

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Divine Providence and Our Providence

The month of November for the Catholic Church is special because the militant church commemorates its relationship with the triumphant church and the penitent church through the celebration of All Saints Day and All Souls Day. These two celebrations remind us of the temporality and the eternity of human existence. In other words they reiterate our fundamental vocation as Christians to become holy or saintly. Be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect. (Mt 5,48)

This month gives us, Guanellians additional privilege and joy since we celebrate the feast of the mother of Divine Providence. It is very evident from the life of our founder that the concept of Divine Providence was very close to his heart that he named his autobiography The Ways of Providence, that he named the first institution House of Divine Providence, that he called the bulletin of that house The Divine Providence and named the sisters the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence.

In general Divine Providence would mean that God governs and directs everything and therefore the entire universe is under His control. Moreover even when things go wrong, he can straighten up the crooked designs of human beings (Saul becoming Paul, the story of

Joseph in the Old Testament) and produce good out of the bad which human minds design. Personally one can think of Divine Providence in terms of his existence, his family, his education and well-being etc.

Our founder does not stop with this idea of Divine Providence as God's intervention in one's life. He moves further to assert that human cooperation is a must to avail this gift: "It is God who does; we are only instruments in the hands of God". He recommended his followers to merit Divine Providence through trust, work and sacrifice. For example, he was fully convinced that Divine Providence and poverty go hand in hand: "if you want to weaken the institution, let it become rich, to live in much poverty and to entrust ourselves completely to Divine Providence is a virtue of high perfection". Divine Providence means human charity too: when the fortunate helps the unfortunate, the haves hold up the have-nots, when the healthy accompany the crippled.

Providence does not mean looking at the roof and waiting for some treasure from nowhere, it is doing what one can in his concrete situation: "If a man limits himself to be a zero, he is nothing and will never do anything. If instead he tries to be something, he does whatever he can, he becomes a positive reality, after all he has only to ask Providence to add one zero, two zeros, three zeros to his small number and immediately the small things become large". As members of the Divine Providence Province with a lot of energy and enthusiasm, youthfulness and vitality, let us inculcate this teaching and exhortation of our founder in our minds and hearts: you try to provide first with what you are, what you have

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“We are only instruments in God's hands.”

St. Louis Guanella

and God will do miracles.

I wish you fruitful celebration of the feast of the Mother of Divine Providence. On behalf of the province I extend my sincere wishes and prayers to our Guanellian sisters as they bear this name. I make this special plea for your ardent prayers (both common and personal) for the good health of our confrere Rev. Fr. Bala Yesu who is under treatment.

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior

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'Live and Let Live' - The Way to Holiness By Fr. Amal, SdC

"Holiness is one of the most beautiful gifts a human heart can offer to God." – Mother Teresa. We know well that life is a precious gift of God to all of us and what we make out of our lives is our gift to God in return. I was told that in the culture of the United States as also of India, when you go to visit a

family, never go with an empty hand. I wonder what gift we need to carry when we go to our eternal home (heaven) to our Father. We know well that we cannot carry anything but our pure soul and the good things we did here on earth. We fatigue a lot to earn so many things just to leave them to others as the proverb says "When he dies he will carry nothing away"

(49;17). Each one must now reflect what gift we will be carrying to our Father once we are done with our pilgrimage here on earth. What good do we possess or cultivate? Humility? Forgiveness? Patience? Love? Charity? Kindness? Sharing with the needy? Endurance in suffering? What is the gift that I will present to God?

We begin this month remembering and honoring our ancestors who lived before us and returned to the Father. November 1st, we honor All Saints and November 2nd, we commemorate All the Faithful Departed. St. Bernard says the lives of the saints assure us that holiness is possible, they teach us by their lives and their writing how to serve God, and they can intercede for us when we need God's help. Honoring the saints and millions of others who have tried to live a good and holy life, including those who have fallen along the way, but who have gotten up and kept on going. Saints are people who lived their lives according to the design of God and helped others also live their lives well. When we live our life fully and help others as to live well, then we become holy ones in the eyes of God.



