

News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



Goodbye 2018 & Good Morning 2019

Yesterday is my today's memories

Tomorrow is my today's dreams

For twelve days we celebrated the fact that my God is with me (Immanuel) very solemnly with the endorsement of the fact that Mary is the mother of God and consequently is our mother too. No more is God abstract for me, someone to be feared who cannot be approached by humans, who is beyond my reach, with whom I cannot communicate, who may not understand my reality; rather my God assumed my flesh (Incarnare) who travels today along with me in my joys and sorrows, who is able to sympathize with me, because He faced all the same temptations that I do (Hb 4:15). I still hear His assurance, "I will be with you always till the end of the age." (Mt 28:20)

Secondly it is a great privilege for all of us to step into this New Year 2019. So many of our own brothers and sisters who were travelling along with us on this train of life got down at some point; to some we were able to say goodbye and to many others we could not even say farewell. But we found that they are no longer in our compartment. So many things could have happened in our personal and common life; many moments

would have added greater joy while some would have put us down, some experiences would have been teaching personal lessons too. For all that has happened, we say thank you along with St. Paul: Be thankful in all circumstances (1Thes 5:18)

We begin the New Year with the month of January which originates with the Greek God Janus who has two faces; one looking backward and the other looking forward. With all the profound memories of the past, let us march toward the New Year with a strong will and hopeful determination: "The Lord is my Shepherd and I shall not be in want" (Ps 23:1).

We look forward to the sacerdotal ordination of eight of our confreres; we are waiting with eagerness for the perpetual profession and diaconate ordination of four of our confreres. Let us put our efforts together for a better ministry of Vocation Promotion. Let us enrich ourselves with the annual spiritual exercises in the near future.

Thank you very much for all your collaboration and support in this ministry and animation of our Divine Providence Province.

Fr. Ronald J, SdC

Provincial Superior



January Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Thirumullaivail:** New Year's Day Mass
- 5 **Vatluru:** Ankannagudem Parish Feast
- 8-9 **Chennai:** Treasurers Meeting
- 11-13 **Chennai:** Plenary Council Meeting
- 15-17 **Chennai:** Theology Brothers Meeting - DGMS
- 18 **Visit to Kolli Hills**



- 20 **Thiruvotriyur:** Preaching at Eucharistic Procession
- 22-23 **Bangalore:** Philosophy Brothers Meeting - GPN
- 24-25 **Visit to Thalavadi**
- 26-27 **Chennai:** Annual Meeting of GLM/GC
- 28 **Visit to Mysore**
- 29 **Mysore:** Meeting with the Bishop of Mysore
- 30-31 **Meeting with Diaconal Candidates**

January 2019

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"The Lord is my Shepherd, and I shall not be in want."

Psalm 23, 1

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A Year of Good Fortune By Fr. Amal, SdC

We are still in the joy of contemplating the love of God and his wondrous way of revealing His love in the Word made flesh. And now we begin 2019 with another gift from the Lord to enjoy life for another year. The church helps us to begin this New Year with the gift of Mary who kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19). We also hear these words at the finding in the Temple when she doesn’t understand her Son’s reply to her question after He has been missing for three days. This has always been my favorite line from Scripture; I love that Our Lady was always in a state of wonder when she reflected on how God was working in her life! She took the events, the joyful ones and the sorrowful ones, deep into her heart and treasured them seeing them as gifts from God even when she could not quite understand them. Yet she was still full of awe and trust in His Providence. Every New Year presents us with an exciting challenge and opportunity. As another year fades into memory and as we stand on the brink of a new beginning, we almost naturally ask ourselves, “What can I do this year to better myself?” The first thing we should do is ask ourselves two important questions: “Do I believe that God has a plan for my life?” and “Do I believe that at the heart of this plan is His desire to lead me and teach me through His Holy Spirit?”

From the life of Mary, Mother of God and our mother we learn that we need to ponder on what the Lord has done. Mary’s thinking is about what the Lord is accomplishing through her life. Holy thoughts, thoughts of God and His intervention in her life. Here our focus is how we think or what we think. Our thinking is important for as he thinks in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7). This is the Hebrew way of saying in a casual metaphor about feasting that a man’s inmost thinking is the true index to his character. Talk is superficial. The lip gives a smiling welcome while a lofty disdain is in the heart. As we begin the New Year, our focus on the very first month of the year is to work on our thinking. A man is literally what he thinks, his character being the complete sum of all of his thoughts. Man is made or unmade by himself and can improve his lot in life by thinking ‘right’ thoughts and by the right choice of the application of thought. For as a man battles for truth in his heart, so is he. Cowardly thinking makes a weak and poor life. Christ creates inward courage, heroic daring for reality and right, and renews the manliness of

the world. The capacity of thinking is a most wonderful thing. Here lies man’s supremacy over all the visible world about him. All great undertakings, the glorious enterprises of men for men’s salvation, were once only thoughts.

