



MAY - 2025

News and Views

Divine Providence Province

*Let us entrust everything to Mary, the Mother of Divine Providence,
who never abandons her children."*

– St. Louis Guanella.

The month of May is indeed a time of vibrant life, growth, and celebration across many cultures and traditions. It marks the beginning of summer in some parts of the world, fostering family gatherings, vacation planning, and joyful celebrations. In contrast, the Western world often experiences the beauty of spring during May, characterized by blooming flowers and renewed vitality. This seasonal diversity adds to the richness of human experience, highlighting the importance of community, reflection, and appreciation for nature's cycles.

May is often seen as a time of renewal; a sacred rhythm of nature that mirrors the inner renewal we are called to seek in our lives. In the Catholic Church, May is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, whose life exemplifies purity, grace, and faith. Her presence this month invites us to reflect on how we, too, can renew our hearts, draw closer to God, and live with greater compassion toward others. This goes back to medieval times. During medieval times, we encounter a tradition called Tricesimum, or "Thirty-Day Devotion to Mary." This tradition was also referred to as "Lady Month."

Month of May is the Month of Mary



For those inspired by the spirituality of saints like St. Louis Guanella, May is a call to serve, to hope, and to trust in Divine Providence. He saw Mary not only as a mother to be honored, but as a guide to lead us to Christ, especially through love for the poor, the suffering, and the forgotten. 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. He believed deeply in God's love as a provident Father and Mary as the tender Mother, who intercedes, consoles, and guides. In this Month of Mary, we are reminded that Mary is not distant from our sufferings - she walks beside us, especially in moments of hardship, as she did at the foot of the Cross.

While May 2025 will be a significant month in the Catholic Church, it's primarily due to the Jubilee Year 2025, a special time of renewal and grace. Pope Francis, in his letter on 'The Month of May' in 2020, tells us that the month of May is *a time when the People of God express with particular intensity, their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary.* In this letter, he encouraged everyone to "*rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary*". Afresh with the Paschal celebration the Church continues to pray for the new offsprings. 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. 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.

For most of us, it is our own month of *Fiat* and total surrender through our religious profession. We will celebrate the priestly ordination anniversary day of our holy Founder, some of us will celebrate the anniversary of religious profession while some renew their vows on the same day of our founder's anniversary. Therefore, it is more fitting for us to imbibe the spiritual nourishments of our founder for our religious life. Our consecrated life based on the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary would be the most precious gift and honor for our Founder.



This year, the month of May also includes some of the Easter season and 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 salvation plan and the Church. The Sunday liturgy in the Easter season emphasizes a unique call for renewal as Jesus asks Peter, *"Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?"* and to listen to Jesus' voice *"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."* It is a call to renew our love for the Lord and follow him in our Guanellian religious life.

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 and renewal.

As the Church and world wait the Papal Conclave to convene and bring forth our new Holy Father, let us pray for the Will of God to prevail in the cardinal's choice to lead the Holy Catholic Church. We wait in earnest for the appearance of our new Holy Father.

Let us welcome him, the father and shepherd of the Catholic Church. May we all surrender our obedience and love for his authority that we together serve the Church of God.

Provincial Superior
FR. GNANARAJ SDC

PROVINCIAL CALENDER MAY 2025

May (1-3)	Charism School for the Guanellian Family – Bangalore
May 12	Council Meeting
May 17	Kumbakonam Parish Feast
May 26	Vows Renewal @ DGMS Chennai
May 30	DSMP Perpetual Profession Bangalore & Entrance to Novitiate @ GPN
May 31	First Religious Profession @GPN

Pope Francis

1936-2025



Homily at Pope Francis' funeral Mass

In this majestic Saint Peter's Square, where Pope Francis many times celebrated the Eucharist and presided over great ongoing large meetings over these 12 years, but supported by faith, it assures us of the Father's worthiness in a life of happiness that will know no sunset.