Live: Whether we know it or not, we all have a vision for our lives. We all have a philosophy that sets out how we want to live and what we want to accomplish. It's this vision that guides many of our decisions and actions. At the heart of our vision is the desire to do what makes us happy. As we mature, our vision gets refined and sharpened. It also becomes increasingly selfless. Our life is not just made of what this world has to offer us. Remember that we are the children of God and that heaven is our true home. We need to tell ourselves that we are more than our job, our skills, our wealth or education. We are precious to God and He delights in us. This is the call to live our life fully, meaningfully and joyfully.

Let Live: As we journey on earth God is asking us to love our neighbor as a commandment. God asks us to take the risk for the sake of His people. Our Founder, St. Louis Guanella, and Mother Theresa didn't try to solve all of the world's problems: they simply lived their life in radical service and love of their neighbor. Hindus, Muslims, and Christians alike saw in them a role model. They invite us to let others live with a simple program of life, "Spread



love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. At the end of life, we are going to be judged on the basis of our love for one another." Fr. Guanella invites his followers to attain holiness with this simple program of life, "in doing our daily duties with love, we embrace holiness." I would like to quote a passage from The Imitation of Christ. "How

many people will remember you and pray for you once you are dead? So do all you can now, for you do not know when you will die or what you will face after death. Gain merit for eternity now while there is time and concern yourself only with your eternal salvation." (Ch. 23; 8).

Installation of Sivakasi

KRISHNAPERI - God is so gracious and showers His blessings to those who trust in Him, His arms protect us and His light leads us. The Divine Providence Province bore one more child according to God's plan. The wing of Divine Providence grows larger and larger. Jesus says, in My Father's home there are many rooms for the people likewise, there is room for everyone in the Servants of Charity especially for the special ones, God's good children and the orphans. Jesus takes the children and says unless you become little children you cannot enter the kingdom of God. Don't stop them; let the children come to Me. These words remind us to live a life pure in heart, a life of holiness. For these small ones a new community was installed at Krishnaperi.

On July 15, 2015 the Guanellians landed in Sivakasi, which belongs to the Archdiocese of Madurai, with the permission of Archbishop Antony Pappusamy, DD., STD. On that auspicious day the residence emerged with the help of Fr. S. Periyanyaga Samy, Fr. Vellington in a ceremony blessed by former Provincial Fr. Soosai Rathinam. After three years, St. Paul's Boys Home, the mission of Sivakasi took shape. On October 6th, new Provincial Fr. J. Ronald installed the community in a Holy Eucharistic celebration. During Mass, as is the tradition of our congregation, the new superior, Fr. S. Periyanyaga Samy, made a profession of faith. Father provincial assigned a new obedience to the fathers. Fr. S. Periyanyaga Samy is Superior of the community and Parish Priest of Krishnaperi mission. Fr. J. David is 1st Councilor and vice superior, administrator and director of the boys home. Fr. A. Arockia Vanathaiyan is councilor, assistant director of the boys home and assistant parish priest in Krishnaperi. Let us support the new community with your powerful prayer.



Children Celebrate Senior Citizens' Day

BANGALORE - This year was the first time in the history of the Guanella Preethi Nivas community that children prepared and celebrated World Senior Citizens' Day in a grand manner. The Senior Citizens were the shining stars of the program, well-dressed and full of smiles, as always, accompanied by the young like their grandchildren. They enjoyed singing and dancing with the children. The children also shared their love



by giving flowers and performing dances, speeches and songs for them. Fr. Adaikalam addressed the gathering, speaking about the importance of the day, being grateful to the elders and honoring them for all their life sacrifices and loving gestures. It was truly heartwarming for senior citizens experiencing the love of these eighty angelic kids. The program ended with open dance and giving snacks to the children.

Boys go to Gunadala

VATLURU - On October 9th the boys of Guanella Karunalaya went on pilgrimage to Gunadala, the Marian Shrine at Vijayawada about 60 kms away. The pilgrimage began at Sacred Heart Parish with prayer. The boys and their guides made



their journey by train. Fr. Bernandas, Fr. Christuraj, Fr. Bala and Deacon Rambabu accompanied them. The pilgrimage was a grace filled one since the boys prayed the Rosary at the shrine, Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Christuraj and the boys had a Calvary journey to reach the hill top where the Blessed Mother appeared. "The little child lets himself be gently guided by his mother's voice," St. Guanella. The boys were overjoyed to spend time with Mary.

