

News and Views

Divine Providence Province



REST REVIVE RENEW

My dear Confreres!

A common answer to the question, "How are you?" is often "Busy." Yet, many times we don't have to be quite as busy as we schedule ourselves to be. Our holiday break can, and should, serve as an opportune occasion to seek 1) rest, 2) renew, and 3) revive. This is true in terms of your mind, your body, and foremost, your soul.

1. Rest

Scripture tells us that upon finishing his creation, God rested to take delight in it (Gn 2:2-3). It also tells us that he commanded man to rest (Ex 16:29-30; 20:8-11), so that man might consider the greatness of the nuptial vocation to which he is called (Hos 2:18-20; Eph 5:32). This command contains, too, the promise that man may finally enter into God's own rest (Ex 33:14; Dt 3:20; Josh 21:44) and find his peace (quies) remaining in God's love (Jn 15:1-17).

Jesus understood the need for rest. In the Gospels, Christ extended the divine "rest" that only he could offer, drawing us to seek him in order to find soulful relief from the weariness of the world. Vacation is the time to slow down, take a break, and rest! Rest is an essential part of our health. On a physical level, it allows our cells to repair from the stress of our daily lives. Sleep and rest are also good for our spiritual and mental health. The truth is what is restful for some may not be restful for others. For some, working in the garden is more restful than sitting and watching a movie. As Jesus said in Mark 2:27, "Then he said to them, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'"

MAY - 2024





Though there is great importance and dignity in the work we do, we often forget that there is also value in rest. Our on-the-go culture makes it difficult to see the necessity of taking the time to rest. We might even be considered lazy or unmotivated when we do reserve time for relaxation. However, not pausing amidst our chaotic life to take a break can lead to mental, emotional, physical and spiritual problems. Rest is one of the gifts that God gave us at the beginning of the creation account. Rest is necessary to recuperate, rejuvenate, and recenter so we can better serve Him.

2. Renew

Jesus has a way of renewing everything without changing anything. In other words, he remains the same as he has been since before time began: He is unchanging, just as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are, with the Three Persons of the Trinity united as one God. While we will use the weeks during the summer to renew, we must make sure that all renewal that takes place is in the vein of Christian renewal. Ensure that the preparations we are making done in the Lord's name, are engagingly new, and inspirationally faithful and unchangingly refreshing. Attempt to imagine how new Christ's teachings must have sounded to his first disciples when they began to follow him.

3. Revive

God is the author of our life. He has given us free will because he wants our life to magnify him and to bring greater glory to the kingdom of God. May we allow the Lord to breathe new life into our ministerial efforts, perhaps when we may feel that we are suffering from burn-out.

As I conclude, the month of May draws us closer to our Divine Mother to imbibe her virtues. During this month we celebrate various feasts- Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost, Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. It reawakens in us to rise above from the standards of this world to be rooted in the spirit and to form the Trinitarian Communities by strengthening ourselves with Christ in his own Body and Blood.

- We thank the Evening School teachers who actively participated in the Annual Evening School Teachers Meet that was held on 29-30, April at DGMS, Chennai.
- We pray for all our staff who assists us in our communities, homes & centers.
- We wish and pray for our temporarily professed brothers who will be renewing their religious profession on 26th May, the day in which our dear founder was ordained as a priest by Bishop Bernardine M. Frascolla (May 26, 1886).
- We wish and pray for the Postulants, who will be entering into Novitiate on 30th May, 2024.

FR. RONALD. J SDC

Provincial Superior

FAITH

The virtue by which we believe in God and in all that He has revealed to us.



Dear brothers and sisters,

Today I would like to talk about the virtue of faith. Together with charity and hope, this virtue is described as theological. There are three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. Why are they theological? Because they can be lived – this virtue, the three theological virtues – only thanks to the gift of God. The three theological virtues are the great gifts that God gives to our moral capacity. Without them, we could be prudent, just, strong and temperate, but we would not have eyes that see even in the dark, we would not have a heart that loves even when it is not loved, we would not have a hope that dares against all hope.