The character of a man’s thoughts determines the character of his life. His actions are inspired from within. The heart determines our everlasting destiny. A heart without holiness never shall see the Lord. The outer conditions of a person’s life will always be found to be harmoniously related to his inner state. Just as a gardener cultivates his plot, keeping it free from weeds, and growing the flowers and fruits which he requires, so may a man tend the garden of his mind, weeding out all the wrong, useless, and impure thoughts, and cultivating toward perfection the flowers and fruits of right, useful, and pure thoughts. By pursuing this process, a man sooner or later discovers that he is the master-gardener of his soul, the director of his life.

Circumstance does not make the man; it reveals him to himself. Good thoughts and actions can never produce bad results; bad thoughts and actions can never produce good results. Suffering is always the effect of wrong thought in some direction. The body is the servant of the mind. It obeys the operations of the mind, whether they be deliberately chosen or automatically expressed. Ever heard the saying clean body, clean mind, clean living? That’s what promises a year of good fortune.

Where there is good thought there is calmness. Calmness of mind is one of the beautiful jewels of wisdom. It is the result of long and patient effort in self-control. A man becomes calm in the measure that he understands himself as a thought-evolved being. The lesson we learn and practice to make this year a year of good fortunes is to:

Watch your thoughts, for they become words.

Watch your words, for they become actions.

Watch your actions, for they become habits.

Watch your habits, for they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.

Our thoughts determine our attitude, our attitude drives our behaviors, and our behaviors determine our results. Let’s think good and become good. I wish that 2019 will be for you a year of good fortune.

You Are
What You
THINK

Bro. Franco Visits India

CUDDALORE - Bro. Franco Lain, General Councilor, arrived in India on November 20th to visit the communities and confreres. His presence infused



profound joy and energy to all the Indian confreres. Bro. Franco's presence was significant on November 25th in the Krishnaperi Community at the inauguration of St. John de Britto Church, a new parish from the Archdiocese of Madurai to our Province. On December 1st he traveled to Chennai

for the World Special People's Day Celebration and to Bangalore on December 2nd for theirs. On December 11th-12th, a superiors' meeting was held in Andhra Pradesh. He shared his valuable thoughts and views for all the superiors and explained the expectations of the congregation. Then on December 18th-19th a young priests meeting was held at DGMS, Chennai. Bro. Franco spoke about interculturality, personal projects and modern challenges for the religious. His talk was thought provoking. On the evening of the 19th he participated in the intercontinental Mass on the birthday of St. Louis Guanella. After Mass, Bro. Franco released the bible diary in both English and Tamil during a simple ceremony. Then there was prize distribution for the winners and participants which was conducted province-wide on the feast of St. Louis Guanella. Meanwhile, he visited all the communities and met the confreres individually. On December 22nd he departed for Sri Lanka to pay a visit with Fr. Ronald to explore the foundation of a Guanellian mission. His visit to India was a remarkable and significant one.

Dedication of St. John DeBritto Church

VADAPATTI - On Sunday November 25th, the Feast of Christ the King, Vadapatti Parish namely St. John De Britto Church; was bifurcated from Thiruthangal of the Virudunagar Vicariate, and this mission center was entrusted to the pastoral care of the Guanellian fathers. Fr. Periyamayagasamy, SdC. and Fr. Arockia Vanathaiyan, SdC are the "priests in charge" of this Mission Center. This is the 77th Parish of the Madurai Archdiocese. This sacred ceremony was blessed and sanctified by the Most Rev. Dr. Antony Pappusamy DD,STD, the Archbishop

of Madurai. This parish installation was held in the presence of General Councilor Bro. Franco Lain, Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Ronald Jesiah, Vice Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Kulandai and the Indian economist Fr. Francis. The vicariate fathers and the neighboring religious communities and other Guanellian Priests and Nuns also participated and blessed the day.



6th Annual Celebration of Disabilities

CUDDALORE - The sixth International Day of Persons with Disabilities was held on December 1st. The community fathers invited many special children from various schools and institutions to attend. As our Holy Founder said, "It is God who does," and we felt His presence on this day. There were about 1300 special children at the function, including the Immaculate Sisters, GLM, teachers and volunteers who were the co-coordinators of this grand celebration. All of them worked very hard, which led to the success of this event. The



two chief guests were Mrs. Valarmathi, from the Social Welfare Department-Cuddalore, and Rev. Fr. Agnel, the principal of St. Joseph's School in Thirupathiripuliur. Mrs. Valarmathi said that she was very moved by the program for the special children, and added that many grants were available from the government to help them. Finally, Fr. Peter Sebastian, SdC thanked the gathering for the coordination. The program was successful under the guidance of Fr. Peter and Rev. Sr. Aasir, the Provincial Superior of Cuddalore Province. The contribution and

participation of the IFHM Sisters led to the great success of the program. The Cuddalore community fathers were very happy to give individual gifts, along with tea, snacks and a sumptuous lunch. Thus the day continued on for the Children of God.

World differently-Abled Day

BANGALORE - "Love can always find ways to comfort suffering". St. Louis Guanella

Love is what moves the Guanellians closer to the suffering and for twelve consecutive years, the 'Preethi Nivas Trust' has embraced the differently-abled and provided them with a platform to exhibit their talents and assure them that they are special and equally talented. One specialty of this current year was that we celebrated it with the collaboration of the Bangalore Archdiocese, 'Commission for the Differently-Abled'.



