

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Mary, "Memory of the Church"

The month of May is a season of growth, when nature is reborn. It is the time when the earth bursts forth fresh foliage and green grass after the stern frost and snow of winter; the raw atmosphere; the wild wind and rain of the early spring; it is the season when the blossoms are upon the trees and the flowers are in the gardens. It is the time when the days get long, the sun rises early and sets late. With such gladness and joyousness of nature, it is so fitting for our Mother Church to make this month a special and significant season of renewal and rejuvenation for her faithful through devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary who is the pure threshold of divine relationship.

God willed both: to reveal Himself to man and to give him the grace of being able to welcome the revelation in faith. The desire to know and love God is a gift. It is a reflection of the mystery of the divine relationship of the Holy Trinity, a divine communion of persons. The uncreated Persons of the Trinity willed to make communion with the human, the created persons of their image and likeness. After countless covenantal promises and break-ups, finally they found a holy threshold, the 'Blessed Virgin Mary',

to renew and re-erect the imperishable pillar of relationship with humanity through the great event 'Incarnation'. Mary's beauty is known in her fiat and total Amen. She is referred to as a "Woman of Assent and the Memory of the Church".

St. John Paul II so beautifully named Mary the 'Memory of the Church.' The Church, as Mary, is Virgin and Mother. She is the model, the mother, and the personal summa of the Church. Mary's fiat is the nexus whereby all mankind is able to give consent to the influx of the communion of the Trinity. Time and eternity hinged on this maiden's 'Yes' to the communion of grace and holiness, which made her the 'Woman of Assent.' She is also the 'fullness of grace' that is the plenitude of Trinitarian communion. She is the daughter of the Father, mother of the Son, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Understanding these divine privileges in the life of blessed mother Mary, St. Louis Guanella surrendered both of his Congregations unto her care and protection. He initiated all his religious ministries upon his strong trust in the Providence of God and unshakable devotion to the Mother of Divine Providence, Blessed Mary. Enjoying her motherly kindness and guidance, St. Louis Guanella has beautifully written a book dedicated to her 'In the Month of Flowers.' In his writing he has strongly exhorted his followers 'to adorn ourselves with the holy virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to embrace her footsteps to enjoy divine communion with the Holy Trinity.

Fr. Guanella had strong affection and disposition towards Mary. Sharing the same family spirit and devotion, we also need to frame our religious life upon the style and surrender of Mary.

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*"Hail Mary,
Full of Grace,
the Lord is with
Thee ..."*

As we happily prepare to celebrate the priestly ordination anniversary day of our holy Founder, it is more fitting for us to imbibe the spiritual nourishments of our founder for our holy priesthood. Our priestly life based on the virtues of Blessed Virgin Mary would be the most precious gift and honor for him. If our mere life would become a convincing witness and message, than our words as that of our Founder.

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May is normally part of the Easter season, the period of fifty days which lasts from Easter to Pentecost. The Easter season is a fitting time to recall Mary's immense joy over her Son's Resurrection and to rediscover her role as mother and teacher in our lives. Mary has a unique role in God's plan of salvation and in the Church. She consented to the coming of the Savior and cooperated in developing His mission. She brought Him into the world, raised Him and lovingly stood by His side during the years of His hidden life. She supported Him during His public ministry in a quiet way, beginning at Cana, where by her intercession Jesus performed His first miracle. She cooperated in His work, even uniting her own suffering with that of her Son, standing at the foot of His cross. Mary was Jesus' first disciple, humbly following Him during every step of His journey and mission. She trusted in God completely and lived by His grace. She is our model of true discipleship and of complete faith.

The Blessed Virgin Mary offered the disciples her prayers, motherly care, and witness. She continues to

offer us her motherly love and intercession. During this month of May, let us rediscover her maternal role in each of our lives. Let us offer our spiritual mother our sincere prayers, that just as she aided the first Apostles with her prayers, she may also guide and intercede for us in our journey of faith. Let us learn from her how to love and trust God completely and how to be faithful witnesses of the Risen Lord.

