

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## ...A Gift from God!

The New Year's fragrance staggered around the globe with its varieties of dreams, expectations and plans. We welcome the end of one calendar year and the beginning of a new one so happily. The manner of celebrating may differ from place to place. Nations use different calendars, but the passing of one year to the next is universally marked by deliberate reflections *'change, to begin anew or making the gifted life as the best offering to God'* in the year to come. This is because we all hunger to be made new and, intuitively, we all know that means we must *change within* if we want to experience *change around* us. Today in this extremely-advanced world, this common hope *'Changing or Newness'* stirs up everyone towards the ultimate destiny from where everyone sourced. But as for the truth, it can find its ultimate fulfillment only by turning to the One who can make all things new, Jesus Christ.

Adding significance to it, St. Gregory of Nazianzen once wrote, *"The object of a New Year is not that we should just have a new period of time. It is that we should have a new soul and a new heart; new feet, new hands, new ears, and new eyes with the springs of Gospel and Christ. A life gifted by God must become reborn, renewed, rejuvenated in the Spirit of God, for unless a person be re-born and re-rooted in Jesus, he shall by no means cherish the life, the wondrous gift of God and make it a gratuitous prize for God."* For this, we are obliged to do three important projects in life: *'Encountering God, Experiencing God, and Evangelizing God'*. *Encountering God* or knowing the heart of the Father, through daily spiritual nourishment, *Experiencing God*, in conformity with Christ

through personal holiness and moral maturity and *Evangelizing God*, through a life witness based on Gospel and natural norms.

Over the years, we have come to realize that every end truly can become a new beginning for the man or woman who has living faith in a living God who invites us to begin again, again and again. This invitation does not glow only with a bed of roses but is always accompanied by a bed of thorns. But God endowed upon us or has sown in us a divine gift to battle against all the challenges and clutches of the world. This *gift is called grace* - and through receiving this grace we become what the Apostle Peter called *"Partakers of the Divine Nature"* (2 Pt 1:4). For our sustenance, God gave us an example of how we are to live, by sending His Son to preach forgiveness and mercy for repentance and to allow Himself to be the final and complete sin offering for all the collective sins of mankind for all time.

The next greatest example is **Mary, the Mother of God**. Mary is sometimes referred to in Catholic circles as the Mother of the New Creation because the One whom she held in her womb is the only One who makes all things new! **Mary was the first disciple, the prototype, the symbol of the whole Church. Along with her Son, she sought for peace and holiness in the world.** We who are members of the Church, the Body of her Son, are invited to emulate her *'Yes'* to the invitation of God and make it our own. We are called to make a place for Him within us and become bearers of Christ to the world. For He alone can make us new.

Therefore, I pray that in the Year

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“Our lives are beautiful gifts from God, and how we live them out is our prayer of gratitude for such a gift.”

St. Louis Guanella

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of Our Lord, 2017, as a province taking refuge in the providence of God, we may all **find the fullness of grace and the new beginning which comes through entering into a living relationship with the One who makes all things new, Jesus the Christ.** (Rv 21:5). Let us make a renewed effort at daily prayer and spiritual reading, as well as regular participation in the Sacraments of Holy Mother Church. Let us renew our commitment to those given to our care to always appreciate the beautiful gift of life in them. Let our sins be turned into virtues and be the gifts we give to God the Son. Let us renew our willingness to die to all within us that is offensive to the God Child and renew our commitment and love for the Mother of God. Each day, let us rejoice at the wonderful gift of life in abundance and an eternity of bliss and live our lives to the fullest capacity we can. Let us invest our talents in service to our Divine Lord and thank Him every day for the splendid graces He brings us. Let us thank Him as well for those times of travail, for these too are a gift from Him designed to strengthen our patience and compassion for those who are also suffering.