On December 1st, our home was graced with around 850 differently-abled children and aged who anticipated this day for a long time. Differently-abled Ms. Hassel shared how happy she felt to get back to Guanella Preethi Nivas every year for the love and care that everyone showed them. There were around 400 volunteers and 32 institutions from different parts of Bangalore that participated in this event which was organized by the Guanellian Fathers, Cooperators and Lay members two months in advance, including logistics, cultural programs and much more.

The celebration included the Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, Archbishop of Bangalore; Bro. Franco Lain, General Councilor; Fr. Ronald Jesiah, Provincial of Divine Providence Province; Sr. Victoria Williams, Delegate Superior DSMP; Shri B A Basavaraj, Honorable MLA, KR Puram Constituency; Shri Narayana Swamy, President of the Horamavu Ward; and priests and religious from other Congregations. This was not just a day for the differently abled but a day where the benefactors, friends and the volunteers carried in their hearts a love for the abandoned.

Gold medalists Rakshita Raju and Radha Venkatesh,

who won Awards at the 2018 Asian Games held in Jakarta - Indonesia for their athletic skills, were present. Their testimony was very inspiring, as they had no vision, and they left everyone speechless with their achievements.

The differently-abled presented cultural programs joyfully and each institute was presented with a 12 liter pressure cooker as a gift to take home. There was a sumptuous lunch for everyone, and the Archbishop gave a final blessing. Bro. Franco expressed his happiness for being a part of this event, and Fr. Ronald appreciated everyone's hard work.

World Differently-Abled Day

CHENNAI - On December 2nd, Don Guanella Major Seminary celebrated World Differently-abled day with our special school. It was meaningful that 350 special children were invited for the program with 150 volunteers from neighboring parishes that assisted them from the beginning until the end of the celebration. The day started with Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Provincial. He gave a beautiful homily with the examples



of real life incidents. Cultural events were performed by the special children after Mass. It was over all well conducted that all could encourage and appreciate the day. The day concluded by sharing a meal. The children were sent home with gifts.

Vocation Promoters and Formators Meet

CUDDALORE - The gathering of the formators and the vocation promoters for the scholastic year 2018-2019 began on December 4th in the presence of Bro. Franco Lain, General Councilor and Fr. Ronald Jesiah,



Provincial Superior, at St. Joseph's Seminary. The students from the Divine Providence Hostel performed a prayer dance invoking God's presence, which was coordinated by Fr. Amalraj, Vice-Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary. Followed by the prayer service, the traditional lamp was lit by the dignitaries. The Superior of the community Fr. Peter Sebastian welcomed the participants with his ever smiling face. Fr. Ronald gave the preamble for the meeting, helping the participants to feel the gravity of Vocation Promotion and invited everyone to venture into it very strenuously. Fr. Samson, Provincial Councilor, brightened the participants with his presentation on the church document from the Congregation for Catholic Education, "Pastoral Guidelines for Fostering Vocations". Bro. Franco illumined the hearts and minds of the participants on the goals of vocation ministry, first formation and then permanent formation in the light of the XX General Chapter with its proposals and motions. Fr. David Maria Selvam, Sdb, enlightened on the theme of "Impact and Influence of Media in Formation". He said that the most influential prophet of the modern era is "the Media." The meeting proceeded to group discussions on vocation promotion and came out with action plans for the growth of members; both quantitatively and qualitatively. The gathering ended with a final prayer by Fr. Ronald.

Students Celebrate Christmas

KRISHNAPERI - On December 6th the St. Paul's

Boys Home, Sivakasi Community, celebrated "Suppose Christmas" with the Primary and High School students. It was a remarkable day with joy and praise for the Christ Child. The school teachers, students and parents all participated with enthusiasm, making this a pleasant day through their carols and cultural program. Rev. Chancellor John Dhiraviam of the Archdiocese of Madurai was the principle guest of the event, conveying the Christmas message to all. Mr. Edwin James, a benefactor of St. Paul's Boys Home, was also a special guest.



New Parish Inaugurated

KULITHURAI - In accordance with a proposal from the Divine Providence Province, Most Rev. Jerome Doss, Bishop of Kulithurai, gave cordial blessings. Fr. Yesu Rathinam, the VG, introduced Fr. John Paul and appointed him as the priest in charge of St. Antony's Church, Cherukol Karumputhottam on December 7th. This ceremony was performed in the presence of Fr. Ronald Jesiah, Provincial Superior, and Bro. Franco Lain, General Councilor, with the understanding that we will establish a center for the differently-abled within three years on the diocesan property at Kanjiracode.



New Parish Priest Installed

VATLURU - On December 9th with the official order of Most Rev. Jeya Rao Polimer; Fr. Inje Paul, the vicar-forane of the Eluru Diocese installed Fr. Francis Assisi as the parish priest of Sacred Heart Church. The parishioners gathered to welcome Fr. Assisi and the vicar forane at the entrance of the church as the solemn procession entered for Holy Mass. It was a very significant liturgical celebration in which the official handover was given to Fr. Assisi. Entrusting in the Lord's Providence, he took over the new responsibility reciting the apostolic creed

and assured the people of his responsibility of being the pastor of Sacred Heart. He insisted more on 'let us do it together' as a catchphrase and welcomed the people to support the parish. Fr. Inge Paul thanked the previous parish priest Fr. Peter Joseph and appreciated his good works.