Fr. Soosai Rathanam.

May Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 5 **Chennai:** DPP Skype Meeting
- 8-13 **Mysore:** Annual Retreat
- 13 **Bangalore:** First Profession of DSMP Novices
- 14 **Kumbakonam:** Parish Feast Day Mass- Our Lady of Providence Church
- 26 **Chennai:** Renewal of Vows - DGMS
- 30 **Bangalore:** Entrance to Novitiate - GPN
- 31 **Bangalore:** First Religious Profession - GPN

The Joy of Love By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

In a landmark document, Pope Francis has called for the Catholic Church to revamp its response to modern family life, striking a delicate balance between a more accepting tone towards homosexual people and the defense of traditional church teachings on issues such as abortion.

In the document entitled *The Joy of Love*, Pope Francis outlined his vision for the church on family issues, urging priests to respond to their communities without mercilessly enforcing church rules. He wrote, "Each country or region, moreover, can seek solutions better suited to its culture and sensitive to its traditions and local needs".

The apostolic exhortation concludes a two-year consultation that saw bishops gather twice in Rome to debate issues affecting the world's 1.2 billion Catholics.

In comments likely to be welcomed by some organizations, Francis urged the church to "reaffirm that every person, regardless of sexual orientation, ought to be respected in his or her dignity and treated with consideration, while every sign of unjust discrimination is to be carefully avoided, particularly any form of aggression and violence."

But the pope stopped short of pushing for a change in church doctrine. Same-sex unions, for example, may not simply be equated with marriage. Such families should be given respectful pastoral guidance, so that those who manifest a homosexual orientation can receive the assistance they need to understand and fully carry out God's will in their lives.

Following lengthy debate about the role in the church for remarried divorcees, who are not allowed to take Holy Communion, Francis did not call for the rules to be changed but said such parishioners must be made to feel part of the church. They should not be confined into overly rigid classifications leaving no room for a suitable personal and pastoral discernment. Divorce was described as an evil that priests should help Catholics avoid, while being understanding towards those whose marriages have broken down.

This document shows something has changed in the church discourse. Pope Francis speaks about families with a clarity that is not easy to find in the magisterial documents of the church. In an era of global crisis in which families often suffer, the exhortation takes a positive look at the beauty of married love and the family.



The broader document saw Pope Francis recognize the Catholic Church's waning appeal to young people, urging churchmen to present a more appealing view of marriage. I think of St. Valentine's Day. In some countries, commercial interests are quicker to see the potential of this celebration than the leaders of the church. When I was a kid in Sicily, I used to bring flowers to all the girls of the neighborhood, whether I liked them or not. It was just a sign of respect and admiration

The Pope also dedicated two pages to the erotic dimension of love within marriage, promoting a positive vision of sexuality which must be seen as a gift from God that enriches the relationship of the spouses.

The Pope voiced the Church's opposition to abortion in all circumstances. No alleged right to one's own body can justify a decision to terminate that life. He also showed no opening towards fertility treatment, describing creation as something which must be received as a gift and suggested infertile couples to adopt babies or children who need parents.

Much hurt and many problems result when we stop looking at one another, listing a string of common

complaints of family members feeling invisible or uncared for. Technology affects relationships, such as when people stay on their mobile phones during meal times. The fast pace of the online world is impacting people's approach to relationships. They believe, along the lines of social networks, that love can be connected or disconnected at the whim of the consumer, and the relationship quickly blocked.

Dear Confreres, we were loved even before our parents dreamed of us. This love fills us with joy. The joy of being loved by God, family and friends. The joy of belonging to a Church that accompanies us with the Sacraments from birth to death. The joy of one day being called by God and seeing Him face to face as He is and do the same with our beloved who have gone ahead of us or will join us later on. Sometimes joy is mixed with tears: in this way we imitate Christ who suffered, died and rose from the dead to restore our real joy. In this beautiful month of May, I pray that we all experience the joy of love while pondering how much we love and how much we are loved whether it is human love or divine love.