What is faith? This question: what is faith? The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, it explains that faith is the act by which the human being freely commits himself to God (1814). In this faith, Abraham was the great father. When he agreed to leave the land of his ancestors to head for the land that God would show him, he would probably have been judged insane: why leave the known for the unknown, the certain for the uncertain? But why do this? It is insane, isn't it? But Abraham sets off, as if he could see the invisible: this is what the Bible says about Abraham. "He went, not knowing where he was to go". This is beautiful. And it will again be the invisible that makes him go up the mountain with his son Isaac, the only son of the promise, who only at the last moment will be spared from sacrifice. In this faith, Abraham becomes the father of a long line of descendants. Faith made him fruitful.

Moses was a man of faith when, welcoming God's voice even more than one doubt could have shaken him, he continued to stand firm and trust in the Lord, and even defend the people who were so often lacking in faith. The Virgin Mary was a woman of faith when, receiving the annunciation of the Angel, which many would have dismissed as too demanding and risky, answered, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). And, with her heart full of faith, with her heart full of trust in God, Mary set out on a path of which she knew neither the route nor the dangers.

Faith is the virtue that makes the Christian. Because to be Christians is not first and foremost about accepting a culture, with the values that accompany it, but being Christian is welcoming and cherishing a bond, a bond with God: God and I, myself and the amiable face of Jesus. This bond is what makes us Christians. With regard to faith, an episode



of the Gospel comes to mind. Jesus' disciples were crossing the lake, and are surprised by the storm. They think they can get by with the strength of their arms, with the resources of their experience, but the boat starts to fill up with water and they are seized by panic (cf. Mk 4: 35-41). They do not realize that they have the solution before their very eyes: Jesus is there with them on the boat, in the midst of the storm, and Jesus "was asleep", says the Gospel. When they finally awaken Him, fearful and even angry that He would let them die, Jesus rebukes them: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (Mk 4:40).

Here, then, is the great enemy of faith: it is not intelligence, nor is it reason, as, alas, some continue obsessively to repeat; but the great enemy of fear. For this reason, faith is the first gift to welcome in Christian life: a gift that must be welcomed and asked for daily, so that it may be renewed in us. It is seemingly a small gift, yet it is the essential one. When we were brought to the baptismal font, our parents, after announcing the name they had chosen for us, were asked by the priest – this happened in our baptism: "What do you ask of the Church of God?" And the parents answered: "Faith, baptism!"

For Christian parents, aware of the grace that has been given them, that is the gift to ask for their child too: faith. With it, parents know that, even in the midst of the trials of life, their child will not drown in fear. See, the enemy is fear. They also know that, when the child ceases to have a parent on this earth, he will continue to have a God the Father in heaven, who will never abandon him. Our love is so fragile, and only God's love conquers death.

Certainly, as the Apostle says, faith is not for all (cf. 2 Thess 3:2), and we too, who are believers, often realize that we have only a short supply. Often Jesus can rebuke us, as He did with His disciples, for being "men of little faith". But it is the happiest gift, the only virtue we are permitted to envy. Because those who have faith are inhabited by a force that is not only human; indeed, faith "triggers" grace in us and opens the mind to the mystery of God. As Jesus once said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea', and it would obey you" (Lk 17:6). Therefore, let us too, like the disciples, repeat to Him: Lord, increase our faith! (Lk 17:5). It is a beautiful prayer! Shall we say it all together? "Lord, increase our faith". Let us say it together [everyone] "Lord, increase our faith". Too quiet... a bit louder: [everyone] "Lord, increase our faith"! Thank you.



VITO GROUP



BANGALORE: The Volunteers of the VITO group, each from different IT companies, united for a noble cause: social responsibility. This VITO group graced our home on May 21. The first order of business was an introductory session among themselves. Next, Mrs. Divya, the Co-coordinator, introduced them to our elderly men. She, along with the volunteers, orchestrated some mind-refreshing activities and fun games, like lemon in the spoon, drawing, sketching, and coloring. The visitors also collaborated with the residents to make brooms and paper bags. The volunteers infused our men with vibrancy and enthusiasm, creating a joyful atmosphere. Our elderly men had a delightful time and relished the activities.

