

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Fr. Louis Guanella: Universal and Intercultural Missionary!!!

How is Fr. Guanella connected with the missions? He never went to any mission country as a missionary does. Since his years in the Como Seminary, he had a soft spot, a strong desire to join PIME, and go to India or China. He even asked his Bishop to have the opportunity to fulfill his dream, but he was denied. "Your India will be here at home", his Bishop replied. His strong missionary desire was passed on to his Religious, "The whole world is your homeland". The first mission territory he served was Switzerland, filled with many Protestants, which was just outside of his own native place. There, he sent his priests to take care of the Italian immigrants plus the few native Catholics. A small step, but a step that became a big one when, later on, his Religious crossed both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans to bring Catholic and non-Catholic alike, the message of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd and Good Samaritan, to His creatures in need of faith, hope and love.

Recently his Religious even touched the 'Solomon Islands' in the middle of nowhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia are now the homeland of a great number of Servants of Charity and Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. They are the fulfillment of Fr. Guanella's dream, bringing "Bread and the Lord, to those who need them, material bread and spiritual bread.

Was Fr. Guanella a missionary? A resounding "YES" is his presence in 24 nations through his spiritual children, religious and laity. He wrote, "We are Servants of Charity, because the Charity of Jesus Christ has called us. Let us practice with fervor the works of mercy, and we will obtain the mercy of the Lord! The poor are our favored ones. They are our masters. We must work and suffer for them. Is it not what Jesus, the Divine Missionary, has done for us by His mission of Salvation?

As we celebrate 102 years since the heavenly birth of our Holy Founder, let us resolve to re-incarnate his presence, vision and mission contextually. Thus we become a border-crossing person: across cultures, religions, genders, race!

Fr. Soosai Rathinam.

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"The Charity of Jesus Christ has called us. Let us practice with fervor the works of mercy, and we will obtain the mercy of the Lord!"

St. Louis Guanella

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October Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 4 **Return to India from USA**
- 7 **Bangalore:** Meeting with DSMP General Councilors
- 15 **Chennai:** Conferring of Ministries - DGMS
- 19-20 **Desert Experience**
- 24 **Chennai:** Founder's Feast
- 25-26 **Chelsea:** Assembly
- 30-31 **Sivagangai:** Mission Animators' Meeting

The Story of Fatima By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

The story of Fatima began in the spring of 1916. Lucia Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, were tending their family's flock when an angel appeared to them. He called himself the Angel of Peace and told the children that Jesus and Mary desired to pour out mercy on them.

The next year, our Lady herself came to the children. In a series of apparitions from May 13th to October 13th, she warned humanity to cease offending God. She gave the children a prophetic secret that foretold the rise of Communist Russia and the persecution of the Church. She asked the faithful to pray the Rosary every day, and for the Pope to consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart; a task St. John Paul II carried out in 1984.

During the last vision, October 13, 1917, Mary performed "the miracle of the sun." The crowds at Fatima, and even people ten miles away, saw the sun spin in the sky and plummet in the earth. This astounding miracle served to confirm everything the children had said. And it is a call for us to live the message of Fatima today, through prayer, penance and devotion to her Immaculate Heart.

On Her first apparition at Fatima, the most Holy Mother of God opened her hands and shed upon the three children, a highly intense light. Lucia reported, "This light penetrated us to the heart and allowed us to see ourselves in God, who was that light, more clearly than we see ourselves in a mirror." At Fatima, the three young children had an intense experience of God Himself and in that light that is God, they understood more clearly, their own unworthiness and absolute need of God. This knowledge of God and consequent knowledge of

ourselves was granted them by God through the Maternal Mediation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

All Christian sanctity is contained in two things: the knowledge of God and the knowledge of self. The knowledge of God elevates the soul. The knowledge of self keeps us humble and leads us to sanctity. This is precisely what took place at Fatima 100 years ago, and it occurred so that all men of our time may convert by coming to know the true God, through Mary, as well as their own nothingness and need for repentance. We are living in desperate times, probably more so than at any other period in human history. Only a tiny percentage of Catholics today are maintaining the true faith, whole and pure, in worship, doctrine and morals.

The miracle of the sun manifests God's immense power, and the lives of Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta are a brilliant testimony to God's providence and love. In sum, the message of Fatima teaches us who and what God is to us and what He wills that we should be to Him. The mother of God, all holy, came to Fatima to bring us true knowledge of God and true knowledge of ourselves. We are indeed, poor sinners who must stop offending God. Repent and make due reparation to God's infinite majesty.