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Guanellian Presence on Tanzanian Soil

Fr. Furaha Ntasamaye, a young diocesan priest in Tanzania, through his own initiative scoured Europe to obtain substantial contributions to help care for almost 250 disabled girls and boys in a very vast region of West Tanzania.

This is the first Guanellian settlement in this beautiful country. The photos show the opening day celebrations.

Gerò Lombardo, German Guanellian Procure



Fr. Furaha, Fr. Luigi diGiambattista, Fr. Giancarlo Frigerio, Most Rev. Bishop Evaristus Chengula, Fr. Maximus Sagualla from Nigeria

Study Center Inaugurated

CHENNAI - The Divine Providence Province in India inaugurated a Structured Guanellian Study Center March 3rd. During the inaugural ceremony Fr.



Soosai, Provincial Superior, narrated the significance and benefits of the center in India. He also exhorted the confreres and young scholastics to educate themselves and to infuse their lives

with the spirit of the Founder. Fr. Francis, coordinator of the Center, explained the purpose and objectives: to know the Founder, to preserve Guanellian traditions and to live the spirit and charism in our Context today. To memorialize the inauguration, a precious manuscript of our Holy Founder was presented by Fr. Fabio Pallota from Spain to be archived at Guanellian Study Center, India.

Evening School Annual Day

CUDDALORE - March 6th was a special day for the children from St. Joseph's Evening School. To close the Academic Year they had a grand valedictory function with many events: skill development competitions, prize



distributions, cultural and dinner. The celebration was headed by Fr. Visuwasam, and Fr. Assisi. The students were very happy and felt at home in the Guanellian atmosphere. To keep improving the evening school program, an assessment of this Academic Year and its objectives was conducted. With its guidance there were some concrete proposals and suggestions to implement in the coming years.

Lenten Pilgrimage

KUMBAKONAM - The priests, sisters and parishioners of Divine Providence Parish went on a pilgrimage during Lent. Early Saturday morning, April 1st, the pilgrims departed in two buses heading for Kalpattu. Upon arrival, they ate breakfast and prayed the Way of the Cross. Mass was celebrated at St. Paul the Hermit's Church before journeying towards Villianur. At the Immaculate Sister's Convent, the sisters provided the pilgrims with a meal before going to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine for personal prayer and the Rosary. The next stop of the spiritual journey was at Sacred Heart Church for an opportunity to purchase Holy articles such as Rosaries,



rings and prayer books.

Cuddalore Silver Beach was chosen for an evening in nature and a meditative walk. After relaxing at the beach, the pilgrims

headed toward home stopping in Meensurutti for tea and vadai. Through the intercession of St. Paul the Hermit and Our Lady of Lourdes, it was a joyful and spiritual experience for all of the pilgrims.

Guanellian Charism School

CUDDALORE - The Guanellian Charism School of the Divine Providence Province for 2017 was held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Samupillai Nagar, April 3-7th. The theme of the year is "Come, Let Us Go to the Roots." The school was inaugurated with the prayer service conducted by the minor seminarians. Thereafter the purpose and objectives of the Guanellian Study Centre and charism school was narrated and explained. It is mainly to "Know the Founder," to "Preserve the



Guanellian Tradition” and to “Live the Spirit and Charism” in our context today. The major themes that were discussed in the charism school dealt with the death of Don Guanella, Mother Marcellina Bosatta and the DSMP's, Ven. Aurelio Bacciarini, the successors of Don Guanella and the Guanellian Mission, and the Process of Beatification and Canonization of St. Guanella. On the last day of the Charism school, there was a day of Lenten pilgrimage to our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and leisure program in the amusement park at Villiyanur, Pondicherry.

The Charism School was a memorable one for all the participants of the Province. It was an enriching program for all the young Guanellians to educate themselves deeply with the spirit of our Founder. It enabled every individual to renew and revitalize their Guanellian commitment and consecration. Finally, our thanks to the Provincial Superior and his Council for their efforts at equipping the Province with Guanellian enlightenment.