Our Lady of the Rosary Feast

KUMBAKONAM - Guanella Nagar Parish joyfully celebrated the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary at the Jebamalaipuram substation. This substation has more than 30 Catholic families. This is the only Church dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary in the Kumbakonam Diocese. The feast began on the October 12th with Our Lady of the Rosary flag hoisted by Fr. M. Andrew, CMF, Youth and Vocation promoter, Kumbakonam. Then he celebrated Holy Mass and gave an inspiring Homily on Mother Mary and the importance of praying the Rosary. The culmination of the celebration was on October 13th. Fr. V. Soosai, Sacred Heart Hospital, Kumbakonam, celebrated Holy Mass and preached the homily. After Mass he blessed the car and the faithful prayed the Holy Rosary through the streets of Jebamalaipuram. On the following day, Fr. A. Sundar, OFM, Sivapuram, celebrated the feast day Mass with many faithful attending. In his reflection, he spoke of the current world problems and gave two solutions: the Word of God and praying the Rosary. The flag was lowered bringing the celebration to an end.



You are Unique

BANGALORE - What a wonderful thing it is to help the little ones understand how unique and beautifully they are made. On the October 14th Rainbow Brush group led by Christine, Guanellian Cooperators and GLM members organized a workshop at Guanella Preethi Nivas for the Oratory children. It was indeed a very fun filled day. The workshop began with some



warm-ups, and a little Zumba dance to pep the little ones. The children were very excited to participate and learn new moves. Christine then narrated a small story where she made the children understand how they have been made so unique and beautiful. Some lack gifts but are not to be kept aside. We are to accept them and walk together. She also told the children not to bully anyone for their appearance but we need to always look into the heart of each person which is so beautifully created by God.

After this the main part of the workshop began, coloring a giant puzzle. The children were not sure what they were coloring until each piece was put together and they could see the exact picture. The student volunteers were trained at Rainbow Brush accompanied by their parents. We also had a group of volunteers from the University who helped us to coordinate activities, to organize sumptuous snacks for the kids and to give small gifts for the children to take home.

Vocations on Vacation

CHENNAI - As the part of the program of theological formation, Don Guanella Major Seminary Brothers went on a four day vocation promotion to different parts of Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh during their semester holidays. It is the practice of the Major seminary to send brothers to encourage young boys who show an interest to become future priests. This year five



groups were organized to go, to invite and encourage the youngsters to serve the Lord through the Servants of Charity congregation. Brothers were organized in a systematic way to approach different parishes, schools and boarding schools to collect the names of the interested. After four days, the brothers returned to the seminary for their academic program. Thanks to the vocation promoter of the province and the good hearts of the seminarians who helped in this endeavor.

Celebrating the Founder

BANGALORE - The Guanella Preethi Nivas community and the parishioners began the Novena by hoisting the flag on October 14th. The inspiring words of our Founder were displayed everywhere. The Novena was conducted by the Philosophy students with

great excitement. One day of the Novena was led by the Guanellian Sisters; one day the Cooperators and GLM members conducted the Novena. It was great to see how each one made efforts to make each day a different experience. The parishioners lit candles and wrote

short prayer concluded, brothers took all the vehicles for a ride. It was a time of joy and thanking God for His care and concern in the life of farmers who completely



depend upon farming to sustain their families. The feast also reminds us that everything we use must be given respect and care.

Charity in Action

VATLURU - The rich who are financially sound with generous hearts can contribute materially to the poor but not someone who is alone and working with minimum pay.

“Charity begins at home,” is an old saying with a deep meaning. Yes, charity began in her heart, she who has no one, an unknown lady without any selfish motives approached our institute willing to contribute her savings to buy clothes for all the boys. She brought all the boys to the

down their petitions. Everyone prayed together for these intentions.