Joyful German News

The timid, initial phase of our presence on German soil as a tiny entity outside of the Alpine border has made a positive and blessed turn. This mission shuffle has been in the works for months. Now holy Providence has delivered, sending an 'imposing' shepherd in weight, heart and eloquence: Fr. Arcangelo Biondo from our Guanellian structure in Messina on sunny Sicily, a logical choice because most of the Italian expats in our province are from Naro, our Sicilian hometown. The introductory Holy Mass was celebrated on September 18, 2017 in the ancient Franciscan Monastery, Barfüßer Church. The small church was filled to capacity.



The resident Guanellians and Fr. Luigi invited a select group of friends of our Works, doyen Bernhard Ihle; parish priest, Dr. Mette; and parish council members to a fraternal agape meal after Mass. The Italian Mission honored and thanked Fr. Wieslaw Baniak, SdC for efficient pastoral service during the past four years in our community. He has returned to his former role as director of the Guanellian Entity in Skavina near Krakow, his homeland. I noticed tears among his old friends and heard formal promises to visit this Guanellian soldier and motor of the Guanellian presence in ultra-Catholic Poland.



The next day all four Guanellians went on a pilgrimage to the Cathedral of Treviri, former capital of the Roman Germania Citerior, birth place of Emperor Constantine and home of his mother, St. Helen. After an emotional visit of the Jesus Tunic and splinter of the Redemption Cross, both brought by St. Helen to Treviri in 328, all four confreres had the privilege to concelebrate Holy Mass



on the altar where Fr. Guanella put the 'mental first Stone' of a German adventure. A long meditation and intensive prayers for the happy end of the Guanellian path from Como to Treviri in August 1912 first and from the fatic detour from Naro to Pforzheim. In 1960 a flock of Sicilian immigrants brought the torch of the Guanellian charism from the first Guanellian community in Naro that was established in 1947. For all those steps, long constance and strong hope of carrying out Fr. Guanella's dream a joyous Te Deum was sung by hobby tenor Fr. Arcangelo.

Just two days later we all drove to Freiburg for the obligatory courtesy visit to the Bishop's Office. During the long meeting, Fr. Wieslaw was discharged from his pastoral commitment while Fr. Arcangelo was officially invested as 'Pastoral mandative Missio.' A fraternal agape was shared with our mentor Bishop Emeritus Klug. Sr. Theresita was surprised at the end with a little 'Hello' from Archbishop Stephan Burger.

On the way to Freiburg we spent a night at the Pious Union at the Abbey of Münstertal. Provincial Mother Germana and long time friends Srs. Bernita and Emanuela welcomed and hosted us. Before we left, Sr. Bernita donated an envelope for Fr. Luigi to deliver to the confreres on the Solomons Islands on his next visit there.

Other good news: Bro Mauro has finally received a generous donation from Missio Munich to purchase life saving medicine until mid-December 2017. We still hope to receive donations for the Indian and Filippino Theology students from the World Church at Freiburg. The new Pastoral Unity team of Pforzheim is preparing a special celebration for the Heavenly Birth of Fr. Guanella on October 24, 2017.

For all these blessings, emotions and gifts of Holy Providence let us implore the maternal protection of our Patroness during the Rosary Month.

Gero Lombardo, German Guanellian Procure

Colors of Joy on Independence Day

BANGALORE - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community celebrated the 71st Independence Day of India on August 13th with the evening school and oratory children. This program went on well through their discipline, talent show and powerful attention. The chief



guest of the day was Mr. Narayana Swami, Local Municipality President. The GPN community fathers: Fr. Gnana Raj, Fr. Adaikalam, Fr. John Peter, Fr. Lourdu Raj, Fr. John Kennedy, and the Guanellian family were also present to celebrate the occasion. Mr. Narayana Swami hoisted the flag after the parade and in his speech he showed his patriotism. During his inspiring talk he remembered with gratitude the freedom fighters; he spoke of how India gained independence; and how much our forefathers suffered to win freedom for the nation. Children proved their talents through dance and pyramids. At the end of the celebration sweets were distributed to the children.

