

# News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province



## Traces of God's Presence and Human Quests and Desires!!

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My head was aching, heart was heavy, spirit quite low and there was a spiritual desertification! I felt that I needed a spiritual revitalization and then I went for an annual retreat to research the traces of God's presence in my consecrated life journey. I thought that this desire would be helpful due to the unfavorable situation around me, negative criticism, unfair and unloving attitudes. A deep despair was setting in... and I knew I could not change this situation. When I attended the retreat and listened to the preacher and spent more hours in silence I got this unexpected surprise! The Lord said, "My son, it's not the lovelessness, imperfections of others or your non-stop visits causing this pain, you are in pain, you have withdrawn your love from Me and, are focusing on others' momentous concern, love and friendship. And whenever anyone blocks the free flow of this energy of love they are bound to suffer." By becoming hard, insensitive, unloving, and judgmental, we harm ourselves and become nervous but often we do not realize this. The master creator has designed us very wisely. In our bodies, there is a system of 'chemical



*"In the garden He appeared to Mary Magdalene, who loved Him in life, who witnessed his death on the cross, who sought Him as He lay in the tomb, who was the first to adore Him when He rose from the dead, and whose apostolic duty was honored by the apostles, that the good news of life might reach the ends of the earth."*

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reward/punishment' that acts instantly. A single negative thought about someone is enough to generate toxins in our body that manifests itself not only in our emotions, but also on our very countenance!

Since I am on my canonical visitation in Vietnam/Philippines I would like to emphasize the aspect of 'interculturality'. Today our Congregation is made up of members from many different countries, that is international/multicultural. Now-a-days no one is surprised to hear questions like: present society bets on mono-culture or multicultural?

Internationality is not just an accidental happening, related to the numerical composition of the groups and communities, but it is leading people to make valuable choices, being capable of appreciating in them the birth of a very positive missionary attitude, such as: tolerance, openness, receptivity, dialogue, creativity, appreciating of whatever is different in others. As W.H. Auden says "civilization should be measured by the degree of diversity attained and the degree of unity retained."

*Fr. Soosai Rathanam.*

## Listen to One Another By Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC

A couple of years ago, I was flying from Detroit to Tokyo. I had an aisle sit. Next to me sat a gentleman who appeared to enjoy the sight from the little window. We had a 12 hour trip ahead of us. I tried several times to make conversation and he replied with grunts. When I made a comment, he either ignored me or gave me another groan. I decided to forget him. I said to myself: he will have to go to the rest room and ask me to move. He never did. Perhaps God endowed him with long term organs. We need to stop looking at our cellular phones, and instead really encounter and listen to one another. Beware of bad habits that prevent us, even within our families, from truly listening to others and empathizing with them. We can draw inspiration from the Gospel reading where Jesus brought back from the dead the only son of the widow of Nain. "When the Lord saw her He felt sorry for her.

"Do not cry," He said.

Then He went up and put His hand on the bier and He said,

Young man, I tell you to get up." And the dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Everyone was filled with awe and praised God." (Lk. 7,13-15). An encounter with Jesus overcomes our indifference.

Often when people meet each other, they think of themselves, they can see the other person but are not looking at him or her; they can hear that person but are not listening to him or her.

An encounter is something different. It is an encounter between a man and a woman, between an only living son and an only son who had died; among a joyful crowd because they had encountered Jesus and were following Him and a group of people, weeping, accompanying that woman, who had come out from the gate of the city; an encounter between the exit gate and the entry gate. An encounter that makes us reflect on our way of interacting with each other. Jesus "was moved with pity." When Christ observed something unfortunate, He encounters and

reacts, never remaining indifferent. If we see something sad, we say 'what a shame!' Jesus doesn't pass by, He is moved with pity. He goes up to the woman for a real encounter and then performs the miracle and, at the same time He restores the dignity of the mother and son.

In this Gospel's encounter, we not only see His tenderness but also the fruitfulness of that encounter that restores people and things to their proper place.

We are accustomed to a culture of indifference and we must strive and ask for the grace to create a culture of encounter, of a fruitful encounter, of an encounter that restores to each person his or her own dignity as a child of God, the dignity of a living person.