In this majestic Saint Peter's Square, where Pope Francis many times celebrated the Eucharist and presided over great ongoing large meetings over these 12 years, but supported by faith, it assures us of the Father's worthiness in a life of happiness that will know no sunset. On behalf of the College of Cardinals, I greet and thank all present with varying intensity of feeling. A greeting and a lively thank you to the numerous heads of state, heads of government, and official delegations from numerous countries to express affection, veneration, and esteem for the Pope who has left us. The plebiscite of manifestation of affection and participation that we all saw on this passage says how intense the pontificate was and how much his word touched minds and hearts. His last image that will remain in our eyes and hearts is that of last Sunday, the solemnity of Easter. Despite serious health problems, Pope Francis wanted to impart the blessing from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and then wanted to come down into this square to greet the entire large crowd gathered for Easter from the open Popemobile. With our prayer, we now want to entrust the soul of the beloved pontiff to God so that He may grant him eternal happiness. The luminous and glorious horizon of His immense love illuminates and guides us.

The page of the Gospel in which the very voice of God resounded: "You are mine." And Peter's response was ready and sincere: "Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you." And Jesus entrusted him with the mission: "feed my sheep." This will be the constant task of Peter and his successors, a service of love in the footsteps of our master and Lord Jesus Christ. Despite his final fragility and suffering, Pope Francis chose to follow this path of self-giving until the last day of his earthly life. He followed the footsteps of his good shepherd, his sheep, to give for them, and he did so with strength and serenity.

The Church, when Cardinal Bergoglio was elected by the conclave on March 13, 2013, to succeed Pope Benedict XVI, had behind him years of religious life in the Society of Jesus and, above all, had gained experience from 21 years of pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Buenos Aires, first as auxiliary bishop and then as archbishop. The decision to take the name Francis immediately appeared as the choice of a program and a style on which he wanted to base his pontificate, seeking to be inspired by the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis always preserved his temperament and his form of pastoral guidance, and immediately imprinted his strong personality on the government of the Church, having direct contact with individuals and populations, eager to be close to everyone, with marked attention to people in difficulty, spending himself without measure, particularly for the last of the earth, the marginalized. He was a pope among the people with an open heart towards everyone. Moreover, he was a Pope attentive to the new things emerging in society and to what the Holy Spirit was stirring up in the vocabulary characteristic of him, with his language rich in images and metaphors, to illuminate parts of the Gospel, the problems of our time, offering a response in the light of faith and encouraging Christians to live as Christians and the contradictions of these years. Changes that he loved to qualify as a change of era. He had great spontaneity and an informal manner even towards people far away, rich in human warmth and deeply sensitive to today's dramas.

Innumerable are his gestures and exhortations in favor of refugees and the poor. His commitment was also evident in working for the poor. Pope Francis' first journey is significant; it is significant that it was to Lampedusa, a symbol of the drama of the emergency with thousands, with thousands of people drowned at sea. Along the same lines was also the journey to Lesbos together with the Patriarch and the Archbishop of Athens, as well as the celebration of a mass at the border between Mexico and the United States on the occasion of his journey to Mexico. His 47 tiring apostolic journeys will remain in history, particularly the one to Iraq in 2021, undertaken defying every risk at that moment. The difficult apostolic visit was a balm on the open wounds of the Iraqi population who had suffered so much from the inhuman work of. This was an important journey also for interreligious dialogue, another relevant dimension of his pastoral work. With the apostolic visit in 2024 to four nations in Asia, Oceania, and Oceania, the Pope reached the most peripheral periphery of the world.

