God for the beautiful gift of life.

Parish Celebrates 10th Anniversary

KUMBAKONAM - The official inauguration of "Our Lady of Divine Providence" parish was August 20, 2006. As St. Guanella believes in God's providence, we too look back with satisfaction and joy for this belief. Over the past ten years, the Parish has seen a lot of growth and development. Fr. Ligory expressed his desire to offer a thanksgiving Mass to mark this event and took the initiative to organize it. Fr. A. John Bosco, the Parish priest joyfully accepted his request. Mass was celebrated by nine priests: Frs. Ligory, S.P. Samy, Dhurai Raj, Bakthis, George Vinsula, Arputha Raj, Loyola,

Campus Visitors

VATLURU - The National Social Service visited the Guanella Karunalaya campus for a week. About 40 girls and their animator came and did the service to the



needy and to the society. The boys felt as if the girls had become like elder sisters. The boys and NSS girls had many interactions, they ate together and played together. Some cultural programs were performed among them. It was a rich experience for everyone. They will continue to assist the boys home so that the boys can learn from them to be responsible and to take care of society and its various needs. Fr. Soosai continues to pray for them.

Parents, the First Teachers

CUDDALORE - Don Guanella Boys Home has made all beneficiaries feel and experience a home-like atmosphere with its exclusive care and protection. The students are trained in a holistic way to face their future and challenges with hope and confidence. In order to help the parents feel more responsible and committed to their children, DGBH arranged 'Parents Meet.' It was like a retreat, explaining the importance of good parenting and compassionate rearing. It was a good time for faculty members to learn the real background of the students and assist in all the ways possible. The day included cultural programs, competitions, prize distributions, and a meal. Parenting is an art; not an idle duty.

Evening Schools Filled with Students

VATLURU - Sacred Heart Church has the biggest Oratory program of the area. There are currently 10 centers, 15 teachers and 350 students. This school is in session from July onwards.



A meeting was held for the teachers to explain the importance of becoming a part of the Guanellian Family as a Cooperator or GLM member. The confreres spoke about the practice of the preventive system, joyful atmosphere and preference to the least ones in the tuition centers. The Guanellian Family has provided study materials like boards, notebooks and home work notes, pens, pencils and backpacks for the students. Regular lessons were insisted upon.

Cultural Competition

CHENNAI - A creative competition for the Don Guanella Special School children was held at the DGMS campus. Students were very active and full of spirit to participate. There was a drawing competition and a workshop for making different arts with the help of the teachers. Children performed their talents and displayed their final pieces made from grains, pigments,

paper and various other materials. The amazing work of the children was priceless.

Shower of Blessings

THALAVADI - August ended with showers of blessings for the Nazareth Illam community. Fr. Soosai visited to study the community project. He met confreres and the residents on the first day of his visit. The second day, there was a campus blessing following Holy mass.



Accompanied by our residents, staff and confreres, he began the blessing ceremony beginning at the entrance and ended in the chapel. The necessity of blessing the campus was to remove any negative energy over the house and to bring forth God's blessings to Nazareth Illam. Our residents actively and piously participated by singing devotional songs. Fr. Soosai was very happy that God made use of him to bring His blessings during his visit. The community also was very happy indeed because with the blessings of God the month ended and with a new spirit would enter the new month, the month of Mother Mary.



Blessing of Formation Houser

MANILA - On August 12th, the Servants of Charity in the Philippines opened a new house of formation, named Venerable Aurelio Bacciarini Theologate after the first successor of St. Louis Guanella. The rite of blessing began at three o'clock in the afternoon by Rev. Fr. Noel Azupardo, the Vicar for the Clergy of the Diocese of Novaliches.



Several friends from other religious communities joined in the celebration. Following the blessing, simple snacks were served during the time of fellowship.

This small community is composed of five confreres; Fr. Battista Omodei (Italy), and Brothers Alfie Matulac (Bacolod), Arun David (India), Erwin Azurin (Bicol), and Christian Magdaong (Bicol).