We are accustomed to this indifference, when we see the disasters of this world or small things: 'What a shame, poor people, look how they are suffering,' and then we carry on. And if I don't look, it's not enough to see, no, we must look. If I don't stop, if I don't look, if I don't touch, if I don't speak, I cannot have an encounter and I cannot help to build a culture of encounter.

We all are in need of his Word and need that encounter with Him.

In our families, at the dinner table, how many times while eating, we watch the TV or write messages on our cell phones. Each one is indifferent to that encounter. Even within the heart of society, which is the family, there is no encounter. May this help us to strive for this culture of encounter, just as simply as Jesus did so. As Christians we need to look, listen and meet, rather than just see, hear, and pass by. Don't just say 'what a shame, poor people,' but allow ourselves to be moved by pity. Draw near, touch and say in the language that comes to each one of us in that moment, the language of the heart: Do not weep, and donate at the very least a drop of life.

Whether we are Cooperators, Brother Knights or Religious, Jesus loves us and wants a creative relationship with us. And from his fullness we all received grace upon grace.



## The Winning Route on the Roadmap of Charity

Fr. Guanella had a well focused dream when he decided to, "Go North," adapting his feeling compass to a genial intuition during the Int. Marian Congress at Treviri, a part of the former Roman Province. At a very crowded assembly in the Cathedral of St. Helena, he implored the Forum to help his charitable work, which by August 1912 was quite established. In his prophetic allocution he was begging for 'small streams of charity' for his daughters and sons at his Italian and Swiss institutions from Germany. We believe that he intended to give this message and roadmap to a flock of former Sicilian alumni first. After a century, this has become a tangible reality through God's Providence: his sons carrying out his dream!

After ten years of baby steps, Guanellians have made giant progress in weaving a blessed net of benefactors among the generous Catholic solidarity agencies. The Guanellian Procure was diligent in seeking and finding 'busy bees' at Catholic Missio agencies, first at Aachen in 2008. The present Salesian General Treasurer, Bro. Jean Paul Muller, introduced us and mediated the first donation of a mini-bus for Fr. Frantellizzi Hogar at Ciudad DF, Mexico. Convinced by this successful trial, the DPP Provincial Council courageously established the Missions Procure in March 2009. The strong insistence of Fr. Mimi from Manila and a 'good word' of Fr Joseph Rinaldo at the General Council in Rome made the rest possible.



Msgr. Wolfgang Huber

This is a real charity Telenovela! Now after the first decade, it is time to thank Divine Providence which continuously opens doors and incredible possibilities for all projects presented to the Procure from the Guanellian provinces. The most generous Institution in fundraising is Missio Munich supported by Bavarian Catholics of the Archdiocese of Munich. To their President, Msgr. Wolfgang Huber, and his amazing assistants, Mrs. Heidrun Götler and Stephanie Schüller, goes our deepest gratitude. Since 2009, Missio Munich financed the construction of the new, modern Fr. Guanella Disabled Center in Quezon City; and later, the well-equipped physiotherapy wing.

Recently, after an intensive search of donors, Msgr. Thomas Schlichtig of the Awarding commission in the Munich Archdiocese, accepted the challenge of



Stephanie Schüller



Heidrun Götler

Missio to create a great stock of life-saving medicine for the Guanellian 'Good Samaritan Pharmacy!' To him, his archdiocese, the Missio staff and to all Bavarian donors, "Vergelt's Gott!" which means Blessings will remunerate your generosity.

We also convey our sincere thanks to Missio at Aachen, which in the past 10 years has been an attentive partner for our presence in Legazpi with five nutrition programs, physiotherapy of special children. They also pioneered support in many Guanellian Projects in Central Africa. In 2014-15 a new ambulance for



Msgr. Thomas Schlichtig

transporting children, AIDs sufferers, and the poor from the infernal streets of Kinshasa, RD Congo, through a 24-hour daily service was purchased and Bro. Mauro can fill their listening hears and open hearts. Thanks also to Mrs. Beate Jantzen for projects within Kinshasa and Mrs. Elaine Steiner for supporting the projects of Fr. Battista Omodei at Legazpi Philippines.