He acknowledged the temporary responsibility of Fr. Ronald and expressed his gratitude to the Guanellian community for all they have done for the Diocese of Eluru.



World Differently-Abled Day

SIVAGANGAI - December 9th was a memorable day for Don Guanella Anbagam, Yesuvanam. Being children of St. Guanella, we follow in his footsteps every year and celebrate World Differently-abled Day in an impressive manner. The celebration began with the Holy Mass celebrated by our Provincial Superior, Fr. Ronald Jesiah, Fr. A. Arockiyasamy, Director of Vianney Pastoral Center, Sivagangai, and Fr. D. Irudhaya Raj. Soon after Mass a delicious meal was provided for all the special children and people who participated in the celebration. Our GLM members and brothers served with love and affection.



After the meal, games were conducted for the special children, and nearly 12 special schools, including visually challenged and deaf and dumb children participated in the games. It was well organized by our GLM and the school PET masters. The children displayed their special talents like singing and dancing. The audience was mesmerized by their amazing performances. Later the winners were given awards and certificates, and gifts

were given to each school and its children.

Mr. Saravanakumar, the District Differently-Abled Welfare Officer, spoke about our mission and about the programs available for special people. Then Abdul Farrok, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Sivagangai District, gave his inspiring speech. In between the dignitaries' speeches, special guests, benefactors and GLM members were honored by our Provincial Superior and our fathers. It was well organized by Fr. Kulandai Samy, accompanied by Fr. Arputha Raj and Fr. Paul Francis.

Alumni Fest

VATLURU - "The sweetness of a reunion is the joy of Heaven". On December 9th an Alumni Meet was organized by Fr. Christuraj and Deacon Rambabu to celebrate and refresh friendship with Guanella Karunalaya. It was an occasion when forty-two students



gathered at their Alma Mater, walked down memory lane and looked forward to new hopes. The alumni were thrilled to be back on the campus again and interact with the boys. 'Old friends are the same importance as of the new ones' was the theme of the event. They expressed the importance of the gathering, the joy and opportunity of seeing their old friends. They expressed a special thanks to the priests, former teachers and staff. They articulated that Guanella Karunalaya made a great change in their life. They learned how to live on a campus and experience life in the outside world. Fr. Benson thanked the gathering with the sharing of the gifts from the event ended.

Forging Ahead Together

KOPAKKA - On December 11th the two day Superiors meet for the 2018-2019 academic year commenced with a prayer song by the minor seminarians of Guanella Bhavan. Fr. Benson, superior of the community, invoked God's blessing on all the participants. Thereafter Fr.

Ronald, Provincial Superior, welcomed the gathering, especially Bro. Franco Lain who was honored with a shawl by Fr. Gnanraj. Fr. Ronald invited them to pray for the repose of the souls of the confreres who tirelessly worked for the growth of the Indian mission and gave a short introductory talk. Individual sessions were then launched one by one.



Fr. John Bosco, the senior and first Indian priest of our province, presented his talk on the topic, “The service of authority in the teachings of the Church and in our Institute.” Bro. Franco Lain, general councilor, launched his presentation on, “Pastoral Plan of the 20th General Chapter”. The second day began with the topic, “To be an effective Superior in the modern walk,” presented by Fr. Jolly, Msfs. The day continued with the “Discussion on the Pastoral Plan of the 20th General Chapter and Proposals.” Bro. Franco opened the conversational forum by quoting “Supress authority with service.” He gave a brief history of Pope Paul VI (Le Chiavi Pesanti) and how he wanted his coffin to be placed in the ground. He further shared his impression about the Indian mission. Overall, the impression of Bro. Franco was very positive. Certain proposals and suggestions were given by the participants. In closing, Fr. Ronald thanked everybody for actively participating in the forum. He also extended his sense of gratitude to Frs. Benson & Arul for their animation.

Year of Mercy Continues

CHENNAI - All of us are aware of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy encouraged by the Holy Catholic Church. Often it seems as though they are not exercised enough these days, but that is not true. One of the corporal works of mercy is visiting the prisoners. On December 13th Don Guanella Major Seminary brothers went to

Chengalpattu Juvenile Home to celebrate suppose Christmas with the inmates. The



brothers were divided into groups to organize the day, one for the cultural events and another for counseling. A beautiful drama was staged and carols were sung. All the prisoners were happy. Fr. Periyanaagam gave such an inspiring speech that many boys came up to share their hope of returning back to normal life activities. A sumptuous meal was served and the day came to the end.

“Suppose Christmas” for School Children

CUDDALORE - On December 15th, St. Joseph’s Evening School children were very happy to celebrate Suppose Christmas. The children joyfully invited Fr. Peter Sebastian and Fr. Mathias, as the chief guests to the celebration. Their presence made the students and brothers happy. They were well prepared by



their teachers to perform a dance, a skit, a mime and a group song in order to share the joy of Christmas. Christmas gifts were distributed to the children by the Father Superior before he gave his Christmas message. Subsequently, Fr. Arockia Raj, director of the Evening School, delivered his Christmas message, thanking the teachers, brothers and children for making the day colorful. After the program, a delicious dinner was provided to the parents and children.

