

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## BE HAPPY AND MAKE OTHERS HAPPY

During this season of Christmas, in the midst of vacation by the sea shore and at beach resorts, busy shopping, decorations, lightings, greeting cards, cakes, cribs etc. there still sprouts a kind of inner joy, fraternity, piety in other words a sort of inner provocation to go to the church at least at this moment, to make the pending confession of sins, to be together at least for dinners, to do charity etc.

The entire economy of redemption is simply summed up in this feast, in these few words: *God became human that humans can become like God*; a very simple definition which contains a rather deeper meaning, which takes our entire lifetime to understand.

The thought of Christmas, the birth of God in human form determines the very essence and purpose of my life, *Who I am*: As Jesus who is called today God-Child, I too am God's child. Because I am also carved and made in the image and likeness of God. Perhaps today that godliness is tarnished and hidden and it is my responsibility to uncover that image. I was *born yesterday to be reborn*

tomorrow, I *came down* yes but to *rise up, Human* the Lord created but *divine* I need to design myself with the assistance of God.

The feast determines *What I do*. As Servants of Charity, people involved in serving the Lord who embodies Himself in persons with disabilities, in the poorest of the poor, we are demonstrating to the world the dignity of the human person or in other words, the real worth, the divinity of the person. As Joseph and Mary assisted the God-Child, we too assist the same God, in persons with disabilities.

*Merry Christmas... Merry Christmas...* we hear a lot of this greeting, which reminds us: Be happy and make others happy.

I wish all of you a fruitful preparation during Advent and joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Fr. Ronald J, SdC  
Provincial Superior

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“...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

John 1,14



### December Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Bangalore:** World Day for Persons with Disabilities
- 2 **Chennai:** World Day for Persons with Disabilities
- 4-5 **Cuddalore:** Formation for Formators and Vocation Promoters
- 6-7 **Kuzhithurai Diocese:** Opening of New Religious Residential House
- 9 **Sivagangai:** World Day for Persons with Disabilities
- 11-12 **Koppaka:** Superiors Meet - Guanella Bhavan



- 13 **Koppaka:** World Day of Persons with Disabilities - Guanella Bhavan
- 14 **Koppaka:** Evening School Children Christmas Program - Guanella Bhavan
- 18-19 **Chennai:** Tutelage Program - DGMS
- 20-22 **Mannar, Sri Lanka:** Visit to Home for Persons w/ Disabilities
- 23 **Chennai:** Evening School Children Christmas Program
- 25 **Chennai:** Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Velankanni - Besant Nagar

- 27 **Palani:** Marriage of Bro. Francis' Sister
- 28 **Andhrapradesh:** Marriage of Bro. Anil's Sister

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## Believe, Trust and Co-Operate like Mary By Fr. Amal, SdC

As soon as Thanksgiving dinner is over we are busy preparing for Christmas. Lights and decorations are everywhere, in front of the house and along the streets. The radio is broadcasting Christmas music which brings special joy to our hearts. During the season of Advent, we will hear a lot about Mary as co-redemptrix, her role in the redemption of all people. Fr. Leonardo Mazzuchi, first successor of the Founder, while describing St. Louis Guanella's devotion towards our Mother of Divine Providence underlines three particular aspects of Mary's life which is relevant for us to reflect upon. Believe, trust and co-operate. Mother Mary teaches us to believe in God, to trust in Him and to co-operate with His will in our lives.

Through her life, Mary teaches us to believe in God. Our Mother is a model of faith. By faith, Mary accepted the Angel's word and believed the message that she was to become the Mother of God in obedience to her devotion (Lk 1,38). She held God's word and His promises in reverence and based her life on them. So, though she was bewildered and unsure of all the implications of the Angel's message, her yes to God rises out of faith in Him and in His wisdom and goodness. She takes God at His word and trusts Him totally to fulfill it in her and to care for her as she gives herself over to it. She has an unerring conviction that God will honor and meet her consent with grace, help, and protection, supplying her with all she needs to carry it out. All of the expectant waiting for the Savior's coming in the Old Testament was concentrated in our Mother Mary's faith. Like Abraham, "our father in faith," Mary abandoned herself with complete trust in the Angel's announcement, thus becoming a model and mother for believers. The Virgin Mary, believed that nothing is impossible for God, and thus made it possible for the Word to come to dwell among mankind.