This story contains an encouraging message to our confreres in Africa and Asia to be confident that every request, every small project, has for us absolute priority! This is our vocation and commitment, to be the 'third child in the Guanellian family!' We do not baptize, nor confess, nor preach, but all our mental resources and 'savoir faire' are in service to the poor, because they reflect the image of God on Earth!

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus bless all our donors, supporters and friends of our Procure for remaining beside us as bridges to the German charity sources.

*Gero Lombardo*, German Guanellian Procure

## Academic Year Opens

**CUDDALORE** - The St. Joseph's Minor Seminary for Guanellian Aspirancy Formation happily began the 2017-2018 academic year on June 3rd with a solemn



Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Visuwasam, SdC, superior of the Cuddalore Community. Fr. Visuwasam exhorted the seminarians during his homily to be open vessels, to be filled with the three important nourishments of religious formation such as Spiritual, Human and Charismatic dimensions. Fr. Assisi, rector of the seminary, presented the formation project for the year which seems to be in Line with the theme of our general chapter, "Going Back to the Roots of Guanllian Formation - By Ways of Heart". He then welcomed all the candidates to live their lives in Conformity with Jesus Christ. Let the future pillars of Guanellian life and mission be strongly rooted in the spirit of Christ and the footsteps of our Holy Founder.

### Don Guanella Major Seminary Opens with Mass of the Holy Spirit

**CHENNAI** - The DGMS community began the new academic year by celebrating Mass to the Holy Spirit on the Solemnity of Pentecost, June 4th. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, presided over the

Eucharistic celebration and brought the blessings of the Holy Spirit to all the brothers and community members.

After Mass, Fr. Samson, Superior of the



DGMS community, thanked the provincial and all other fathers who participated in the Eucharistic banquet. With the blessings of the Holy Spirit DGMS community stepped into the new academic year joyfully.

## House Inauguration

**KALLATHUPATTI** - Don Guanella Illam is thankful to God's magnificent grace for the new mission in the Dindigul Diocese. On June 9th a long anticipated desire was fulfilled a house for the poor and needy was officially opened. The house is named in honor of our Founder 'DON GUANELLA ILLAM'. This is a historical moment for the diocese and the Congregation. The new Bishop of Dindigul, Most. Rev. P. Thomas Paulsamy D.D., officiated the blessing and opening ceremony in the



presence of Provincial Superior, Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC. Nearly 50 priests and religious from various congregations as well as diocesan priests participated in the event. About 300 parishioners also attended the program.

## Corpus Christi Procession

**CUDDALORE** - God is yearning to be with us. It is through the Eucharistic Lord, we are able to encounter Jesus and feel His presence. He calls out for us to come and see Him. The people of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Church celebrated the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus on June 18th. The Eucharistic Procession



began at the parish. Fr. A. Periyamayagasamy, the Parish Priest, gave a blessing in the Church. Then the people piously moved towards Don Guanella Boys Home. Fr. Lawrence, the director of DGBH conducted half an hour of Adoration with the help of the boys home students. Eventually, the Eucharist was taken to St. Joseph Seminary. Fr. Amal Raj beautifully ended the ceremony with five lessons that we have to learn from the Eucharist: care, unity, sharing, humility and sacrifice.

### First Holy Communion

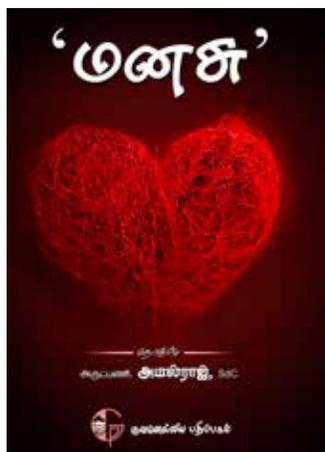
**KUMBAKONAM** - It was a great joy for Guanella Nagar Parish. Nineteen of the parish children received their First Holy Communion. Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. A. John Bosco. In his homily he taught that the first Holy Communion is a Catholic ceremony in which

a child is given the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time. The Holy Eucharist is Christ's body and blood present in the consecrated host on the Altar, and

we believe that the consecrated bread and wine are actually the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ. Fr. Vincent and Sr. Christy prepared the children spiritually for the past twenty-seven days for this great event. The first Holy Communion is without question a time of great joy. Hence, their parents, god-parents, relatives and friends were very happy. The children smiled exuberantly upon reception of the Eucharist.