Towards Sanctification of the Soul

BANGALORE - Recollection is a time to build up our personality and Spirituality. Individuality is assembled with all the little pieces collected from the past and through in depth spiritual reflection. Therefore, the past can help us to bring changes in our lives for the spiritual enrichment. The body and soul are inseparably united, the purification of which is essentially demanded of us as Christians. While the inner spirit is revived, both soul



and body are cleansed of all stains of sin. To achieve this goal, St. Guanella Mercy Church planned a Recollection on April 2nd for the Guanellian Lay Movement and parishioners. Fr. Benson, SdC, was invited as preacher, motivating the group with his Spiritual sessions by making them realize their journey of life and prompted each to come closer to God. During Eucharistic

Adoration in a special way people praised and thanked God. Meanwhile, they were meditating and preparing themselves for Confession, the most important Spiritual activity to prepare them for Holy Week and peaceful participation in the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. The day ended with the solemn Eucharistic Mass celebrated by Fr. Gnanraj, Rector and Superior of the GPN Community. The faithful had a fruitful experience through this Spiritual event.

Annual Spiritual Exercise

CHENNAI - Come away to a Deserted Place by yourselves and rest for a while,” Mk: 6:31. According to St. Louis Guanella, “The enrichment of one’s



consecrated life is met through diagnosing the health of body, mind and soul through ‘annual spiritual exercises’, and it is a promising Way to Holiness”. Therefore, the Divine Providence Province offered the Annual Spiritual Exercises ‘17 for all priestly confreres in order to enrich their Religious Consecration. So that all confreres could participate, the Retreat was held on two different occasions. It was the choice of the confreres and the decision of superiors to shuffle their members according to the needs and requirements of the community. The preachers were Fr. Jesu, SVD; and Fr. Soosairaj, SJ. The retreat created a suitable ambience to rest in God, renew the soul in the Holy Spirit and project for a better religious life.

Holy Celebrations

BANGALORE - St. Guanella Mercy Church celebrated Holy week in a prayerful manner. It was more meaningful that the entire community participated with great joy and enthusiasm throughout the events during Lent. The Way of the Cross was organized and led weekly by each different group. Each day of Holy Week was planned and executed in a way that set a bench mark for us. Both

Tamil and English Masses were well attended. Mass of the Lord's Supper and washing of the feet went well. On Good Friday the confreres, Cooperators, GLM and parishioners enacted the passion of Christ as a live Skit,



touching many hearts. The scene at Calvary could be visualized by everyone who participated. Veneration of the Holy Cross followed in a service combining Tamil and English. The Easter Vigil was solemnly celebrated by the presenting of the Resurrection in an imaginative way, with thunder our Lord rose in Glory. The faithful reacted by singing the Gloria. The house was decorated beautifully with lights and flowers for this glorious occasion. After Mass we shared Easter eggs, cake and milk.

Vision and Mission

MYSORE - Retreat reminds us to refresh ourselves. It was a time for all of us to wait and look to our past and gain strength for the future that God enfolds to us. On April 24th, the Philosophy students and Regency Brothers gathered for retreat at Preethiya Sevkaru. The five-day retreat, was led by Fr. Chandra Nevis, SdC. He enlightened us with his Biblical knowledge, use of current technology, and healing and popular devotions of our Founder. When the retreat ended, the brothers departed to their communities with faith filled hearts and strength. They also expressed their sincere thanks to Fr. Benson, Rector of the Minor Seminary, for his hospitality and support throughout the retreat.



There is no End to Charity



BANGALORE - "Until there are no longer poor and neglected to be assisted there is no end to our charity," this is an inspiring quote from our Founder that motivates every Guanellian. The Cooperators and Lay members in Bangalore are working towards experiencing the true Guanellian spirit. Following their mission experience in Nazareth Illam, they spent a day at Don Guanella Aged home which cares for abandoned elderly men. The day was spent with the



Grandpa's grooming them, chatting with them, feeding them and cleaning their worship space. It is absolutely true that you can only understand the feelings of others when you spend time with them. As a regular practice we gather for an hour of Adoration on the last Sunday of every month, helping to spiritually nourish the Grandpa's. Most Saturdays the members volunteer to do service. These Good Samaritan acts by the Cooperators and Lay members' draws the attention of their family and friends who are awestruck by the service and in turn wins many good hearts that come forward to support the mission.