Carols Spread Christmas Joy

Vadapatti - Christmas carols were sung throughout the parish region on December 15th. It was a joyous occasion,

because we went to every house and street corner to announce



the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and the values of love, joy, peace and hope.

Many of the local parishioners accompanied us during the blessing by singing and praying. The people received us with joyful and kind hearts; therefore we blessed their houses and wished them a Merry Christmas. The people of Vadapatti were witnesses to the real joy of Christmas and reconciled with each other. So, the carols made these days blessed. The fragrance of joy spread over every heart from young to old, filling every heart without discrimination as to rich or poor.

Guanellian Lay Cooperator's Meeting

MADURAI - It was a pleasant day for the Guanella Karunai Illam, Soosaitthottam, to welcome the Lay Cooperators on December 15th. Fr. Johndoss, the Superior, invited and welcomed the



20 Lay Cooperators on behalf of the community fathers, teachers and students. Fr. Johndoss spoke about the Special Children and their activities in the school. He stressed that each one is responsible for respecting the dignity of the special children; he also explained the activities performed for the children, and then discussed the facilities needed for the improvement of the school. The Cooperators appreciated the work of Soosai Thottam, and provided suggestions for improving the school.

World Differently-Abled Day

VATLURU - The Guanellian family of Andra Pradesh celebrated World Differently-Abled Day on December 15th at Koppaka Seminary with the theme, "The poor are images of God." The Differently Abled gathered from 10 villages to celebrate the day. The purpose was to promote an awareness of disabilities and the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. It is important to integrate disabled persons in the mainstream of society. It is also the expression of the fact that the Guanellian family cares for them. Events began in the morning with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Peter Joseph along with other



community fathers. After Mass there was a felicitation to the gathering and gifts were presented to them by Br. Franco the General Councilor. A cultural program organized by Fr. Christuraj followed. A meal was shared with all participants to close the day.

A Good Samaritan Gathering

CUDDALORE - St. Joseph's Seminary fathers and brothers joyfully celebrated "Suppose Christmas" with the abandoned and the street children on December 16th. More than 50 people participated. In representing the face of the Good Samaritan, we moved them every time. The confreres made them happy through dances, songs and games, and they all enjoyed coming together and celebrating the Nativity of the Lord Jesus. It doubled their joy when they received saree, dhotis and dresses as their Christmas gifts. We were able to see the face of God in them. Thus we all became the apple of their eyes through this little act



of charity. They too sang and danced with us, and then the Christmas cakes were distributed to everyone. Fr. Amal Raj requested everybody to share the love with one another as God has done. The celebration ended with a delicious

meal. It was truly a charitable celebration as our Holy Father, Pope Francis instructed us to do.

Christmas for Children

KOPPAKA - On December 16th the ten Guanellian evening schools of Andra Pradesh assembled at Guanella Bhavan to celebrate Christmas with the Guanellian family. The program began with games for the children. As the games were completed,



they were given time to relax in order to prepare the stage for the program. Bro. Franco, the General Councilor, was invited as the chief guest and

the program began with Christmas Joy. Each school gave a performance to entertain the audience. Bro. Franco entertained the children with little tricks and then gave a message to encourage them. Prizes were given to the children sharing Christmas joy and agape with them.

What is the Tutelage Program?

CHENNAI - Consecrated life is the process of taking on the attitudes of Christ. It is a lifetime process



involving the whole person, heart, mind and strength. It is to sustain the shaping of oneself in conformity to Jesus Christ. It is for sharing in the work of God the Father, through the assistance of the Spirit and with the attitudes of Jesus. To enhance this, the church has given us periods of time for our immediate perfection (Initial Formation) and ongoing sanctification (Permanent formation). Here, nurtured by initial formation, permanent formation is for continuous commitment to live a life of personal and institutional sanctity. With this in mind, the Divine Providence Province had commenced 'Tutelage Program – an Ongoing Formation for the Eternal Sanctification' for the first five years of priests December 18th-19th. The program was under the guidance of Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior; co-ordinated by Fr. Samson, the superior; and Fr. Periyamayagam, vice rector of the DGMS community. Around 30 confreres (Priests, Deacons and Brothers) participated in the event. The central themes included

- Inter Culturality & Personal Project – Bro. Franco
- Modern Challenges of Religious Life – Bro. Franco
- Medicine & God – Mr. Thamizhavel Nalapathi
- Health Care and Self-Management– Rev. Fr Xavier CMF
- Group Discussion –Fr. Ronald & Bro. Franco

On the final day, Fr. Ronald joyously thanked the DGMS community for their planning, hospitality, generosity and fellowship. The program concluded with the Intercontinental Mass for the birthday celebration

of our holy Founder St. Louis Guanella.

Our Founder's Birthday

SIVAGANGAI - It was the 176th year since our founder, St. Louis



Guanella, came into this world as an apostle of charity. Many people were born and have died yet only a few lived in the hearts of the people.