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW ELEVATOR

BANGALORE: "God's blessing is manifested in fulfilling the needs of those who ask unto Him."





Last month was a time of immense celebration and shared joy for the entire GPN community. On 17th April, our elders, along with the Fathers, gathered to inaugurate the new elevator for our Guanella Destitute Home for Men. The General Councilor, Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, blessed and inaugurated the new elevator. On behalf of the General Council, Fr. Rathinam acknowledged the community for its growth and thanked Rev. Fr. Kulandaiswamy, the Administrator, for his fervent efforts to make this project a reality. He then thanked Mr. Dominic Tilak for his generous help and Mr. Anthony Cruz, the engineer, for his tireless work to complete this project. They were both honored with a shawl. Guests savored a sweet following the ceremony, which symbolized the sweetness of our shared achievement.

A CALL TO LOVE AND SERVE



KOPPAKKA: From April 3rd to the 5th, Guanella Bhavan hosted a vocation camp for boys from different dioceses. The camp, organized by Fr. Praveen, the community's Superior, aimed to bring together young minds and provide them with a space to explore their vocations. The camp started with a warm welcome from Fr. Praveen, who encouraged the boys to get to know each other. Throughout the three days, the boys participated in various activities, including Holy Mass, prayer, a cricket match, and a fraternal night. The highlight of the camp was the opportunity for the boys to interact with Fr. Praveen, Fr. Jose, Fr. Christuraj, Fr. Jayaseelan, and Fr. Assisi, who led classes and discussions on vocations. On the third day, the camp concluded with interviews, where the boys could reflect on their experiences. The camp was a truly transformative experience for the boys, sparking a sense of hope and inspiration for their future. Overall, the vocation camp at Guanella Bhavan was a great success, bringing together young boys from different backgrounds and helping them explore their calling. It was a time of growth and self-discovery, and it will leave a lasting impact on all who attended, filling our hearts with optimism and joy for the potential of these young boys.

THE FLAG OF MOTHER MARY

KUMBAKONAM: Our Lady of Divine Providence Church has 18 substations, of which 12 have



chapels. We were excited to celebrate the 17th Annual Feast of the Parish as one family. To mark the occasion and make it memorable, the flag of Mother Mary was brought to all the villages in procession, followed by the recitation of the rosary and ending with holy Mass. The task of bringing all these families and persons together was not a small task. The parish priest, with the help of the Legion of Mary and many individual parishioners, set to the task of reaching everyone.

ANNUAL DAY OF EVENING SCHOOL

CUDDALORE: According to Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world." On April 11th, the eve of Ramjan, the St. Joseph's Evening School at Cuddalore celebrated its Annual Day. About 50 students, along with their parents, attended. Mr. David, English coach and founder of the Oxford Academy Cuddalore, was the chief guest. The children's performance was culturally based and included singing, dancing, rhymes, and skits. The drama on 'Good Samaritan' was surprising. Mr. David, in his address, expressed appreciation for the young stars' performances and encouraged them to always aim for excellence in their future endeavors. Felicitations and farewells were given to two staff members. Ms. Monisha, our evening schoolteacher, who has served for the last five years at Gundu Uppalavadi Institution. Ms. Monisha will be getting married soon. Farewell and congratulations were also given to Bro. Ruban who served the past four years in the evening school as Brother-in-Charge. Bro. Ruban has been promoted to the next stage of formation. The children in attendance were gifted with new school bags. The sponsors of the evening school were honored and invited to distribute the gifts to children. Everyone enjoyed the chicken biriyani and joyfully returned home with the precious school bag gifts.