Freedom Day Celebration

MADURAI - On August 15th Soosai Thottam joyfully celebrated Independence day. Both St. Guanella Karunai Illam and St. Joseph's



Special School children were very glad to participate with full vigor in a meaningful way. Mr. Chelladurai, Vice-Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University, was invited as chief

guest. The special children were dressed as Barathiyar and Gandhi to welcome the chief guest. The event began with a flag hoisting followed by a short cultural program performed by the special children. In his address, Mr. Chelladurai said "you have to thank God for giving these Fathers to take care of you in all things. They make you feel free and happy in your life". A Free Medical and Dental Camp was offered by Dr. Balasubramani BDS in honor of the day. This was useful for our special children, their parents and the aged people from Karadipatti village, nearly 50 people benefited from this camp.

Fr. Soosai Visits Seminary

BANGALORE - Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, arrived at Guanella Preethi Nivas on September 1st for a two-day canonical visit. It was like a visit from the spirit of the Founder himself, a moment of cherishing a father's love and a blessing to the house. The visit started with a prayer and recollection on the theme of the upcoming General and Provincial Chapter presided by Fr. Rathinam. He insisted on the urgency of our Universal Mission with a heart appreciating Interculturality with a passionate bond of charity among all the confreres of



the congregation. Fr. Soosai also dialogued with each confrere individually, ushering and encouraging them to be zealous instruments of Christ. Other tasks during the visit were examining and evaluating the community Documents, Projects,

Trust Documents, ministry projects, the Aged Home, our vibrant involvement towards the poor and oratory and evening school. A volleyball match was played in the evening. We had a meaningful, prayerful and spirit filled time during his visit which strengthened every member and graced the community.

Birthday of the Blessed Mother

THALAVADI - September 8th Catholics celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Mother. The mentally disabled people of Nazareth Illam were especially filled with joy in celebrating the feast of our beloved Mother Mary. The day began with morning Prayer conducted by Fr. Visuvasam. Mass was celebrated midday by Fr. Navis, the director, followed by a feast day meal in the refectory. That evening, all gathered again for a car procession from



the main gate to Mandir with the patients carrying the statue. The rosary was recited while praying for various intentions. Fr. Visuvasam beseeched the blessing of our Mother and blessed all present.

Folk Dance Class

CUDDALORE - The Scholastics of St. Joseph's Minor Seminary participated in a folk dance class on September 10-11th guided by master Dhayalan. They learned a variety of dances, songs, and street plays. At the end



of the training, the brothers staged a performance of their newly learned skills for the community. To close the program the rector thanked the master for his work and presented him a gift of love and gratitude.

The Exaltation of the Cross

KOPPAKA - The Exaltation of the Cross was celebrated in a solemn manner with a liturgy organized by brothers at Guanellian Bhavan September 14th. The brothers installed a cross outside symbolizing Calvary and the altar was also prepared for the Eucharistic celebration. There was a procession of the cross along with the main celebrant. Fr. Arul celebrated the solemn mass



and gave a reflection on the history and the importance of the cross. Cross was a sign of sin but became an instrument of redemption because Jesus died on the cross. Once for all, Jesus died for the whole human race. But all of us are called to carry our own cross and follow him. Let us look at the cross of Christ and be saved.

First Fruits Visit Yesuvanam

SIVAGANGAI - The Yesuvanam community joyfully received the eight new Servants of Charity priests for a festival which began on Monday, September 18th. The postulancy brothers welcomed them with a song along with community fathers. They were very enthusiastic

to come to the home where their priesthood began, the first fruit of the Yesuvanam postulancy program. Every brick and plant proclaims the hard work they did when they were here.



A solemn thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at Anbagam Special School by the new priests, Fr. Kulandai Samy, community superior, and the other confreres. The main celebrant was Fr. Periyanaayaga Samy and the homily offered by Fr. Fernandez, both new priests. After Mass a short felicitation program was given by the brothers and children under the direction of Bro. Vimal Thambusamy. Fr. Kulandai welcomed and honored his former students as priests with great satisfaction. "Give bread and the Lord," the Founder said. With this in mind, lunch was served to the Anbagam children before the confreres enjoyed their own lunch.

"Ayatha Pooja" Celebration

CUDDALORE - It was a great joy for St. Joseph's Seminary to celebrate "Ayatha Pooja," a special day in Hindu tradition to venerate the equipment used to earn a living. Fr. Assisi blessed all the vehicles and tools and Mr. Balakrishnan, our security guard, made his veneration to all the tools in the traditional Hindu way. After the blessing the confreres went on a motorcycle and bike ride.