Even fewer created memorable events in history. If we serve the people we will be remembered for some years, if you love the people we will be remembered as long as there is no conflict with the people. But if we give both love and serving we will be remembered forever. That is love with our heart and serve with our hands. We are remembered and identified everywhere because of the Charism of our founder. On the beautiful day of his birthday, December 19th, Yesuvanam was filled with many joyful hearts. The whole Guanellian family gathered to celebrate. Fathers, brothers, good children, Guanellian Lay members, benefactors, staff and well-wishers of Yesuvanam participated in the Intercontinental Mass. Mass was celebrated by our vice provincial and local superior, Fr. KulandaiSamy, concelebrated by Frs. Paul Francis and Arputharaj beginning precisely at 6:30 PM, to show our union with the other continents. The Guanellian family prayed for various intentions, but especially for the growth of the congregation and the major superiors. A delicious meal followed Mass. Whoever came was filled with joy and happiness. Our founder's words were fulfilled on his birthday, "Give Bread and the Lord."

Triple Celebration

CHENNAI - December 19th always remains a beautiful day in the history of the Guanellian family. The day was comprised of three main celebrations for our Founder's birthday. To



remember and thank the Lord for the gift of St. Guanella to the church, an Intercontinental Mass was celebrated by Fr. Provincial and concelebrated by the priests attending the Tutelage program. During Mass five brothers were conferred ministries, three the ministry of acolyte and two received the ministry of lector and fifteen GLM members renewed their promises. The most beautiful part of the day was a fellowship meal served for everyone in attendance. Fr. Samson thanked all for their support and presence towards the growth of the mission in Chennai. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

United in Love

KRISHNAPERI - On December 20th suppose Christmas was celebrated with the boys of St. Paul's Boys Home. It was a grand celebration for the boys, benefactors and well-wishers. The boys, staff, and

celebration. After Mass there was a procession to the crib. Then the benefactors joyfully distributed sweets and snacks to all the fathers, brothers and boys' home students. A delicious dinner was served. Benefactors presented Christmas gifts to all the fathers and brothers. Fr. Peter honored all of the benefactors for their presence and accompaniment in the growth of the scholastics. Then Fr. Peter whole-heartily thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication towards the house giving them gifts with love and care. The evening ended with a time of casual conversations.



workers were very happy to receive Christmas gifts and the blessing of the Lord. The Chief Guest of the program was Fr. Alvarus, VF of Srivilliputhur. He celebrated Holy Mass and delivered the Christmas message. Afterward, the superior honored Fr. Alvarus and on behalf of our community Fr. Alvarus honored two benefactors of St. Paul's: Mrs. Rani Rtd Teacher and Mrs. Rathinammal with shawl and gifts. The day also included a cultural program and lunch.

Scholastics Celebrate Christmas

CUDDALORE - On December 20th St. Joseph's Seminary celebrated Christmas with benefactors. Fr. Peter Sebastian, the Superior, presided over Mass suggesting that the participants spread the joy of Christ to the needy brethren of society as a duty of the Christmas



Guanellians Visit Sri Lanka

VAVUNIYA - "Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.'" (Mark 16:15)

A fraternal invitation to visit Sri Lanka was extended by the Claretian Superior. Therefore, reflecting the words of our Holy Founder St. Louis Guanella, "The whole world is our Homeland," on December 20th Fr. Ronald, the Provincial Superior of the Divine Providence Province, and Bro. Franco Lain, General Councilor of the Servants of Charity, took a trip to Sri Lanka. They visited Varod, an institution for persons with disabilities in a war affected area. Fr. Ronald shared that those who want to serve there must be committed, devoted and dedicated. Otherwise, it is not easy to serve in a place affected by war. They met the bishop of Mannar who expressed his willingness to have Guanellians in his diocese. Let's pray to our Holy Founder that this trip may be a significant one to begin his mission in a new land. May the Mother of Divine Providence intercede for the new mission in Sri Lanka.

First Christmas at New Mission Station

KULITHURAI - The parish of Cherukol Karumputhottam in

the Kuzhithurai Diocese happily celebrated its first Christmas with the Guanellian family. The people went caroling for a week to announce the coming of Christ to the surrounding families. The youth prepared the Crib and the catechism



children presented a program on December 24th from 9-11:30pm. Fr. John Paul celebrated the Vigil Mass in the church. Fr. Xavier celebrated at the Kattuvilai substation. On December 25th the catechism children had a competition in Kattuvilai. People were happy with the meaningful celebration with the children and helping the poor.

An Evening School Christmas

KUMBAKONAM - Suppose Christmas was celebrated with the evening school children beginning with Holy Mass and followed by



cultural events. Each of four area tuition centers: Jebamalaipuram, Perumpandi, Kadichambadi, and Thrupurambiam performed a dance and skit. Fr. A. John Bosco, SdC gave a Christmas message and gifts (lunch bag) to the tuition children. The delicious lunch was generously sponsored by Ragini Rasigar Mondram (Kumbakonam & Dubai). All children went home happy and smiling.