*"Whoever is in Christ is a New Creation: the old things have passed away; behold new things have come."*

(2 Cor 5:17)

*Fr. Soosai Pathinam.*

### January Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **V. Pet:** New Year Mass - Saleth Madha Shrine
- 6 **Departure for Rome**
- 7 **Como:** DSMP Perpetual Profession
- 8 **Rome:** Meeting at Mon. Bacciarini International Seminary
- 9-15 **General Council Meets with Provincials**
- 19 **Return to India**
- 23 **Chennai:** Class on Ecclesial and Legal Implications of Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination - DGMS
- 28 **Kumbakonam:** Feast Mass - Parish Substation

*Calendar*

### January Calendar of Events

- 1 **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; World Day of Peace**  
**Manila:** New Years Celebration with DSMPs
- 6 **Epiphany of the Lord**
- 7 **Manila:** Monthly Recollection
- 8 **Kumbakonam:** Three Kings Pongal
- 9 **The Baptism of the Lord**
- 12 **Chelsea:** Guanellian Cooperators Meeting - SLC  
**Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day - PUSJ
- 14 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys  
**Grass Lake:** Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 14-15 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 21 **Manila:** Monthly Formation Meeting - Guanellian Cooperators
- 21-29 **Kumbakonam:** Feast of Our Lady of Periyanyaki - Perumpandi
- 25 **The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**
- 28 **Kumbakonam:** Blessing and Opening of New Guanellian Houses by Fr. Soosai
- 29 **Chelsea:** Italian American Club Dinner to Benefit SLC
- 31 **Manila:** Bible Quiz

### Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 5 **Fr. Paul Arokiaraj C.:** birthday
- 6 **Bro. Paul Dhinakaran C.:** birthday
- 7 **Fr. Charles:** birthday
- 9 **Bro. Francis Xavier A., Bro. Alfie Matulac:** birthday
- 11 **Fr. M. Praveen Jeba Kumar:** birthday
- 22 **Fr. A. Periyanyaga Samy:** birthday; **Fr. Vincent M., Fr. Vincent S.:** feast day
- 23 **Fr. A. Periyanyaga Samy, Fr. S. Periyanyaga Samy, Fr. A. Perianayaga Samy, Bro. Periyanyagam M.:** feast day
- 26 **Bro. Kulandai P.:** birthday
- 30 **Bro. Vijay P.:** birthday
- 31 **Fr. John Bosco:** feast day

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## Struggling to Pray By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

A good friend, who also is a good father, husband and benefactor, came to visit for the usual Christmas wishes. He asked me what I was reading. I told him I was trying to read the letters of St. Paul, taking up the theme of prayer in his letters. He was in a talking mood and continued saying that he loved the Jubilee Year of Mercy for its themes of fasting and almsgiving. However, he added that he had difficulties with prayer. "The Hail Marys and Our Fathers have become meaningless. Mass, including the homily, is boring. I keep hearing that we need to pray more, but I fail to pray."

We all are struggling to pray until we learn what prayer really is. We need to reflect on the essential role of the Holy Spirit for those who wish to communicate with God.

Prayer is not a fruit of human effort, but a gift, the fruit of the living, vivifying presence of the Father of Jesus Christ in us. We, the believers, have the human desire for prayer. We want to pray, but God is far off, we do not have the words, the language, to speak with God, nor even the thought to do so. We can only open ourselves, place our time at God's disposal; wait for Him to help us to enter into true dialogue. St. Paul says: this very lack of words, this absence of words, yet this desire to enter into contact with God, is prayer that the Holy Spirit not only understands, but brings and interprets before God. This very weakness of ours, through the Holy Spirit, becomes true prayer, true contact with God. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter who makes us, and God, understand what it is we wish to say. Prayer brings us to understand that we are weak, poor creatures. And the more we advance in listening and in dialogue with God, the more we also perceive the measure of our limitations, not only in the face of the concrete situations of everyday life, but also in our relationship with the Lord.