On October 21st GPN celebrated the Feast of St. Guanella with a solemn Mass at the Tent of Love on the quote of our Founder, “It is better to be poor than to be a sinner”. Parishioners, benefactors, beneficiaries, Guanellian Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, Cooperators, GLM Members and religious from other congregations participated in the Mass. Fr. Peter Sebastian was the main celebrant and Fr. Adaikalam preached the Homily. The virtues that our Founder practiced were expressed in a simple way that attracted many. The Celebration concluded by processing to the flag with lit candles and hearts aflame. Fr. Ligor lowered the flag and blessed everyone with a Relic of St. Guanella. The community was thankful for celebrating the Feast with so many faithful.



garment shop, allowed them to choose with discretion and shared her joy with them. On October 24th, the feast of our Founder, she also offered a dinner at her expense. She expressed that she felt at home, as if she was buying clothes for her own children. The words of Jesus come to mind, “I tell you the truth,” He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others,” Lk 21,4.

Remembrance of Thankfulness

CHENNAI - A traditional feast that has been celebrated throughout the centuries in India is Ayudha Pooja, (Feast of Thanksgiving). On October 22nd, the fathers and brothers of the community cleaned all the tools used for garden work, for tilling and cultivating the land, and for harvesting purposes. All of the two and four wheel vehicles were also cleaned. Fr. Samson, local superior, prayed and thanked the Lord for giving us good strength, land to work and fruits of the earth to enjoy. After the

Feast of a Saint

CHENNAI - Don Guanella Major Seminary was glad to celebrate the feast of St. Louis Guanella on October 24th. In view of the solemn feast, the flag was hoisted by the Provincial Superior on October



15th and the novena began. Each day was organized with different themes and by a different resource person of the community. Different groups animated the nine days, including the Guanellian Lay Movement, Guanellian Youth Movement, Don Guanella Special School, Don Guanella Evening School and Don Guanella Major Seminary under the direction of the community fathers. On the final day there was a solemn celebration which included the religious from neighboring communities, GLM, GYM, Beneficiaries



and other well wishers of our mission. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Provincial. After Mass a festive meal was shared with all the guests.

Conferral of Ministries

CHENNAI - On the feast day of St. Louis Guanella, October 24th, during holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Provincial Superior, three first year theology brothers received their rite of initiation, one third year brother received the rite of reader and one fourth year brother received rite of Acolyte. Fr. Provincial wished every one well and told them to be ardent servers at the table of the Lord while they serve at the altar. The celebration was a meaningful one where everyone witnessed the charism of St. Guanella through the homily of Fr. Provincial.



.....United States

Michigan DHHS Director Visits

CHELSEA - On Friday, October 5th, St. Louis Center hosted a number of dignitaries from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for a discussion on Federal funding to care for our residents with I/DD, and to tour the new Children's Homes where 15 of the State's children are being cared for. Director Nick Lyon, the Director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, (MDHHS), was accompanied by his Senior Deputy Directors, Farah A. Hanley and Dr. Herman McCall. Also

in attendance were Janet Snyder and Kadi Prout, representing the Michigan Federation for Children and Families.



Following an overview of St. Louis Guanella Village, Director Lyon took the opportunity to speak with parents and family members who were present, before stepping outside with SLC Staff to visit Fr. Guanella Hall and the new Children's Homes.

Restaurants Offer a Taste of Chelsea

CHELSEA - Chelsea's restaurant scene is as vibrant as any small town community's can be, and when everyone comes together to support a good cause like St. Louis Center, it's even more exciting when you can sample everyone's food in one place. That happened on October 6th as 21 restaurants and cafe's came together at St. Mary Catholic Church to share some of their favorite selections with the community.

According to Fr. Enzo Addari, "We had another great turnout from St. Mary Parish and the local community, and we are very grateful to the many people who continue to support these events. This year's food



showcase brought in a nice sum of money for SLC's operational budget to support the residents who live here."

Superior General Visits Michigan

CHELSEA - The Servants of Charity Community in Michigan was honored to host our Superior General, Very Rev. Umberto Brugnoli and his assistant Bro. Franco Lain, for a five-day visit from Friday, October 19th through Wednesday, October 24th. The purpose of the visit was to provide the new



leader of the Servants of Charity with an opportunity to visit St. Louis Center in Chelsea and the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake, and to assess the operations of each program and visit their new facilities. Fr. Umberto and Bro. Franco were relaxed and comfortable during their stay, and enjoyed the opportunity to visit their confreres in the United States.