Pope Francis always placed the Gospel of Mercy at the center, repeatedly emphasizing that God does not tire of forgiving; He forgives whatever the situation of someone who asks for forgiveness and returns to the right path. And for this, he immediately wanted the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, stating that mercy is the heart of the Gospel. Mercy and the Joy of the Gospel are two key words. Speaking in contrast with what he called the culture of waste, he spoke of the culture, the culture



of solidarity. The theme of fraternity then crossed his entire pontificate. With the encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*, he wanted to reawaken a worldwide aspiration to fraternity. All children of the same Father who is in heaven. He recalled that we all belong to the same human family and that no one saves themselves alone. In 2019, during the journey to the United Arab Emirates, Pope Francis signed the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, recalling the common fatherhood of God, addressing men and women of the whole world. With the encyclical, he drew attention to the duties and responsibilities regarding the common home.

Faced with the raging of so many wars in these years, with inhuman horrors and innumerable deaths and destructions, Pope Francis incessantly raised his voice, imploring for peace, inviting, inviting to reasonableness, inviting to honest negotiation to find possible solutions. That is, he said about war: war is only the death of people, destruction of homes, destruction of hospitals and schools. War always leaves the world worse than it was before. It is always for everyone a painful and tragic defeat. Building bridges and not walls is an exhortation that he repeated several times. The service of faith as successor of the Apostle Peter was always combined with the service of man in his dimensions, in spiritual union with all of Christianity. We are numerous here to pray for Pope Francis so that God may welcome him into the immensity of his love.

Francis wanted to conclude his speeches and also his contributions by saying: "Don't forget to pray for me". Now, dear Pope Francis, we ask you to pray for us, and we ask you to bless the Church, bless Rome, bless the whole world from heaven, as you did last Sunday from the balcony of this basilica in a final embrace with all the people of God, but ideally also with all of humanity, with humanity that seeks the truth with a sincere heart and holds high the torch of hope.

EVENING SCHOOL TEACHERS MEET 2025



CHENNAI DPP: Annual Evening School Teachers Meet was successfully held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore on 28th and 29th April, 2025. Around 45 evening school teachers with their community superiors in DPP actively partook in the meeting. A big thanks to ASCI & the Council and its members & volunteers, Fr. Gnanaraj, Provincial Superior, Fr. Johndass, ASCI Coordinator, Superiors of all the community in which Evening school program is organized for their unwavering support in successfully organizing this annual meet and Fr. Adaikalam & the community for the arrangements and residence at St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore. After the welcoming and prayer service on the first day of the meeting, Fr. Rajarathnam for organizing Ice breaking session that helped teachers to get to know each other beyond the barriers of culture, language and tradition. All the teachers actively participated and cooperated in all the sessions, games and group sharing. First day of the meeting was focused on the input sessions and evaluation of the program that were handled by Fr. Visuwasam, Fr. Johndoss and Fr. Gnanaraj. After group pic, all the teachers were given gifts as a token of love. Mr. Pravin, son of Mr. Iyappan, local MLA encouraged and congratulated the ministry of the teachers and shared gifts to them. On the second day, teachers were brought to visit Poombhukar, a historical place; Danish fort and first printed bible in India at Tharangambadi and to Velankanni.

BYE! BYE! TO OUR GOD FATHER

KOPPAKA: On April 24th, the Koppaka community members, along with minor seminarians, celebrated Holy Mass for the repose soul of our beloved Pope Francis. In the evening, they animated Holy Eucharistic adoration, praying for his repose soul. The day was a complete void, and to strengthen us, they were reminded of his courageous words, "It's not what you own that counts. It's who you are. What you do for others."



OUTREACH PROGRAMME AT GPN

BANGALORE: A group of Master of Social Work (MSW) students from Kristu Jayanti College, led by Mr. Jonas Richard, Head of Department, and other faculty members, visited Guanella Preethi Nivas (GPN) as part of their curriculum outreach program. During their visit, the students generously donated money and bought groceries and other essential items to support the home.

This thoughtful gesture reflected the student's commitment to social responsibility and community service. The outreach program provided an opportunity for the students to engage with the residents, gain practical experience, and develop empathy and understanding of social issues. The visit was a meaningful experience for both the students and the GPN community. Finally, Fr. Kulandaiswamy briefed about the home and thanked the faculty and the students for their generosity and social responsibility.