It is the Holy Spirit who helps our inability, who enlightens our minds and warms our hearts, guiding us as we turn

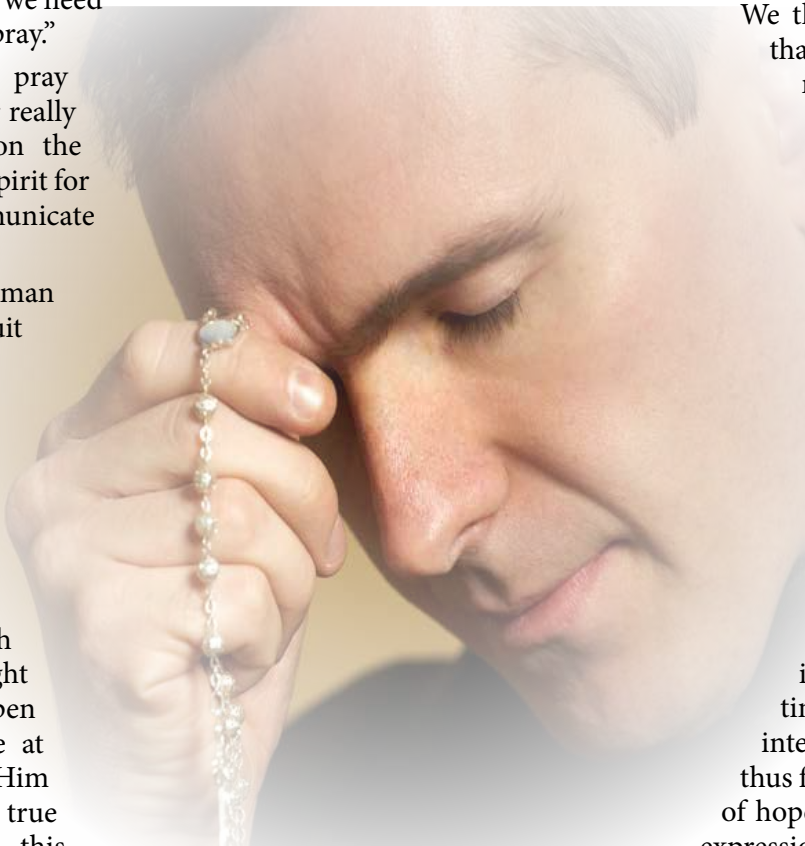
to God. Prayer is above all the work of the Holy Spirit in our humanity. He takes our weakness and transforms us from men bound to material realities into spiritual men, when we allow the Spirit of Christ, and not the spirit of the world, to work in us as the interior principle of all our actions.

Prayer animated by the Spirit enables us to abandon and to overcome every form of fear and slavery, and so to experience the true freedom of the children of God.

We then come to understand that, through prayer, we are not delivered from trials or sufferings, but we are able to live them in union with Christ, with His sufferings, and participating also in His glory. Prayer, sustained by the Spirit of Christ who speaks in our interior depths, never remains closed in upon itself, it is never only prayer for me; rather, it opens out to a sharing in the suffering of our time, of others. It becomes intercession for others, and thus freedom for me; a channel of hope for all creation and the expression of that love of God,

which has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit who has been given to us. And this is a sign of true prayer, that it does not end in ourselves, but opens out to others and so liberates me, and so helps in the redemption of the world.

Dear confreres, we have a treasure in our faith and in our heart: the power of prayer. We need to enter in communion with the Holy Spirit and He will teach us how to love Jesus the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier. I wish all of you a Happy New Year, a year when, accompanied by the Spirit we can discover what an incredible treasure the power of the Spirit is in our souls, our Order and all believers.