Bishop Installs Pastor

CHELSEA - The Servants of Charity were honored recently with a request from Very Rev. Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing, MI to provide the Diocese with one of their priests to assist in dealing with a shortage of priests in the area. As a result, Fr. Satheesh Caniton was chosen to fill that role, and was assigned to Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Michigan Center, MI, about 15 miles southwest of SLC. On Monday, October 22nd Fr. Satheesh was installed in a formal ceremony by Bishop Boyea in



which all of the members of the local Servants of Charity Community were present, including Very Rev. Umberto Brugnoli, Superior General, and Bro. Franco Lain, 3rd General Councillor from Rome. The Mass and installation ceremonies were beautiful to behold, and a large number of parishioners from Fatima Parish along with many Guanellian Cooperators from the area were present to wish Fr. Satheesh well. Before leaving Michigan, Fr. Umberto also appointed Fr. Satheesh as the new Superior of the Michigan SdC Community.

Knights Serve Pancakes & Pumpkins

CHELSEA - Saturday, October 27th was a cold, wet day here in Michigan, but members of the Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Michigan Center warmed things up for the residents of St. Louis Center by preparing a hot breakfast of pancakes and sausage for the residents who were present that day. Along with breakfast, the Knights and their ladies brought along a shipment of bright orange pumpkins for the residents to color and take back to their rooms as Halloween was right around the corner and merely days away. The Fatima group brought markers and craft objects for the residents to decorate their pumpkins, and everyone enjoyed their weekend pancakes and pumpkins.



high-fived and then stamped their hands on paper to see the results. Fr. Leo had just as much fun as the children.

Fr. Leo at School

CHELSEA - Since Fr. Satheesh has been installed as pastor at a Diocesan parish, Fr. Leo Joseph has been named chaplain of Huron Valley Catholic School in his place. Fr. Leo has quickly found favor with parnets and students alike. He can often be seen interacting with the students and helping them with their work. In October the preschoolers were learning about color mixing. Fr. Leo dipped his hand in blue paint and a student in red. They



November Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 3 Madurai Visit
- 5 Andhra Visit
- 10-24 Visit to Italy
- 25 Krishnaperi: Parish Opening
- 28 Ambattur: Marriage Mass

November Calendar of Events

- 1 **All Saints' Day**
Bangalore: Planning for World Differently-abled Day
- 2 **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**
- 5 **Bangalore:** GLM Planning Meeting for WDD
- 9 **Dedication of the Lateran Basilica - Rome**
- 10 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
Chelsea: Fall Dinner Auction to Benefit SLC
- 11 **Bangalore:** Yoga Training for Oratory Children
- 12 **Our Lady of Divine Providence**
Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 14 **Bangalore:** Evening School Celebrates Children's Day - GPN'
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
- 21 **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Pondicherry: GC-GLM Representatives visit Provincial Chapter
- 25 **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
- 30 **St. Andrew, Apostles**
Chelsea: SLC Residents' Talent Show - WCC



Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 Fr. Praveen: birthday
- 4 Fr. Charles Promiyo, Bro. Robert J.: birthday; Fr. Charles Promiyo, Nov. Carlos Nayak N.: feast day
- 6 Fr. Peter Joseph: birthday
- 10 Fr. Leo Joseph: feast day
- 17 Fr. Enzo Addari: birthday
- 19 Bro. L. Praveen Raj: birthday
- 21 Bro. Solomon Raja: birthday
- 22 Fr. Dennis Weber: ordination day
- 23 Fr. Joseph Fernandez S.: birthday
- 25 Fr. Arulraj, Bro. Badugu Christuraj: feast day
- 26 Bro. Sachinson M.: birthday
- 27 Fr. John Peter A.: birthday
- 29 Fr. Achariyam: birthday
- 30 Fr. Adaikalam, Nov. Divya Ruban B.: birthday

Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Email the Communications and Community Relations Office at: kellyf@stlouiscenter.org

In February, the Pious Union of St. Joseph will begin sharing an email offering a Midweek Reflection. Reflections will be quotes from the Bible or by Saints offering you a moment of reflection in the midst of your week.

Interested in receiving the weekly reflection to your inbox? Please share your email address with Kelly Flaherty at kellyf@stlouiscenter.org.