ZUBI COOKIES COMPANY VISITS GPN



BANGALORE: Representatives from Zubi Cookies Company visited Guanella Preethi Nivas (GPN) as part of their promotional efforts. During their visit, they introduced their new product by distributing cookies to the residents. This initiative not only brought a sweet treat to the residents but also showcased the company's commitment to engaging with the community. The visit was a delightful experience for everyone involved.

FRESH PRODUCE

BANGALORE: The India Food Banking Network, through the Bangalore Food Bank, visited Guanella Preethi Nivas (GPN) and generously donated a large quantity of fresh vegetables. This contribution will provide a nourishing source of food for the residents. The initiative highlights the organization's efforts to bridge the food gap and support vulnerable communities. GPN is grateful for the partnership and the impact it will have on the residents' well-being.



A GRAND PROCESSION



VATLURU: Pope Francis' Lenten message for 2025, entitled 'Let us journey together in hope,' underscores the significance of engaging in the journey of faith and transformation. This journey transcends mere symbolism; it represents a continual invitation to conversion, urging individuals to abandon the sources of sin and circumstances that undermine our human dignity. The Lenten customs at Sacred Heart Church in Vatluru have profoundly influenced the community. A grand procession took place through the streets of Vatluru, where the parish priest and congregants held palms aloft, proclaiming Hosanna and glorifying God for His sacrifice that cleanses us from sin. During the Holy Friday ceremony, the parish priest bore the holy cross on his shoulder, a tradition upheld in Vatluru, while the faithful honored Jesus by washing the feet of the parish priest, symbolizing their welcome of Him into their homes and hearts. Consequently, they observed a solemn vigil of the Holy Eucharist on the eve of Easter Sunday.

A GRAND FAREWELL



VATLURU: Steve Jobs stated, "You cannot connect the dots by looking ahead; you can only connect them by reflecting on the past. You must have faith that the dots will eventually connect in your future." The Guanella Karunalaya organized a grand farewell for the 10th-grade boys who completed their studies. The event was filled with poignant memories and heartfelt sadness among the boys. They reminisced about their unforgettable experiences at the boys' home, and the boys offered a resounding round of applause to encourage one another for their future endeavours. It was a deeply emotional and significant moment for both the fathers and the boys.

COMMUNITY DAY



CUDDALORE, SJS: St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore, joyfully celebrated its Community Day along with Sponsors Day on April 13, 2025, with an evening filled with music, dance, and deep gratitude. It was celebrated commemorating the 117th Foundation Day of the Congregation. Held under the stars, the celebration brought together fathers, brothers, benefactors, and well-wishers in a vibrant display of unity and cultural richness.

Rev. Fr. Gnanaraj, Provincial Superior, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He was warmly welcomed and honored by Rev. Fr. Adaikalam, Community Superior, and other dignitaries. The celebration opened with a prayer song, followed by a welcome address from Fr. Periyannayagam, Vice Rector. A traditional Lighting of the Lamp ceremony added spiritual solemnity to the evening. A highlight of the program was the release of the seminary magazine "Vizhudhugal," showcasing the creativity and talents of the seminarians. The event featured cultural performances, including group dances, songs in Hindi and Tamil, Kollatam, and musical compositions. Presentations on the human, spiritual, intellectual, and charismatic dimensions of seminary life added

depth and reflection. In his inspiring address, Fr. Gnanaraj encouraged the brothers to continue growing in faith and mission. He generously thanked the supporters of the seminary and blessed them. The evening concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks from Fr. Adaikalam and the Papal Anthem, leaving the audience with a renewed sense of community and purpose. Happy 117th Community Day to St. Joseph's Seminary! May its spirit of fraternity and formation continue to thrive.