## Formators and Vocation Promoters Meet

**BANGALORE** - The annual meeting for the formators and vocation promoters of the Divine Providence Province was held on November 29th at Guanella Preethi Nivas. The central theme of the meeting was "a new pedagogy for integral formation to the priesthood and consecrated life in India." The meeting was led by Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, Provincial Superior, with presentations by Fr. Joe Mathiayas SJ. Frs. Samson, Gnanaraj, Francis, and Prakash SdC organized the event. The central messages drawn from the meeting were:



- Formation is not just a mere human action but is also Trinitarian and divine. God the Father is the formator and "the activity of the Father through the Spirit molds the hearts of persons in formation according to the mind of the Son".
- God the Father, in the continuous gift of Christ and the Spirit, is the formator par excellence of the one consecrated to Him. But in this work God is also served by the mediating role of human persons, matured in faith and discipleship.
- The one who serves in such a ministry is placed as a mediator between God's action and the human response and must therefore be one who knows both the human and the divine heart well.
- Formation "ought to be formation of the whole person" in every aspect of his or her individuality, behavior, and intentions." The heart, reason, will, memory, imagination, senses, desires, tastes, the conscious and unconscious everything ideally ought to be the object of attention in formation; so that the new person in Christ can really come to life.
- Moreover, "formation, in order to be total, must encompass all the aspects of Christian and consecrated life. Thus there must be spiritual, human,

intellectual, cultural and pastoral preparation which aids the harmonious integration of the various aspects."

- For vocation promotion, all the members of the congregation must toil and sweat. All must attract candidates by witnessing through their lifestyle, spiritual grounding, maturity and innovative programs. After recruiting candidates, the formators must accompany them and assist them to know and discern the choice and service.

## Annual Assembly in India

**CUDDALORE** - The Annual Assembly for the Perpetually Professed Indian Confreres of the Divine Providence Province was held December 14th-16th at St. Joseph's Seminary. Forty-five Guanellian priests working in India attended the assembly. Fr. Soosai Rathinam was the president of the assembly. Rev. Fr. Samson and Rev. Fr. Francis Assisi were nominated as the moderators and Fr. Benson and Fr. Amalraj were elected as the secretaries. The precedent of the assembly cheerfully invited and encouraged all the office bearers and the participants to be more dynamic and authentic. Many themes were presented to help the mission of the Guanellians in India thrive and remain true to the Founder. At the climax of the assembly there



was enough time given for 'open forum and dialogue' where the participants made their 'Concrete proposals for the renewal of DPP in order to grow in fraternal communion.'

## Silver Jubilee

**CUDDALORE** - The Divine Providence Province, as one family of God gave thanks to God for the 25 years of sacerdotal blessing to Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC, the first Indian Guanellian confrere, on December 16th during the annual provincial assembly. The Guanellians present

made the celebration very grand. The festive mood of celebrating the Jubilee inspired many young confreres



to be more authentic, enthusiastic and committed in their priesthood. Fr. John Bosco thanked and blessed the gathering with his words of love and gratitude. He encouraged all to taste and see the goodness of God through the holy priesthood. He requested everyone to be more faithful to their vocations and to be fully consecrated to God.

### Family Day

**BANGALORE** - Family Day is an opportunity to renew the bond of family spirit that makes all united for the common good. The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated family Day coupled with suppose Christmas and the commemoration of the founder's birthday on December 19th. Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Guanellian Cooperators, GLM members, benefactors, well-wishers,



beneficiaries, staff and all faithful attended the event. It was gratifying to celebrate the joys and happiness of the year with one another. The event began with solemn holy Mass celebrated by the superior. It also included innovative party games and a cultural program. The Guanellian Family shared Christmas gifts with the staff and a meal was offered by the Cooperators and GLM.

### Happy Birthday, Father!

**CUDDALORE** - Every birthday makes a testimony that God still loves the world and showers his unceasing grace upon it. In return, if the life received from God makes its best on earth through holy living and serving, then it becomes a gratuitous gift to God. Our Holy Founder, St. Louis Guanella, exemplified this and made his life a gift to God through his spiritual vibrancy and selfless service. In view of honoring his holy birth, life and his charitable patrimony, the Guanellian Family of St. Joseph's Seminary, Don Guanella Boys Home, Sagaya Matha Parish, Divine Providence Convent and Hostel, GLM and all the beneficiaries joined in celebrating



the 174th Birthday of St. Guanella, with solemn Mass, cultural programs, gift sharing and a meal. It was a moment of revitalizing the spirit, mission and vision of our Holy Founder. Thanks be to God for the gift of St. Louis Guanella, the Saint of Charity!