Mary is the model for how to trust in God's action in our life. During the Advent season Mary's "Yes!" to God reflects unconditional trust in God. It reflects the complete trust that God requires of those He chooses. It is similar to the trust Abraham showed when God

tested him with the requested sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22,2). God did not reveal all that He had in mind for Abraham, and He did not reveal the future in all its detail to Mary. She teaches us to trust in God's goodness and wisdom always, no matter how painful or hopeless a situation may seem. Our Lady experienced situations we could describe as "out of control," or at least out of her immediate control. But instead of panicking, she turned the situations over to God and trusted Him to take care of them.

Mary teaches us that beyond believing in God and trusting in His loving care, we are to co-operate with the graces that He is frequently putting into our lives. These graces are the persons whose lives touch ours. They are the events that we experience, and too often take for granted all day. Our Mother teaches us to be totally open to the Divine will "even though it is mysterious, and often does not correspond with our own wishes. It

is a sword that pierces our soul, as the elderly Simeon would say prophetically to Mary when Jesus was presented in the Temple. Her complete trust in God's faithfulness and in His promises never wavers, even when the Lord's words were difficult or apparently impossible to accept. Our weakness is not an obstacle to grace. God takes it into account; that's why He has given us

a Mother. Mary's path of faith, trust and co-operating with God although certainly different in many ways, is also similar to that of each one of us. Moments of bright light alternate with moments of darkness with respect to God's will.

Mother Mary teaches us to believe by showing us her example to see a Divine purpose in whatever occurs in our lives. She recognized that we are so slow to see God's divinely ordained purpose in every person, every event, every joy, and every pain that we experience. Like Mary, co-redemptrix of all people, let us strengthen our faith and trust in God and cooperate in His Divine will that our preparation for Christmas may become fruitful.



New Assignments in Divine Providence Province

- Fr. Dennis Weber, SdC: Provincial Treasurer
Fr. Alphonse Satheesh Caniton, SdC: Provincial Councilor & Provincial Secretary, Superior of Chelsea Community, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Church
Fr. David Stawasz, SdC: First Councilor, Director of Medical Services at SLC.
Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC: Councilor, In-charge of Cooperators, Collaborator at PUSJ and Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC: Councilor, Administrator of SLC, Treasurer of the Community
Fr. Leo Joseph, SdC: Councilor, Director of PUSJ
Fr. R. Amalorpavanathan, SdC: Councilor, Spiritual Animator of SLC
Fr. M. Franklin, SdC: Councilor, Assistant Administrator of SLC
Fr. John Kennedy, SdC: Administrator of Preethiya Sevakaru, Mysore
Fr. Peter Sebastian, SdC: Superior of Cuddalore Community
Fr. M. Periyamayagam, SdC: Councilor and Vice-Rector of DGMS, Chennai.
Rev. Bro. Paul Dinakaran: Coordinator of Vocation Promotion and Administrator of Provincialate, Chennai.
Fr. M. John Paul, SdC: Residence In-charge and Parish Priest of Kanjiracode, Kuzhithurai
Fr. R. Antony Xaviour, SdC: Councilor and Assistant Parish Priest of Kanjiracode in the Diocese of Kuzhithurai
Fr. L. Mathias, SdC: Councilor to Cuddalore Community and Collaborator at St. Joseph Seminary, Cuddalore
Fr. M. Loyola Diraviam, SdC: Councilor to Cuddalore Community and Collaborator at Don Guanella Boys Home, Cuddalore

India

Educational Tour



BANGALORE - Don Guanella Oratory children went on an educational tour on October 28th. These slum children were so excited to go on a tour; they boarded the bus smiling. The first stop was "HAL Aerospace museum". The guide explained to the children about the growth and achievements of the institute, "Hindustan Aeronautic Limited" which began in 1940. She passionately shared how it has supplied the nation with many defense planes, helicopters and machinery. The children learned about the evolution of flight and they received knowledge and pride. The audio visual about how each flight served the nation in various ages and sectors was inspirational and exciting. The next stop was to see for themselves the different types of flights and helicopters. Next they visited "Jawaharlal Nehru