Aspirants' Retreat

MANILA - April 3rd-8th, the aspirants of the Servants of Charity went on a week-long retreat. On the last day, the seminarians, Fr. Charlton, Fr. Loyola and Bro. Mauro went to Pangasinan for a pilgrimage and to visit



the Archbishop of Lingayen, Dagupan His Excellency Socrates Villegas. For the seminarians, it was indeed a very good way to end a meaningful retreat. It was also a great privilege to hear words of advice from the bishop and to hear him share about his vocation story.

Feast Day of Blessed Clare Bosatta

MANILA - The feast day of Blessed Clare Bosatta was



celebrated at Holy Family, the house of the Guanellian sisters, in Fairview and attended by the priests, brothers, seminarians and sisters of the

Guanellian family. The celebration began by praying the liturgy of the hours, followed by the celebration of Holy Mass. Fr. Battista, who was the main presider, focused his homily on the life of Blessed Clare and how she fervently wanted to help other people. The evening ended with a dinner shared by the Guanellian family. The real



reason for the celebration was not forgotten, Blessed Clare who with humility and courage followed the ways of the Lord.

Way of the Cross

MANILA - The Way of the Cross this year was a bit different than past years. For this year, they related the events to modern daily life circumstances so that the people could understand more genuinely what Christ's Passion means for each of us. On April 12th, the way of the cross was held in the different areas of the servants of charity compound. The event was presented by the



Guanellian Youth Ministry (GYM), Guanellian Altar Servers' Guild, Guanellian Oratorio Ministry, some from the Guanellian Lectors and Commentators and the seminarians. Though not trained actors, they effectively portrayed the beauty of Christ's sacrifice. The goal of the presentation was achieved, and the audience deeply understood the Lord's loving sacrifice for us. Fr. Charlton Viray congratulated everyone who participated and those who exerted efforts that made the event a successful one.

St. Louis Center Welcomes State Rep

CHELSEA - The State of Michigan and SLC work together to care for a small number of the State's most vulnerable children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As such, it's important for SLC to have a positive working relationship with its local elected officials who work in the State Capital. On Friday, April 7th, newly elected State Representative Donna Lasinski (D- 52), visited SLC with her son, Jack, to see for herself what SLC was all about. Following a one hour tour, Rep. Lasinski and her son enjoyed lunch with the Servants of Charity and then took a tour of the St. Louis Guanella Building site. The visit was a positive opportunity to create a working relationship with our new state representative, and to provide her with a working knowledge of SLC's plans for the future.



Students Perform at St. Louis Center

CHELSEA - On Tuesday, April 18th, Music Director Steven Hinz from Chelsea High School brought his group of renowned performers known as "Company C" to SLC to perform a 40 minute set of upbeat pop music to entertain the residents. This was the third time that the dance/performance group has been to SLC, and the residents thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Priests of the 4th Degree

CHELSEA - Three recent additions to the Servants of Charity team of priests in Michigan have made a fast rise through the ranks of the Knights of Columbus organization. On Wednesday, April 19th, Fr. Amalorpavanathan Rayapillai, Fr. Franklin Michaelirudayanathan, and Fr. Leo Joseph Xavier all completed their "Journey to Knighthood" by joining the patriotic 4th Degree of the Knights at a special



ceremony held for priests and religious in Portland, MI. Each priest was excited to join the Knights, and hope that one day they can bring this type of lay enthusiasm to their home country of India.