### Christmas Fest

**BANGALORE** - Don Guanella Oratory in Bangalore celebrated suppose Christmas at Guanella Preethi Nivas in a grand and meaningful way. With a gracious spiritual start the program began its richness with singing, dancing, party games, gifts sharing and other



competitive programs. The dignitaries present at the event were very happy and amazed by the little works and gifts of charity rendered to the poor children. A thought provoking message about Christmas and New Year was given. The motivation and encouragement of the speech made the gathering more energized and strengthened.

### Incarnation of Love

**CHENNAI** - The incarnation of Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's eternal love and mercy. It assumed the whole of humanity. Jesus especially identified the poor, suffering, and the weaker of society with Him and took the human flesh as One among them and One for them. Today's world, in the name of newness and constant change exploits these



people and further victimizes them. Therefore, to heal broken and exploited humanity, our beloved pope, in his recent apostolic letter "Mercy and Misery," to close the Year of Mercy, solicits all humanity to the pragmatic aspect of Mercy. He calls on Catholics to work to "restore dignity to people, especially those who do not have work, do not have homes, are marginalized, are hungry, must migrate, are in prison in inhuman conditions or do not have access to education." To practice human kindness and love Don Guanella Evening School organized a suppose Christmas celebration for all the poor children from the slums and impoverished families. The simple service rendered to those faces of Christ made a greater witness to the surrounding which is filled with people of other faiths and traditions. Everyone irrespective of social boundaries joined as one family of love and fraternity to celebrate the birth of peace, justice and joy. The celebration included cultural programs and gift distribution. The confreres and children made the day a very meaningful preparation to celebrate Christmas.

### Inter-Novitiate Conference

**BANGALORE** - If we ask, how can we tell if a person is mature? We can say, if a person consistently acts in a mature manner, he or she is a mature person. However, if he or she consistently acts in an immature manner, we can be certain that he or she is an immature



person. To have a comprehensive understanding and to develop human maturity, the Guanellian novices attended a 5-day course on Affective Maturity given by Fr. Deva Doss, CMF at Prem

Anjali convent of the Charles Borromeo sisters. At the outset, the course was very practical which helped them to understand the human feelings of each other and to act accordingly. It further moulded the novices to form themselves in conformity with Christ and his teachings endowed in the Gospel.

### New Home for Charity

**CUDDALORE** - The Charity of Christ should urge all souls dedicated to Him to be dedicated to those who say, "I have no one in the world." Extending charity draws souls closer to sanctity, for charity will save the world. With this spiritual vibrancy the Guanellian family under the guidance of Fr. Visuwasam SdC, with the help of local sources, has prepared a new House for the works of charity in the area. This is meant for daily evening school programs for the poor children nearby and Sunday open house

ministry for the homeless without food, clothing and shelter. The house was inaugurated and blessed by Fr. A. John Bosco SdC in the honorable presence of Fr. Soosai, Provincial Superior and his Council and other Guanellian confreres. The words of the Founder, "as long as there are poor to be assisted in the world, there is no end for the works of charity" was in the hearts of those present.



### Special Children and Sacramental Grace

**MANILA** - On December 8th a group of persons with disabilities received the Sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. Presided by Fr. Charlton Viray and concelebrated by Fr. Battista Omodei and Fr. Loyola Diraviam, it was a joyful event not only for



the families of these children but also for the Guanella Center



receive services at Guanella Center. Fifteen families received gifts and food and enjoyed several games and presentations during the

event. Thank you to our Guanellian Cooperators who continually support the activities of the Servants of Charity and Guanella Center.