GOOD CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE AND PICNIC



CUDDALORE: In a heartwarming initiative, the Don Guanella Day Care Centre organized on April 10th a one-day pilgrimage and picnic for twelve differently abled individuals, accompanied by five brothers and one priest. This special outing offered an enriching blend of spiritual grace and natural beauty, marking a truly memorable day in the lives of the participants.

The group first visited St. Antony's Shrine at Kattukoil in Virudhuvilanginan, a revered pilgrimage site known for its spiritual ambiance. The journey then continued to the holy town of Thiruvannamalai, where they visited the famous Arunachaleswarar Temple. In a touching gesture of inclusion, the pilgrims were granted special passes to enter the sanctuary and receive individual blessings. The day's itinerary also included a stop at the magnificent Sathanur Dam, a marvel of Tamil architecture and engineering. The lush gardens, scenic landscapes, and serene environment brought great joy and wonder to the group. For many of the differently abled, visiting such landmarks was a long-held dream—made possible through the tireless efforts of the Guanellian community.

Adding to the joy of the day, Mrs. Lourdu, a former Guanellian, generously hosted a special and sumptuous lunch for all besides sponsoring

whole trip expenses, further emphasizing the spirit of fellowship and care that defines our mission. Indeed, the outing was not just a physical journey but a spiritual and emotional pilgrimage—one filled with smiles, blessings, and unforgettable moments. It stood as a testament to the Guanellian commitment to dignity, joy, and inclusion for all, especially the differently abled.

26th ANNUAL DAY



CHENNAI, DGSS: On April 12, 2025, Don Guanella Special School and Home joyfully commemorated its 26th Annual Day Celebration with the theme "Culture: Past and Present" brought forth a vibrant showcase of heritage and innovation.

The students, ably assisted by the dedicated staff, presented a meaningful and engaging program. Parents, benefactors, and esteemed guests, including Provincial Fr. Gnanaraj, Fr. Ronald, and Fr. Peter Jerald, graced the occasion with their presence. The event was a testament to the school's commitment to nurturing talent and promoting inclusivity. Congratulations to the students, staff, and organizers for making it a memorable celebration...

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT

CHENNAI, DGSS: Don Guanella Special School recently concluded its comprehensive annual evaluation of children, marking a significant milestone in their educational journey. The evaluation, held from early April to April 26, assessed progress across various domains: Director, Principal, and Class Special Educators. Assessment Areas: Academic achievements, Activities of



Daily Living (ADL), Sports, Extra-curricular activities. The Madras Development Program System (MDPS) framework guided goal setting and evaluation. Mr. Srinivasan, District Differently Abled Officer, participated in the evaluation, providing valuable insights and suggestions for future development and growth of the children.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROGRAM

CHENNAI DGSS: The students of Saveetha College's Occupational Therapy department visited Don Guanella Special School and Home on April 2, 2025. The visit took place from 8:30 am to 2 pm. During this time, the students engaged with the children, providing them with support and guidance. Home-based activities were also introduced to the children to aid in their development. This initiative reflects the department's commitment to community service and inclusive education. at last Fr. Anandhan thanked the gathering with the word of appreciation for their commitment and service to the needy brethren.



VISITING THE HISTORICAL PLACES



CHENNAI DGMS: Don guanella major seminary brothers went on a tour to Kanyakumari on 25th and 26th April, visiting the historical places related to Blessed Devasahayam, including his cemetery, relic, sites of persecution, and the prayer fountain. They were deeply moved by his witness of faith and sacrifice. also visited the Vivekananda Rock and the Thiruvalluvar Statue, which inspired them with their cultural and spiritual legacy. The trip ended joyfully with a refreshing bath at Thiruparapu Falls. It was a memorable journey blending faith, history, and nature and returned with enrichment in spirit and closer as a group.