Planetarium". The children were thrilled and excited by the galaxies of stars in 3D vision. They learned many things about the galaxy and planet earth. After lunch they were taken to the Aquarium, where varieties of fish were kept for admiration and knowledge. The last stop was for free rides for the children at Cubbon Park. Being fully exhausted from the games, rides and the tour which ended at dusk, they returned cherishing evening snacks while dancing playfully on the bus. We give thanks to God the Almighty for this wonderful outing.

Pray for the Deceased

CHENNAI - While we program a busy schedule each month, the month of November does not exempt us from visiting the cemetery to pay homage and express our love towards our beloved ones who have gone before us to heaven from our family. We also need to know that there are plenary indulgences given by the Church in



visiting the graveyard on particular days to pray for the departed souls. On November 2nd, All Souls' Day, all the brothers of the DGMS Community went to attend Holy Mass held at the local parish cemetery, it was a great chance to visit and to pray for the departed souls of their families. Also at the request of a nearby parish, the brothers went for a day to bless and pray for the dead. It was all a blissful moment to gather as one family and pray for our loved ones in heaven.

### Children's Day



**CHENNAI** - It is mid-November again and time for a very special occasion, November 14th is Children's Day. The day is celebrated across the nation to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. On this day, Don Guanella Special School celebrated with delight by giving a meticulous program by staff. The event began with a prayer song and continued with wonderful dances by staff. All of the performances gave life to the children, who admired the teachers dance and their joy was doubled. Children had a very good time and returned home with great happiness..

### Rotary Sports Meet

**CHENNAI** - "Gold medals aren't really made of gold.



They're made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called spirit."

A sports meet was conducted on November 17th by the Rotary Club at Leo Muthu Indoor Stadium. Our children participated in it with enthusiastic and energetic hearts competing in each sport to win the prizes. But the main purpose of taking the children is to show solidarity with the differently-abled children. It is a kind of motivation for the students to achieve a higher goal. Some of the students were qualified for the semifinals and some of them reached the final but it was very competitive for our children. The children participated all day with lively spirits and won prizes with help from their teachers.

### New Wine in New Wineskins

**CHENNAI** - How wonderful it is to rejuvenate oneself with the energy that is passed on by our Holy Mother Church! In accordance with the formative program of Don Guanella Major Seminary, the Second Annual



Don Mimi Theological forum was held on November 29th under the leadership of Bro. Raja Rathinam. The topic "New Wine in New Wineskins," was inspired by a famous Church document given by Pope Francis to the Congregation of Consecrated Life. There were different speakers to present the topics of the document from different perspectives. Fr. Periyannayagam, Vice Rector, was the chief guest of the day; helping the forum by clarifying the doubts raised by the brothers. Fr. Samson, Rector, was also present and helped the forum with his insights to be a better person during formation. The forum also included evaluations and some entertainment in the form of party games. Overall it was a worthwhile forum in which brothers explored their knowledge of the Church. The forum ended with an expression of thanks proposed by Bro. Praveen.

## 'Giving Season' Kicks off at Fall Auction

**CHELSEA** - Through the generosity of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital-Chelsea and the local community, St. Louis Center held its 31st Annual Fall Dinner Auction on Saturday, November 10th. It was a true night of giving, as many special presentations were made to support the children and adults who call St. Louis



Center their home. As the silent auction rolled into the live auction, Azamara Cruise Lines presented Fr. Enzo Addari, with a check from the proceeds of the St. Louis Center Dream Cruise II to Italy in September 2018. Then the State Deputy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus presented Fr. Enzo with a second check from the annual "Tootsie Roll Drive." Fr. Enzo honored George Merkel of Chelsea with a "Legacy" gift, and several corporate sponsors were also acknowledged. Event Chair Kathi Neuman of Chelsea remarked that, "Everyone who came to this year's event had a great time, and we are truly grateful to the hospital and their staff for their food and hospitality." This year's event was a sell-out with over 160 people in attendance, and continues to be one of St. Louis Center's premier events of the year.