### A Gift for a Saint

**MANILA** - Bro. Erwin Azurin renewed his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for one year on December 19th, birthday of St. Louis Guanella. Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Charlton Viray, Vice Provincial Superior who also



received the vows of Bro. Erwin. Fr. Charlton focused his homily on the vows and asked Bro. Erwin to be faithful to

his promises. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Battista, Fr. Charles and Fr. Loyola and attended by the whole seminary community and Guanellian Cooperators representatives, Jun and Alice Hizon. Bro. Erwin hails from Legazpi, Albay and is now in his first year of Theology at Recoletos School of Theology.

community. Our Founder, St. Louis Guanella always insisted the importance of giving not only bread but first and foremost



giving our Lord. As they received the Lord and the graces because of the reception of the Sacraments, let us pray that more and more special children may be privileged to receive the Sacraments. Unfortunately, very few parishes or dioceses have programs on how to catechize children with intellectual disabilities so that they can eventually receive the sacraments like ordinary Catholics do.

### Cooperators' Christmas

**MANILA** - The Guanellian Cooperators organized a Christmas Gift Giving and Outreach Program for the Guanella Homes Housing Project. The beneficiaries of the Housing Project are poor families with a special child/children who do not have decent housing. The children and parents also



### Al Chirco and Friends Bring Joy

**CHELSEA** - Thanks to the family and friends of Al Chirco, the month began with a day of giving on Saturday, December 1st, as St. Louis Center residents were treated to an authentic Italian dinner, Christmas carols, and plenty of gifts for everyone. Santa Claus arrived for his first visit of the year, and many members of the Chirco family from the Italian-



American Community in Wyandotte; especially the children, were taught the meaning of Christmas through their gifts of sharing with others who were less fortunate. After the residents enjoyed their meal, Santa came for a visit, and all of the residents who were good boys and girls during the past year received a Christmas gift to begin their festive holiday season.

### Toys for Our 'Tots'

**CHELSEA** - To continue the joy of the Christmas season, about two dozen soldiers from the Air Force, Navy and Marines arrived with toys for the residents of St. Louis Center through the Marines Toys for Tots Program. They began by singing



anthems and Christmas Carols. Each resident had the opportunity to select a toy and greet Santa. Cookies and punch were served before the soldiers bid farewell.

### Christmas Tradition Continues

**CHELSEA** - Santa Claus made a return engagement on Sunday, December 18th, as Jack Tocco, Jr., along with his friends and family members continued his father's legacy of bringing gifts to the residents of St. Louis



Center to make sure that every resident received a great Christmas present. This tradition began 27 years ago. Famous jazz trumpeter Johnny Trudell and Friends returned to play live Christmas carols as Santa Claus made his grand entrance, and then every resident was called one-by-one to visit Santa to receive his/her gift. Afterward, Mr. Tocco presented Fr. Enzo Addari an envelope full of donations for SLC.

### Ugly Sweater Dance Freeze

**CHELSEA** - Fitness Specialist Caitlin Blomquist is always trying to make fitness fun and include themes from the season, so what better way to sneak in some exercise than by dancing. This Christmas to make things more fun she contacted Jeremy Turner of Ugly Christmas Sweater Store Dallas to get a stash of Ugly Sweaters for the

residents. Jeremy generously sent over 50 sweaters for everyone to wear on December 20th to the Dance Freeze party. A few students from St. Mary Manchester Youth Group were on hand to help make sure that everyone kept moving and enjoyed a cookie at the end of the party.



### Village Construction Continues

**CHELSEA** - No one expected the warm weather to last through the month of December, and a snow storm finally hit the State of Michigan between December 9 -11th, dropping eight inches of snow and closing most of the schools in SE Michigan the following Monday. That did not deter the construction crew

working on the new St. Louis Guanella Village, and work continued throughout the month, as crews continued putting together the sanitary sewer lines and other important parts of the infrastructure. The work continues as construction crews race the clock to try to complete as much work as possible before Michigan is totally covered in a blanket of snow and ice.