United States

Italian Groups bring Christmas Cheer

CHELSEA - Over 100 members of Federazione Siciliana del Michigan and Federazione Abruzzese descended on St. Louis Center on December 1st to attend Mass and bring early Christmas joy to the children, men and women residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities who were present that day. According to event coordinator Al Chirco, "We've been doing this event for 11 years now, and the Federazione Abruzzese joined us four years ago to help bring each resident a gift of their choosing. It's a great partnership within the Italian community of Michigan, and everyone enjoys working together."



Following Mass, a sumptuous meal was prepared by Chef Salvatore Basilico and his helpers, and along with both Federazioni, nearly 200 people were fed including the St. Louis Center residents, priests and staff. Soon after lunch, Enzo Paglia led a group of carolers in singing Christmas carols before Santa's arrival. Then the big moment came when Santa Claus, (A.K.A. Tony Randazzo), entered the gym and helped deliver toys and gifts to all of the St. Louis Center residents who were present.

Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO of St. Louis Center, asked each resident to come forward to meet Santa, and Fr. Pino Licciardo from Holy Family Parish in Detroit helped Santa pass out the gifts. After the gifts were given, the groups gathered for a family photo and returned home to await the birth of the Christ child.

Bowling with Friends

CHELSEA - According to Chelsea resident Ken Klovski, a member of the DTE Energy "Care Force Team," his group of fellow employees

from the Generation Optimization Group is always in search of opportunities to reach out to the community, and on Thursday, December 6th they organized a bowling outing for a group of fifteen adult residents from St. Louis Center. Coming together at Ann Arbor's Belmark Lanes, ten DTE "Care Force" members



assisted the SLC bowlers by retrieving their bowling balls and placing them on a handicap ramp for those who were wheelchair bound. When bowling was over, the residents were treated to a late lunch of gourmet pizza.

According to Direct Care Supervisor Cindy Hoard, "I've never seen Dawn and Josh so happy. They were both laughing out loud and having a great time."

The outing provided the SLC residents from the Assisted Living Program with an opportunity to interact with members of the community and develop new friendships. Kloviski, who helped organize the outing, said that they hoped to be back again in spring 2019. The employees who volunteered their time that day were from all over SE Michigan, including the communities of Wayne, Monroe, and Milan.

A Tocco Christmas Tradition

CHELSEA - The Tocco Family Christmas event has taken place for the past 30 years, and was started by Jack Tocco Sr. and his wife "Toni" Tocco. Mrs. Tocco



passed away on November 25, 2018, and Jack Tocco Jr. announced at the beginning of the day that this year's

Christmas event would be dedicated to the memory of his late mother and father.

There was nothing but smiles and laughter as Santa Claus (A.K.A. Joe Pantaleo) entered the gym with his four elves to the tune of "Here Comes Santa Claus," and the music was sung by none other than local opera performers Dino Valle, Eva Evola and their accompanying violinists and guitarists.

Santa took a seat in front of the stage and proceeded to pass out all of the gifts he had brought, and then Jack Jr. presented Fr. Enzo Addari, CEO, with a collection of checks he had collected from his family members and friends in the Metro Detroit area to support the Center. Dino and Eva called the residents forward to sing more Christmas carols with their group, and then Santa bid the residents of St. Louis Center a "Merry Christmas" farewell.

The Meaning of Christmas

CHELSEA - Each December the SLC staff guide the



residents in the preparation of skits that help to teach the meaning of Christmas. Each different group performs their skit on stage for family and friends. Some of the residents sing, some play instruments, and some take a role in presenting the Nativity story; all are very excited to show off for their parents each year. After all of the performances are complete the Parents' Association presents a gift to each staff member. The evening ends with time for light refreshments and unstructured togetherness.

Cooperators Join in Advent Prayer

CHELSEA - The Guanellian Cooperators in Michigan gathered for a short time of prayer and Adoration in the SLC chapel December 9th. Fr. Amal led



the meditation by Fr. Guanella to help the Cooperators prepare themselves spiritually for the coming of the Savior at Christmas. After prayers, they enjoyed the performances by the SLC residents on the meaning of Christmas.

Residents Give Back

CHELSEA - Each year the SLC Aktion Club designs and sells Christmas cards as a fundraiser for Kiwanis, the International chapter that sponsors our Aktion Club. The twenty residents active in the Club sold the cards after Masses at local Catholic Churches. This year's Christmas card sales produced a net profit of \$1,010.00 that will be donated to the Chelsea Kiwanis which intends to use the money to provide children in third world countries with access to tetanus shots. We are very proud of the dedication that our club members provided to make this year's card sale so successful.



that the 'Secret Santas' purchased from Macy's especially for our children to keep them warm in their new homes throughout the cold winter.

These santas don't limit their deliveries to Christmas. They know that need knows no season and therefore continue throughout the year. They deliver their sleighful of gifts sometimes as much as eight times per year.

We hope this bit of gratitude reaches 'Santa' and all of his elves. We are so appreciative of all your efforts on behalf of the children and adults who call St. Louis Center home.