### New Release from Guanellian Publications

**CUDDALORE** - Guanellian Publications from Divine Providence Province has happily yielded another new fruit namely "Manasu" a psychological book on June 23rd the solemn Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, by Most Rev. Dr. Singarayer, the bishop of Selam diocese in Sacred



Heart Shrine, Pondicherry. The book is a compilation made up of the choicest articles that were published in 'Anbin Suvadugal' magazine for past few years. The book comprises of all the life issues and solutions for all life stages and all kinds of people. Fr. Amalraj is the editor of this beautiful book.

### Farewell to a Friend



**CHENNAI** - The Don Guanella Major Seminary community gave a farewell to Fr. Praveen who has been serving in the community as the assistant director of the Don Guanella Rehabilitation Center. He is transferring to the Mysore formation house. The good children and teachers from DGRC participated in the program, making the event a colorful one. Brothers and teachers from DGRC felicitated Fr. Praveen with flattering words for his admirable services that he rendered to the good children. At the culmination of the program, Fr. Samson thanked him for what he has been to the community for the past two years and presented him a gift.

### Renewal of Pledge

**CUDDALORE** - On June 23rd, 12 members of the



## Leadersheep: Youth Camp

**MANILA** - The Guanellian Youth Camp 2017 happened in Pavilion Campsite, Banaba Cerca, Indang, Cavite May 29th-June 1st with the theme “Guanellian Youth: Bellwethers of the Flock.” Being compared with a bellwether, a leader sheep, each of the member of the Guanellian Youth Ministry (GYM) is being moulded to be a leader and role model of faith to his/her family, friends and community through good deeds and following the life of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

The participants listened to a series of talks and activities to enhance their leadership skills equipping them with wisdom and knowledge. Bro. Mark Jay Gensis shared that being brave, positive, responsible, accepting opinions and challenges, and believing in your God-given potentials will help you become a happy and productive leader/member. Bro. Harry Indonilla talked about the importance of commitment and how to stay committed in order to keep the faith burning while following our Lord Jesus Christ. Lastly, Ms. Charmaine Ramirez shared that having a good character is an essential part in being a good leader this means that one should be trustworthy, respectful, responsible, fair, caring and a good citizen, this also includes constantly doing the right things and following the golden rule, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Divided into three mini teams named after the Young Three Seers of Fatima, St. Francisco, St. Jacinta and Blessed Lucia, Guanellian youths enjoyed and showed their competitive spirit in different team building activities including the 'Amazing Race'. Running while blindfolded, crawling through mud, and answering logical questions tested each of the



team's physical and mental capability to work as one.

Aside from physical and mental activities participants did not forget to strengthen their faith through praying the rosary and other devotions that help them endure all unnecessary challenges especially bad weather. The last day was spent swimming at Layu-Layo beach in Nasugbu, Batangas.

GYM would like to thank all the people who supported us financially to make this activity possible.

## Devotional Renewal

**MANILA** - On June 23rd, our Priests and perpetually professed brothers, Fr. Charlton, Fr. Dong, Fr. Charles, Fr. Loyola, Fr. Battista, Bro. Mauro and Bro. Alfie, renewed their vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The Holy Mass was presided by Fr. Ronnie Samaniego, and was concelebrated by Fr. Charlton, Fr. Dong, Fr.



Charles, and Fr. Loyola and was attended by the whole seminary community. They renewed their vows before the communion rite. The day of the renewal was also on the feast

day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and our sisters of the Daughters of Saint Paul came to celebrate with us.

## Canonical Visit

**MANILA** - This year the provincial superior traveled to the Philippines for his canonical visit with the secretary general. The visit included meetings and dialogues with some of the priests and significant persons in the community. The canonical visit includes as well the meeting with the pastoral ministries of the Servants of Charity of the Manila community, which will fall on the last day of the provincial visit, July 8th.