A Physical Therapy Success Story

LEGAZPI - Jerry Londerio, a 39 year-old man from Tahao Road, came to Harong Kan Sagrada Familia to undergo physical therapy. He was in severe pain when he arrived, in fact the pain was so severe that he could not even walk without support from his wife, or sit straight. He needed to lie on his side just to ease the pain. Despite his condition, he continued his daily living, ignoring his suffering with the thought that it would just go away. When he could no longer bear the pain, he asked his employer to help him consult a doctor. Medication was prescribed but did little to lessen the pain. Another doctor advised him to undergo physical therapy. He began physical therapy at HKSF and felt some relief. He still has pain but somehow it is tolerable. He can now sit properly, stand straight and even walk independently... and most importantly, he is back to work.

Language Month Celebration

MANILA - This year's Buwan ng Wika had the theme "Filipino: Wika ng Karunungan." (Language of Wisdom) The beloved persons with disabilities who live nearby and the residents of Guanella Home for Special Children participated in the festivities at Guanella Center. Many activities were planned for the children such as watching Filipino films, creative drawing and coloring, and playing Filipino games. The program began in the morning with a parade where the children joyfully

walked the grounds wearing national costumes prepared with the help of the staff and their parents. In the end the one proclaimed as the best Filipino costume was Katrina Peredo (female category) and Kevin Visabal (male category), and Patrick Halili as "crowd favorite."



Blessed are the Merciful

LEGAZPI -For the Year of Mercy, the Servants of Charity are planning to have a celebration on September 24th at the Polangi Jail. The entire Guanellian Family of the community will gather for the celebration and to show their commitment to the corporal works of mercy. We are all looking forward to the event with joyful anticipation.

Becoming Merciful like the Father

MANILA - The 5th Annual Guanellian Lay Cooperators' Conference was held August 20-21st at the cool and mountainous Mariapolis Center overlooking Taal Lake in Tagaytay City, Philippines. Twenty-four Guanellian



Cooperators attended the event. The theme was "Jubilee of Mercy: Becoming Merciful like the Father." The main presentation was given by Fr. Alvin of the Focolare Movement for Priests and another topic was facilitated by Fr. Charlton on Becoming Merciful in our Relationships. They also went on a "little pilgrimage" to three beautiful chapels of sisters in Tagaytay: Pink Sisters or the Holy Spirit Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary and the Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing. Everybody enjoyed and shared that the meeting was fruitful and inspirational in assisting them to follow the Lord in the footsteps of our founder, St. Louis Guanella.

Families Support St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - Begun as an outing to teach their sons the meaning of charity, the Dad & Lad Golf Outing celebrated its 19th year at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Rochester Hills on August 3rd. Along with the 144 golfers who filled the course, another 106 patrons came for dinner to support the residents of St.



Louis Center. Provincial Treasurer Fr. Joseph Rinaldo was present to say the blessing for the meal, and thanked the supporters for their efforts. Along with the golf outing and dinner, patrons enjoyed a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and drawing for a "Wheelbarrow of Cheer." At the end of the evening, SLC resident "Sara" played God Bless America for the crowd on her recorder, and received a standing ovation. Michael Chirco, Joseph Maniaci, and Sam Cottone were once again the organizers of the event.

Go Nuts!

CHELSEA - Each summer the Knights of Columbus of the Lansing Diocese sponsor 'Vocations Night' at the ballpark. They even send tickets for the residents and staff of St. Louis Center to enjoy the Lugnuts game complete with dinner. On August 5th a bus arrived at SLC to transport the group to Lansing with Fr. Satheesh as the In-Charge. Though the weather was warm, everyone enjoyed the game.