New Hearth for Cooking

THALAVADI - It is very important in all religious houses and family homes to have a kitchen for preparing food for daily survival. The Nazareth Illam community has waited a long time for the kitchen construction to begin. It was a tedious one month job for the laborers to break the rocks and make the ground level. To buy the river sand was again a miserable issue, double the amount was paid to bring two units of sand from Karur because of a change in Government licensing. Moreover continuous rain interfered with the progress. Despite all these difficulties, with His providence and Mercy, the concrete work for the new kitchen has finally begun.



Bible Sunday

CUDDALORE - The Sagaya Matha parish prepared for and conducted Bible Sunday. Quiz completion was given the week before for all the faithful from Exodus and Acts of the Apostles. On Saturday, the children were divided into three groups according to their age and given a memory test. Fr. Lawrence, SdC and Fr.



Anandhan, SdC were the judges. Children memorized the Word of God and also delivered it with a project. People carrying Bibles led the procession before Mass. With the help of catechism teachers and children there was a Bible exhibition. The children acted out the Bible starting from Adam and Eve to Christ the King. It attracted every one. There was another quiz competition following the presentation.

Providence Provided

MADURAI - As our Founder St. Guanella said,

when we trust the providence of God, He will provide for us. During the rainy season our children walk on muddy roads which causes them to become sick. As a community we decided to find a local source of BLOCK



PAVERS. Fr. L. Anandham was requested to lay the paving blocks from St. Guanella Karunai Illam to our community residence. He accepted the request and set out to do something for these

special children. He himself took the initiative to collect resources from his friends and completed the work for our children. On September 5th the new PAVING BLOCK pathway was inaugurated, blessed and officially opened for the children's use by Fr. L. Anandham. On behalf of the Provincial superior and all the fathers of our congregation, we extended our heartfelt thanks and prayers to Rev. Fr. L. Anandham and his friends for their valuable contribution for the betterment of our special children.

Inauguration of 2017 - 2018 Academic Year

HO CHI MINH - The inauguration took place on September 9th. Fr. John Ty (Ex. Salesian Provincial) celebrated the Mass and gave a wonderful homily on the formation of young people. It was the first time he celebrated Mass at our House. He shared his personal testimony of being a provincial during tough stages in Vietnamese history. His homily inspired all the students. After Mass we ate dinner and enjoyed a cultural program performed by our new students.

This year we are blessed with 10 new students who wanted to discover the beauty of a Guanellian religious vocation. May the Providence of God continue to guide and protect the Guanellians in Vietnam.



Outreach of Guanellian Cooperators



MANILA - On September 16th, the Guanellian Lay Cooperators organized an Outreach Program for the beneficiaries of Guanella Home. After Holy Mass presided by Fr. Battista, Servants of Charity local superior, the Guanellian Cooperators and the special children proceeded to the Guanella Center for a short program, where most of our children performed their dances and songs. Thank you to our Guanellian Cooperators who are consistently supporting the activities of the Servants of Charity and Guanella Center.



Sportsfest 2k17

MANILA - September 12th marked the day when Sportsfest 2k17 started. The program was held at Guanella Center with an opening prayer led by Fr. Battista, Servants of Charity local superior, and opening remarks given by Br. Michael Adlaon chairman of the sports committee. This event was basically organized for strengthening relationships and learning the true art of sportsmanship.



The cheer dance competition was held that same day. Sr. Gladys, GC social worker, Mr. Marvin Lava, SpEd teacher and Mrs. Alrene, vice supervisor of Guanella Home were the judges of the completion. The four teams competed and aimed for the top spot, but in the end Team Prudence was proclaimed champion and followed by Team Fortitude, then Team Temperance and finally Team Justice.



The seminarians continued to compete in games like basketball, volleyball, and football. The competition was getting a little bit stiff and rigid, and yet they didn't forget the true purpose of this event: to strengthen brotherhood and to play and win for the Glory of God.



100 years of Catholic Education

E. PROVIDENCE - Sacred Heart School opened its doors in 1917. The Sacred Heart School community wanted to make 2017 a celebratory year to remember!



To kick off our centennial celebration, an open house was hosted at the school on September 9th. It was wonderful to witness alumni reuniting and reminiscing about their days at Sacred

Heart School. A beautiful Mass followed at Sacred Heart Church with Bishop Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of the Diocese of Providence, as the main celebrant. Fr. Silvio, Fr. Peter, Fr. David Green, and Fr. John Unsworth concelebrated Mass. Fr. Green and Fr. Unsworth attended Sacred Heart School! Philip Desrosiers, Sacred Heart School's Music Specialist, and the Sacred Heart School Chorus provided the music for our special Mass. About 215 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered at Venus de Milo Restaurant for a memorable evening of dinner, dancing, and spending time with friends. Sr. Nancy, Sr. Andrea, Sr. Margaret Mary, Sr. Cathy, and Sr. Mercy were in attendance. It was a wonderful way to celebrate this special milestone.