## Running Under the Lights

**CHELSEA** - The magic of the Nite Lites Christmas Display drew many staff and residents of St. Louis Center to Michigan International Speedway for the 2018 season opener, the 5th Annual Nite Lites Christmas 5K Fun Run/Walk on Wednesday, November 21st. The animated course, consisting of over a million dancing lights, was offered to racers before cars were permitted. The residents enjoyed viewing their favorite Illuminated Holiday scenes featuring Santa Claus and his reindeer, the Nativity, the North Pole, and many new additions. The event also included visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, concessions, candy canes, Santa hats, and more;



the perfect way to remember fitness as the holiday season begins. This magical experience is fast becoming a Christmas tradition for the SLC residents each year!

## Giving Thanks

**CHELSEA** - Assisted by staff member Anna Ulch, the adult residents of St. Joseph Hall at St. Louis Center prepared a traditional Thanksgiving meal Thursday, November 22nd. Anna made certain that turkey and



all the trimmings were included in the feast and that they took the time to reflect on all that they have to be thankful for.

## Seeking Senatorial Support

**CHELSEA** - On Monday, November 26th, Fr. Enzo and the staff of St. Louis Center hosted a very important guest for his first visit to the Center to learn about several



critical issues that SLC will face in 2019. State Senator Mike Shirkey of nearby Jackson County, a Republican, is about to become the Michigan Senate Majority Leader after January 1st, and

will have a significant impact on legislation in 2019. Fr. Enzo and staff provided an overview of the residents and programs currently offered at SLC, and then addressed their concerns about Home and Community Based Service dollars that are administered by the state and returned to the service providers through the counties. SLC is currently attempting to comply with the new rules that go into effect in March 2019, and it is hoped that the Center will be able to maintain its eligibility to receive HCBS Medicaid funding once the state's deadline is passed.



## December Calendar of Events

- 1 **Bangalore:** World Differently-Abled Day - Tent of Love
- 2 **Chelsea:** Sicilian Federation Christmas Party - SLC  
**Grass Lake:** Women's Advent Retreat - PUSJ
- 8 **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**Bangalore:** Yoga Training for Oratory Children  
**Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
- 9 **Chelsea:** Residents Christmas Program - SLC
- 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**Our Lady of Divine Providence**  
**Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day at PUSJ
- 19 **Bangalore:** Suppose Christmas Celebration with Intercontinental Mass  
**Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ

- 24 **Vigil of the Nativity**
- 25 **Nativity of the Lord**
- 26 **St. Stephen, Martyr**
- 27 **St. John**
- 28 **The Holy Innocents**
- 30 **The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

## Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 3 **Fr. Anil Francis Kumar, Fr. Francis, Bro. Francis Xavier, Bro. Antony Xaviour R.:** feast day
- 8 **Fr. Nino Minetti:** birthday; **Fr. Amalorpavanathan, Fr. Amalraj:** feast day
- 9 **Fr. Antony Lourduraj, Fr. Charlton Viray:** ordination day
- 10 **Fr. Paul Francis:** birthday
- 11 **Bro. Joseph Raja Rathinam:** birthday
- 13 **Fr. Joseph Rinaldo:** birthday
- 19 **Fr. John Bosco A.:** ordination day
- 21 **Fr. Peter DiTullio, Fr. Joseph Rinaldo:** ordination day
- 22 **Fr. Kulandaisamy:** birthday
- 23 **Fr. Fortunato Turati:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Battista Omodei:** ordination day
- 25 **Fr. Ronald J:** birthday; **Fr. Vissampalli Maria Bala:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Benson, Fr. Jaya Soosai, Fr. Jesu Raj, Fr. Johndass, Fr. Kulandaisamy, Fr. Pravin, Fr. Ronald J, Fr. Periyamayaga Samy S:** ordination day
- 27 **Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Shantham:** feast day
- 28 **Fr. Michael Durai Samy A.:** birthday

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