THE 25TH ANNUAL DAY



CHENNAI: The 25th Annual Day Celebration at Don Guanella Special School was amazing! The theme "PALA VANNA SIRAKUGALAI" was chosen because it was interesting and made the event special. Many important guests came, among them some actors. Students performed dances and songs that displayed their talents. The release of the 25th Anniversary song was a big moment. This event celebrated the school's success and the students' achievements. Over 700 people attended, including Priests, sisters, brothers, and supporters. It was a great day that united everyone and made us proud of our school.

THE EVENING SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY

VATLURU: B. R. Ambedkar shared some words of wisdom on education with us. "Be educated, be agitated, be organized, be confident, never give up; these are the five principles of our life." "Educate boys and girls; do not involve them in traditional business activities." Education is the heartbeat of every nation. The Don Guanella Evening School children enthusiastically began the Annual Day program for the evening school on April 6, 2024, at Guanella Karunalaya Vatluru. The children of Vatluru, Showripuram, Angelipuram, Ammapalem, and Kalaparu were part of the day's celebration. Our evening school children performed fantastically and were rewarded with small gifts.





THE SPORTS MEET



VATLURU: Two important figures in the sports world have commented on the nature of a true champion. "A champion is someone who gets up when he can't." Jack Dempsey. "Sportsmanship for me is when a guy walks off the court, and you really can't tell whether he won or lost when he carries himself with pride either way," Jim Courier. Our students try to emulate these philosophies. Guanella Karunalaya conducted a sports meet for the academic year 2023-24. The boys were divided into 3 groups: spartans, warriors, and daredevils. The competition included running races, long jumps, Kabadi, Kho Kho, and other athletic games. The boys enthusiastically participated in all the sports and games. The competition was conducted by our Wardens, Ravi and Kowsick. All the contestants had an exciting and fun time.

ANNUAL EVENING SCHOOL TEACHERS MEET

DPP, CHENNAI: Annual Evening School Teachers Meet was organized on 29th and 30th April, 2024. Around 45 evening school teachers from 43 centres of evening school in DPP actively partook in the meeting. Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior introduced the topic, Fr. Rajesh presented his topic on "Guanellian Educational Style & Guanellian Preventive Method" and Mr. Franklin, Advocate spoke on "POCSO ACT and Protection of Minors". Teachers interacted and clarified their doubts and concerns with the resource persons. Representatives from each evening school presented about their particular evening school. Afterwards, there was discussion, proposals and recommendations were made. Everyone wholeheartedly thanked ASCI and the Council. After group pic, all the teachers were given gifts as a token of love. They were also brought to Dakshinchithra (South Indian Cultural Heritage Centre), Our Lady of Good Health Shrine, Besant Nagar and Marina Beach for sight-seeing...



EVENING SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY

DPP, CHENNAI - Divine Providence Province Provincialate celebrated the annual day of the Evening School on 15th April, 2024. Evening School students together with their parents participated in the program. Good children from Don



Guanella Residential Home and Major Seminarians took part in this joyous event. Evening School students performed cultural programs with colorful props and the audience were enthralled by colorful performances. Mr. Antony, Yoga Master advised the students about the importance of yoga and how to spend time productively during vacation. Then, addressing the gathering, Fr. Arun Kumar stated that the students must concentrate on the education and at the same time they must make use of the opportunities to grow in the extra-curricular activities. At last, they were all given gifts and went home to enjoy their holidays.

A TOTAL ECLIPSE

CHELSEA - A total lunar eclipse covered a band of the United States in darkness for several minutes on Monday, April 8th. At St. Louis Center, curious staff members used special gear to cover their eyes in order to get a good look at the moon-covered sun.



ART IN THE GARDEN

CHELSEA – The St. Louis Center residents and staff have been working hard to create ceramic wind chimes and craft their own personal biographies. Thanks to the generous support of a grant from the Michigan Arts & Culture Council and administered by Creative Washtenaw, Eli Zemper offers weekly workshops. The wind chimes that they are making will be on display at the local public library in the reading garden for the month of May.