DPP - VOCATION CAMP



CHENNAI DPP: Fr. Jeyaseelan together with the cooperation of Fr. Sachin Son, Fr. Yesu Babu, some other confreres and communities organized vocation camps in India in the following five places respectively: Guanella Bhavan –

Kopakka (01-04-2025 till 03-04-2025) in Eluru Diocese, Our lady of Lourdes Church Martalli in Mysore Diocese(6th April),Guanella Preethi Nivas in Bangalore Archdiocese (08-04-2025 till 09-04-2025), St. Joseph's Minor Seminary in Pondy - Cuddalore Archdiocese (22-04-2025 till 24-04-2025) and Yesuvanam in Sivagnagai Diocese(26-04-2025 till 28-04-2025). Altogether, fifty-five boys participated in the vocation camp.

The respective above mentioned communities cooperated for the successful vocation camps. The topics such as discernment and positive approach towards the life, God's call, motivation stories in the Bible and mission of Guanellian congregation were introduced to the students during the camp. Group activities and fraternal gatherings helped to identify their personalities and talents. Students were interviewed to verify their vocation motivation and some of them were promoted to experience the Guanellian way of life.

ONGOING FORMATION FOR CONFRERES

CHICAGO: Guanellian Ongoing Formation for Confreres in the USA took place on April 28th May 1, 2025, at Mount St. Joseph, Chicago on the themes: 1. The Impact of Midlife Affective Dimensions, and the Management of Psychosocial Challenges in Religious Life. 2. The Gift of Guanellian Spirit, the Ministerial Joy and Exhaustion, and Charismatic Servanthood. The Resource Persons were : Fr. Benoy Joseph, Cap., Fr. Fortunato, SdC., Fr. Amalor, SdC., Fr. Satheesh, SdC., Sr. Bethann, DSMP, and Fr. Gnanaraj, SdC.

It was a wonderful learning experience for all the young priests. The program had conferences, group activities, group discussions, Spiritual nourishment opportunities, group appraisals and pilgrimages. It was an amazing opportunity for Servants to be with the Daughters and share the Guanellian Family Spirit. Special thanks to the participants, resource persons, DSMP sisters and the organizers.



COFFEE AND COOKIES FOR CARING

CHELSEA – During the challenges of late winter and flu season, the nursing and direct care staff persevered in providing top-notch care to the St. Louis Center residents. Brad Crosier, a direct care professional himself, assisted the residents in brewing coffee and baking cookies on April 5th. All staff members were invited to the Day Program area to enjoy the refreshments and a bit of fellowship. Brad felt it was a small show of appreciation for the loving care the staff continues to provide.

LENT RETREAT BEARS FRUIT

GRASS LAKE - Fr. Leo led a Lenten Retreat on April 5th with the topic of *Cultivating Spiritual Fruit in Difficult Seasons*. At least 25 people were in attendance. They were edified by the spiritual talks, had the opportunity for Adoration and Confession, prayed the Rosary, and participated in Mass. The St. Joseph Women's guild provided a hearty but simple lunch after the retreat. A new comer to the Shrine was also able to participate in the retreat and enjoy the peacefulness of the Shrine.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

CHELSEA – Since September, Fr. Amal has taught two St. Louis Center residents the importance of the Holy Eucharist. Through his catechism lessons, Jacqui and Mike were more than ready to receive Jesus for the first time April 27th at Our Lady of Fatima, the Church where Fr. Amal is the pastor. Family members were on hand to witness this glorious occasion on Divine Mercy Sunday.



FLOWERS CONTINUE TO BLOOM

CHELSEA – As May approaches, the 1000 Flowers Could Bloom project continues to be the main focus of the clay classes held twice weekly at the Center. Community members who joined us in making flowers returned to the St. Louis Center gym to glaze their projects. Each participant lovingly selected colors to match the individuality of their flower. On consecutive Wednesdays, April 9th and 16th, 40 community members visited the campus to add color to their creation. Other community members who worked on a tile project for a local park will also invited to the Center to glaze their projects. They all await with anticipation the unveiling of the finished artwork.