Stante Excavation to the Rescue

CHELSEA - A previous construction project at St. Joseph Hall on the campus of St. Louis Center led to the unintended consequence of water leaking into the basement and creating a hazardous situation in the lower level of the building. On Wednesday, April 19th, Mario Stante and his crew from Stante Excavation



lent a hand and their heavy equipment to remediate the problem by creating a new drainage system in the back of the building using boulders and gravel that will improve runoff during Michigan's heavy spring rains. As always, we are grateful to Stante Excavation for their help and support.

Men Making a Difference

CHELSEA - The third annual Randazzo Men's Social Fundraiser held on Thursday, April 27th was another huge success, as the event continues to grow larger with each passing year. This year, over 150 men (and a handful of women), were present to enjoy a choice selection of Italian food, adult beverages, and a cigar or two. Most importantly, the people in attendance knew they were there to support a great cause; St. Louis Center in Chelsea, MI. Special thanks to Sonny and Nino Randazzo who provided the location and much of the food and wine for the event, along with the Tocco Family who was also behind the organization of this event; encouraging many of their friends in the area to attend. Fr. Enzo Addari joined Sonny Randazzo and Jack Tocco, Jr. in thanking the men in attendance for their support.





Village Progress Continues

CHELSEA - Here in Michigan, we were finally able to say goodbye to our cold winter weather during the month of April, and an explosion of activity took place in the creation of St. Louis Guanella Village. Because of all of the preparation work that had been done, the first children's home began going up fast during the third week of the month, as exterior and interior walls were built on top of the foundation, and roofing materials were added to the roof joists. The foundation was poured for the second home, and tangible results can now be seen on a daily basis.

May Calendar of Events

- 1 **St. Joseph the Worker**
- 3 **Sts. Philip and James**
- 8-14 **Kumbakonam:** Parish Parochial Feast
- 11 **Chelsea:** Guanellian Cooperators Meeting - SLC
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 13 **Our Lady of Fatima**
Chelsea: Vocational Retreat for Boys - SLC
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
- 13-14 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 14 **Bangalore:** Recollection for GLM and Cooperators - prepare for renewal of promise
- 19 **Grass Lake:** St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 22-27 **Bangalore:** Retreat for Novices
- 25 **The Ascension of the Lord**
- 26 **Anniversary of the Ordination of St. Louis Guanella (1866)**
- 27 **Anniversary of the Birth of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1858)**
- 28 **Anniversary of the Baptism of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1858)**
Kumbakonam: First Holy Communion
- 30 **Bangalore:** Entrance into Novitiate
- 31 **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Anniversary of the First Mass of St. Louis Guanella (1866)
Bangalore: First Religious Profession of Novices and Renewal of Pledges/Promises of GLM/GC

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. Maria Paul:** birthday
- 3 **Fr. James:** feast day
- 4 **Bro. Vinnarasan:** birthday; **Fr. Arul Raj, Fr. Felicks, Fr. Gnanaraj:** ordination day

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

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- 5 **Fr. Jayasoosai:** birthday
- 6 **Bro. Adornaldo Jacob:** birthday
- 8 **Bro. Rajesh Kumar:** birthday; **Fr. Enzo Addari:** ordination day
- 13 **Fr. Bernandes, Bro. John Baptist Hoang Luong Nguyen, Nov. Philip Victor A:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. David J.:** birthday; **Fr. David Stawasz:** ordination day
- 16 **Fr. David Anburaj, Bro. Arockia Vanathaiyan:** birthday
- 19 **Fr. Ligori, Fr. Visuvasam:** ordination day
- 21 **Fr. Felicks, Nov. Melvin Raj S:** birthday
- 22 **Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe:** birthday
- 24 **Fr. Charlton Viray, Fr. Johndass:** birthday; **Fr. Sagayaraj:** feast day
- 25 **Bro. Jerome Victor A.:** birthday
- 26 **Fr. Dennis Weber:** birthday; **Fr. Eduardo Cerbito:** ordination day
- 27 **Fr. Robert Arockiam, Fr. John Peter.:** birthday
- 28 **Bro. Maria Antony Rajan:** birthday
- 30 **Fr. John Kennedy A.:** birthday