Toccos Continue the Fun



CHELSEA - Tradition is a wonderful thing, especially when events are passed on from one generation to the next like the Tocco Family Picnic. It was held at St. Louis Center on August 6th chaired

by Jack Tocco, Jr., son of the late founder Jack Tocco, Sr. This event is a fun summer activity that all of our residents look forward to, especially for the food and entertainment. Approximately 15 members of Jack's family and friends attend this event to put smiles on the faces of our residents. The residents were entertained by "Peek-a-Boo the Clown," who made them balloon animals, along with young lady volunteers who offered face painting to the residents. "It's all about putting smiles on their faces," said Jack.

A Celebration of Music

CHELSEA -A mood of celebration overtook the gym at St. Louis Center on August 18th as Music Therapist Jamie Merritt arrived to perform a set of dance and folk music to get everyone on their feet and onto the dance floor for two hours of exercise, fun and entertainment.



Ms. Merritt has been working with the residents in smaller groups for the past year, but on this day, all of the residents were involved by the end of the day. With the help of Fitness Specialist, Caitlin Blomquist, everyone received a plastic egg shaker to help establish their rhythm, and then the real fun began. As each group entered the gym, more and more energy was added to the group until everyone in the gym was up dancing, singing and playing the tambourines. By the end of the session, everyone agreed that Music Therapy was great fun and a great workout for the residents.

Run for the Rolls

CHELSEA - The annual race to the Chelsea Fair was held on August 27th. The residents of St. Louis Center had all planned to participate in this event, which benefits the Fitness for Life program. As everyone approached the starting line, sprinkles began to fall and by the time most of the residents made it midway through the race, it was a real downpour. Half of the residents pushed through the rain to the finish line. It is certain it will be a race they won't forget.



September Calendar of Events

- 2 **Legazpi:** Last Day for First Term - STEP
- Legazpi:** Parent Meeting - Feeding Program
- 3 **Manila:** Monthly Community Recollection
- 4 **Legazpi:** Children's Mass - PT and Feeding Programs
- 5-17 **Legazpi:** Evaluation and Planning for Teachers - STEP
- 6 **Manila:** Guanella Song Festival
- 8 **Chelsea:** Guanellian Cooperators' Meeting
- 10 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
- Manila:** Faith and Light Pilgrimage for Persons with I/DD
- 10-11 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 11 **Kumbakonam:** Year of Mercy Celebration - Asoor
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 18 **Chelsea:** Classic Car Show to Benefit SLC

- 19 **Kumbakonam:** Meeting for Altar Servers
- Legazpi:** Monthly Parent Meeting - STEP
- 23 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 24 **Legazpi:** Mass for the Aged
- 25 **Manila:** Guanellian Lay Cooperators Meeting
- Kumbakonam:** Year of Mercy Celebration - Perumpondy
- 29 **Chelsea:** Groundbreaking Ceremony for St. Louis Guanella Village
- 30 **Manila:** Cultural Day

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 2 **Fr. John Joseph, Bro. Joseph S.:** birthday
- 8 **Fr. Lawrence Thampusamy, Fr. Amal Raj:** birthday; **Fr. Maria Arockiadoss, Fr. Robert Arockiam, Fr. Franklin, Fr. Arockia Raj, Bro. Stalin, Bro. Arockia Vanathaiyan A., Bro. Arockia Doss J.:** feast day
- 13 **Bro. Arocki Doss J.:** birthday
- 14 **Fr. David Stawasz:** birthday
- 18 **Fr. Anil Kumar:** birthday
- 21 **Fr. Pravin:** birthday
- 25 **Bro. Mauro Cecchinato:** birthday
- 26 **Bro. Arun David:** birthday
- 28 **Fr. Leo Joseph:** birthday
- 29 **Bro. Iruthayaraj:** birthday; **Fr. Felicks, Fr. Rishar Raffee Jegan, Fr. Gabriel, Bro. Michael Durai Samy A., Bro. Iruthayaraj:** feast day



Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Contact the Communications and Community Relations Office at:
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