PROJECT OFFICIALLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION

GRASS LAKE - The groundbreaking for the Holy Rosary Project took place on April 13th after Palm Sunday Mass. Work has begun to dig the foundations for the statues and to pour the concrete. Recordings, plaques and other details are also underway, so that when the statues are all set in place, all of the details will come together.

PRAYER AND PIZZA RETURNS TO THE SHRINE

GRASS LAKE - The return of the Little Daughters of St. Joseph Prayer and Pizza Retreat was Saturday, April 12th, after having been paused for many years. About forty girls participated; they listened to a talk, made crafts, and attended Mass. The girls' retreat will be held every second Saturday of the month during the school year, in conjunction with the St. Louis Center boys' retreat.

SOPHOMORE DAY OF SERVICE

CHELSEA – More than thirty 10th Grade students from Father Gabriel Richard Catholic High School came to St. Louis Center with their teachers Friday, April 11th. This was part of the school's annual "Sophomore Days of Service." Jacqui, a St. Louis Center resident, opened the day with a prayer. The students divided into groups and set off to work on projects led by Center residents. Some students played basketball, some helped make dog biscuits for upcoming farmers' markets. Others helped paint the fence for the upcoming "1000 Flowers Could Bloom" installation and decorated the bulletin board in the main lobby. After several hours of the different activities, everyone met in

ROOF REPAIRED

CHELSEA – A dozen men from the Irish Hills Knights of Columbus Council completed their Lenten Penance at the Center April 14th and 16th. They took on the task of replacing the roof of the gazebo behind Fr. Guanella Hall. The first day was spent removing the cupola and old shingles. They painted the cupola to give it more protection against the elements. On the second day they put fresh tarpaper and asphalt shingles and, on the roof, and re-installed the cupola, after covering it with all new shingles. The Gazebo is now ready for the residents to enjoy all summer long.

BUONA PASQUA!

GRASS LAKE – The Paschal Triduum was a time of spiritually moving liturgies. Though the Easter Vigil is not celebrated at the Shrine, the Chapel was filled to capacity for Easter Sunday Mass on Sunday, April 20th.

INTRODUCING ST. JOSEPH

GRASS LAKE - The Spanish community in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti visited the Shrine for a retreat on April 26th. They came to learn about devotion to St. Joseph. They were very excited to discover more about the Shrine and about the foster father of Jesus.



**A LITTLE BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS
COLD AND MORE JUST."**

- Pope Francis

BIRTHDAYS

01- DN. M. JOHN PETER
 04- FR. I. VINNARASAN
 05- FR. A. JAYASOOSAI
 08- FR. M. RAJESH KUMAR
 13- BRO. A. ANTONYSAMY
 FR. L. MATHIAS
 FR. STALIN SAVARIMUTHU
 15- BRO. DEEPAK KUMAR BEBIRIA
 16- FR. A. VANATHAIYAN
 21- FR. M. FELICKS MICHAEL
 FR. S. MELVIN RAJ
 22- FR. J. EDAL VINOTH JOE
 24- FR. UMBERTO BRUGNONI |
 FR. PIERO LIPPOLI
 FR. S. JOHNDASS
 26- FR. DENNIS M. WEBER
 28- FR. V. MARIA ANTONY RAJAN
 30- FR. A. JOHN KENNEDY (JUNIOR)

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

04- FR. A. ARUL RAJ
 FR. M. FELICKS MICHAEL
 FR. R. GNANARAJ
 15- FR. DAVID STAWASZ
 19- FR. C. LIGORY
 FR. P. VISUWASAM
 21- FR. ENZO ADDARI

Happy
Birthday

Sometimes, the best moments in life
 are the simple ones.
 Wishing you a birthday filled with all the
 happy little things
 that make you smile!



POPE FRANCIS
 1936-2025