Wonder filled Advent

School Comemmorates Christmas

E. PROVIDENCE - Each year for the celebration of Christmas at Sacred Heart Church, the students from the first grade and some of the parishioners prepare a Christmas pageant which is performed at the all school Christmas Mass and again on Christmas Eve. Each student truly takes pride in preparing and practicing their part. The entire congregation enjoys watching the performance.



GRASS LAKE -What excitement and joy when a baby is born to a family. Similarly, December is a joyful month of the year when the faithful prepare for Christmas. A special advent retreat for women was held at the shrine. Fr. Franklin gave a meaningful talk about advent preparation for the women. The day also included exposition of the blessed sacrament, confession and Mass.

Christmas celebrations at the shrine were wonderful and meaningful in the liturgy, choir, potluck, and gifts for children. There was a special blessing after Mass on the Feast of Holy Innocents and the Holy Family. On New Years Day, we celebrated the solemnity of Mary Mother of God, in honoring our Blessed Mother, a special blessing was given to all mothers present.



Secret Santa

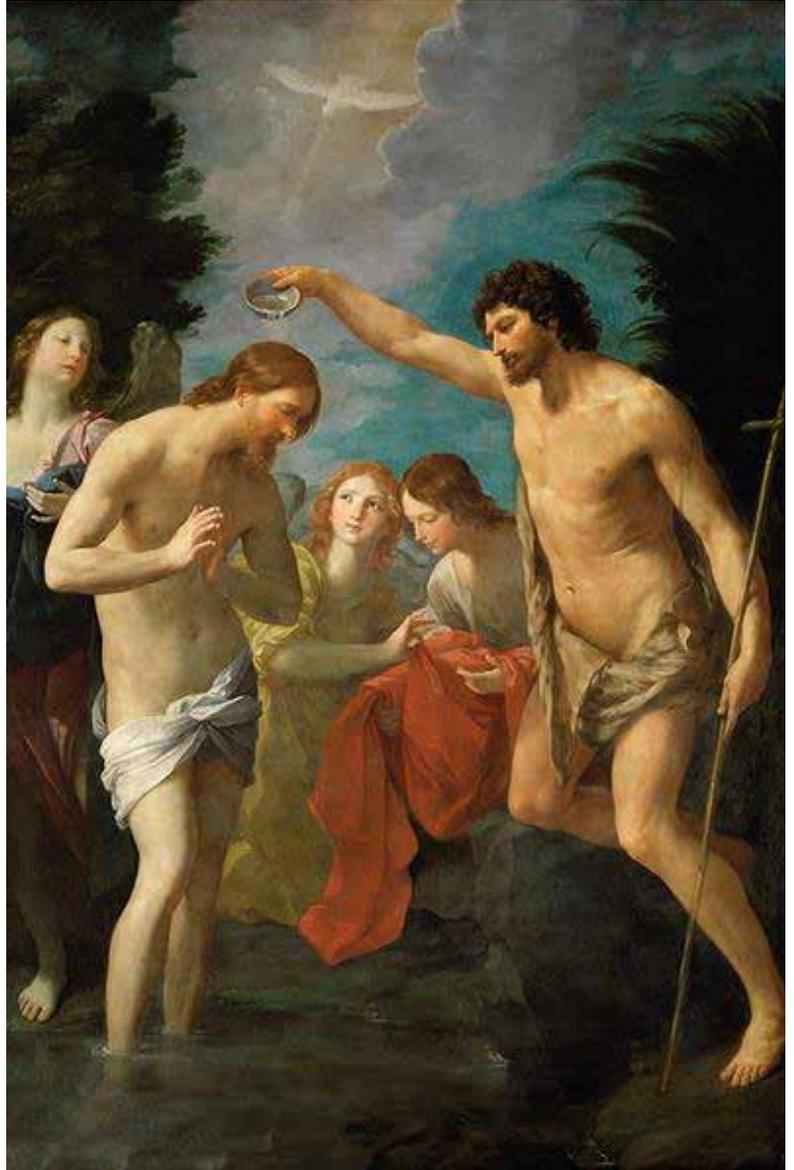
CHELSEA - For many years a small group of 'Secret Santas' have been preparing a 'sleigh' full of necessities for the St. Louis Center at Christmas time. These 'santas' have been collecting non-perishable foods, candies, blankets and bedding, filling a van about eight times each year. Amel and Robert Dallo of Petoskey MI have

January Calendar of Events

- 1 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; World Day of Peace
- 6 Epiphany of the Lord
- 12 **Chelsea:** Vocational Retreat for Boys
Grass Lake: Prayer and Pizza Girls' Group
Grass Lake: Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 13 **The Baptism of the Lord**
- 15 **Krishnaperi:** Pongal Celebration at Boys' Home
- 19 **Grass Lake:** Monthly St. Joseph Day at PUSJ
Krishnaperi: Annual Tour for St. Paul's Boys' Home Students
- 23 **Chelsea:** Ann Arbor Music School Show - SLC
- 25 **The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle**
- 26 **Krishnaperi:** Republic Day Celebration - Veeramamuniveer High School
Vadapatti: Flag Hoisting- St. John Britto Church
- 31 **Feast of St. John Bosco**

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

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



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



Reflections

MIDWEEK

FROM PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH

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.