Car Show Raises Funds and Fun

CHELSEA - Beautiful weather and beautiful cars were the topic of the day at the 5th Annual St. Louis Center Car Show held on Sunday, September 17, 2017. An estimated 125 classic cars, new cars and everything in-between traveled to the rolling grounds of St. Louis Center, in Chelsea, MI as their owners drove in to enjoy the atmosphere and polish up their cars and trucks. They all hoped



to impress the judges who would seek out the top 25 winners, along with several "Best of" categories. Car owners and spectators arrived to the beat of music from the 50's and 60's played by DJ Jerry Martell, and a 65 ft. long fire truck with a ladder owned by Brad George of Alanson, MI that was proudly flying the American flag.

This year's judges were headed by Jean Jennings, former editor-in-chief of Automobile Magazine, who headed a group of seven other automotive experts to evaluate the entries. A local radio station from Ann Arbor was also on hand for a live remote broadcast in the afternoon, and the "Best-in-Show" winner was a 1957 Chrysler 300C owned by Wayne Kutschinski of Ann Arbor.

Residents Taken Out to the Ball Game

CHELSEA - The Detroit Tigers Foundation provides game tickets to special fans during the course of every baseball season, and this year the residents of St. Louis Center were able to enjoy a major league ball game at the end of the season on the evening of Saturday, September 23rd. SLC received 40 tickets to enable residents and staff to attend the game against the Minnesota Twins, who defeated the Tigers that night by a score of 10 - 3. Sometimes, the score isn't as important as the opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere at a major league ball park with other fans and to eat pizza, nachos and sausages. In the end, everyone had a great time.



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USA Assembly

CHELSEA - The canonical visit of the major superiors and assembly of the USA communities was long anticipated and enriching for our lives and mission as Guanellians. The USA assembly was held September 25th-26th in the community in Chelsea, MI. The day began



with the encouraging words enriching thoughts and enlightening reflection of Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior. He guided the assembly with his reflection on the theme of the upcoming 20th General Chapter "Charism, Interculturality and Prophecy". He referenced the Constitutions Nos: 62, 64 and 80 to make it clear that our mission is always growing and moving which is evident here in the USA with the new project currently underway. The members of the assembly shared their thoughts about how to actualize the theme of the upcoming chapter in their lives and mission as Guanellians. Fr. Silvio De Nard presented the report of

the growth of the communities, challenges and proposals for the future and compared the concluding remarks of the previous year assembly with the current year. He concluded last year's report insisting upon closing of the Guanellian presence in USA except in Chelsea. This year he highlighted his reflection and recommendation of how we should expand our mission. The members of the assembly appreciated the presentation and many more new thoughts presented for the envisioning of our continued presence. Fr. Gustavo thanked the community for their innovative and comprehensive way of helping the people with special needs. The assembly was a time of prayer and reflection, sharing of thoughts and envisioning the future.

St. Louis Guanella Village Progress

CHELSEA - The progress at St. Louis Guanella Village in St. Louis Center continues, as construction on each of the four children's homes continues. The finish work is being done on the interior now, and photographs show different stages of completion, as houses 2, 3 and 4 are all progressing from the pattern that was created from house #1. Windows have been installed in each of the homes, along with the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), as the cooler fall weather began to take hold in Michigan this week.



October Calendar of Events

- 1 **St. Therese of the Child Jesus**
Legazpi: Dinner for a Cause to Benefit HKSF
- 4 **St. Francis of Assisi**
- 7 **Our Lady of the Rosary**
Chelsea: Taste of Chelsea to Benefit SLC
- 9-13 **Bangalore:** Inter-Novitiate Program - GPN
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 14 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
- 14-15 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 17-19 **Bangalore:** Inter-Novitiate Program - GPN
- 18 **St. Luke, Evangelist**
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 22 **Grass Lake:** Founder's Feast Celebration - PUSJ
- 24 **St. Louis Guanella**
- 25 **Anniversary of the Beatification of St. Louis Guanella**
- 28 **Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles**

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 **Fr. 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? Email the Communications and Community Relations Office at: news@servantsofcharity.org