FR. ENZO'S RETIREMENT GALA

CHELSEA - Nearly 400 people gathered at Andiamo's Showroom in Warren MI on Thursday, April 18th, to honor Fr. Enzo Addari, SdC. A statue depicting the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was in a place of prominence on the stage, on loan from State Deputy Christopher Kolomjec of the Michigan Knights of Columbus. Aaron Caruso, an accomplished singer and





performer, planned a musical tribute that was thoughtful and beautiful. Performers included Aaron, Eva and Michael Evola, Angela Theis, Sonia Lee, and a brass quintet directed by Brandley Arnold. The surprise performance of the night was Lia Lucci, a very talented 11-year-old, who sang the Star Spangled Banner and Ave Maria.

PRINCESS AND THE DANCE CREW



CHELSEA - Thanks to the donations of many supporters of the Open Spot Theatre, St. Louis Center residents were able to, once again, put on a theatrical play. For six weeks, Theatre instructors helped the residents write, and produce their very own version of Snow White. They called it "The Princess and the Dance Crew." On April 22nd, they showcased their hard work to the St. Louis Center community. There were many laughs to delight the audience.

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS BEGIN

CHELSEA – St. Louis Center has been growing and changing over the years to accommodate the needs of the people it serves. The kitchen, however, has been one area that has remained the same. With the dietary needs of the residents becoming more challenging, it was time to make much needed upgrades to the kitchen to better serve the residents. It will be a challenge for the next few months to prepare meals in the temporary kitchen trailer, but the result will be a major accomplishment in the care of vulnerable people with specialized diets. The trailer arrived at the Center on April 24th and renovations are already underway.



GLOW PARTY



CHELSEA – St. Louis Center staff members have been planning the Glow Party for months. They put together backdrops, planned snacks, helped the residents prepare glowable 'costumes', and inviting the public. The Center's gym was darkened and decorated for an evening of fun, dancing, and games on April 26th. There were prizes for best costumes, limbo champion, and more. The event attracted residents, their parents, staff members, their family members, and even members from the Chelsea community.

A HAPPY MARRIAGE

GRASS LAKE - On April 28th, a couple celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at the Shrine. They renewed their wedding vows after Mass, and the Women's Guild threw them a small reception with cake, coffee, and donuts. Many of their family and friends were present to help commemorate the occasion.





ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- 04 - Fr. Arul Raj. A |
Fr. Felicks Michael |
Fr. Gnanaraj. R
- 08 - Fr. Enzo Addari
- 15 - Fr. David Stawasz
- 19 - Fr. Alphonse Maria Ligori |
Fr. Visuvasam. P
- 26 - Fr. Enzo Adari

**WISH YOU A
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
&
Ordination
Anniversary**

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Bro. John Peter. M /
4 - Fr. Vinnarasan. I
5 - Fr. Jayasoosai
7 - Fr. Selvaraj
8 - Bro. Rajesh Kumar. M
13 - Fr. Stalin
13 - Bro. Anthony Samy. A /
Fr. Mathias /
Fr. Stalin Savarimuthu
15 - Bro. Deepak kumar
16 - Fr. Arockia Vanathaiyan. A
21 - Fr. Felicks Michael |
Bro. Melvin Raj S.
22 - Fr. Edal Vinoth Joe
24 - Fr. Umberto |
Fr. Piero Lippoli /
Fr. Johndass. S
26 - Fr. Dennis M. Weber
28 - Fr. Maria Antony Rajan. V
30 - Fr. John Kennedy A.

Provincial Calendar for May

- 1-3 - Guanellian School in DGMS, Chennai
5 - Holy Communion in Pondy
8 - Feast Day Mass in Palnellur
9-10 - Plenary Council Meeting
11-12 - GC National Assembly (Vice Provincial & Councilor Incharge)
13-17 - CRI National Assembly of Major Superiors (Bangalore)
26 - Renewal of Religious Vows in Chennai
30 - Entrance to Novitiate (Vice Provincial)