### Special Olympics

**CHELSEA** - Residents from St. Louis Center look forward to the Special Olympics each year. It is not only a time to show of their athletic skills, but a chance to meet and spend time with hundreds of other persons with disabilities. They traveled to Mt. Pleasant MI where they stay in dormitories at Central Michigan University and enjoy not only the sports competitions, but evening events as well. This year 18 residents competed in the Special Olympics May 26th-28th.



### LightUp Bike Camp

**CHELSEA** - Dr. Leah Ketcheson, whose specialty is motor behavior of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, offers a program called LightUp to help improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities. She held a bike camp at Ann Arbor Huron High School for children June 19th-23rd. Four boys from St. Louis Center were enrolled to help improve their skills in riding two-wheel bikes. They truly lit up when they found themselves able to ride around the gymnasium virtually unassisted as a result of the special equipment designed to help them learn to balance on a two-wheel bike.



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### Renewal of Vows

**CHELSEA** - On a feast very important to the Guanellian Family, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, fifteen Guanellian Cooperators joined the seven Servants of Charity priests of the Chelsea



Community in renewing their vows and promises to the Congregation. Salvatore Bessaccia made his first Promise as a Guanellian Cooperator. Fr. Joseph Rinaldo celebrated Mass in the St. Louis Center chapel giving a homily on the 'Joy of Love.' A time of fellowship followed Mass.

### FaithFest 2017

**CHELSEA** - The Diocese of Lansing held the second annual FaithFest Christian music concert at St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt, MI June 24th. About 5000 people attended the event which included several top-name Christian artists and Mass with the Bishop. Several residents of St. Louis Center were invited to attend. Stanley and Joey were even invited to take up the gifts during the offertory at Mass. After Mass, musicians returned to the stage and the evening ended in a spectacular fireworks display.



### Golf and Glory Events

**CHELSEA** - Each year the St. Louis Center benefits from a two-day event that started with the Golf and Glory Golf Outing 23 years ago. Supporters gather the evening before to honor an individual important to the program at St. Louis Center. This year at the Paesano's dinner June 25th, Ken Unterbrink, State Deputy of the Michigan Knights of Columbus, was the honoree. The following day, 144 golfers arrived at University of Michigan Golf Course to play a round of Golf to support St. Louis Center.



A dozen former athletes joined the golfers and local politicians were also present to show their support of the work of the Servants of Charity.



### Visit of Fr. Provincial

HO CHI MINH CITY - Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Provincial Superior, arrived in Vietnam for his canonical visit on June 20th. His presence was very uplifting for the students. An official community meeting was held and Fr. Soosai also spoke to each confrere in the community individually, encouraging them to be a witness of Christ in the present world. We had a wonderful time during his visit. He departed for the Philippines on June 26th.



32 meters (105 ft) high on the top of 170 meters (558 ft) Nho Mount in Vũng Tàu with Jesus extending his 18.3 meter (60 ft) long arms. The nearby Mount also has a big statue of Mother Mary. We prayed to Christ the King and Mother Mary for the success of the 20th General Chapter.



### First Visit of the Guanellian Sisters to Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY - Guanellian Sisters, Sr. Victoria and Sr. Malini, accompanied Fr. Rathinam on his canonical visit. They stayed in our community in order to visit some missionary sisters and get some idea of how they can start their own community in Vietnam. On the final day of their visit, we went on pilgrimage to Mount Vung Tàu, about 100kms from Ho Chi Minh City. A statue called Christ the King of Vũng Tàu stands

Guanellian Lay Movement were presented for the renewal of their commitment to the GLM. They promised that they would commit themselves totally and wholeheartedly for the charism and mission of our Congregation. They were aware of their position in the congregation and with whom they are. They promised to do everything with a joy filled heart and full involvement. The evening ended with an agape meal for GLM members, brothers, and Boys Home students.

### Doctors Visit

**THALAVADI** - *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."* The psychiatrists made their monthly visit to examine our patients from General Hospital, Erode district, on June 23rd. The Counselors examined the patients and prescribed the medicines according to their growth and development. For some of the patients medicines were extended for a few more months and for some of the patients additional medicines were prescribed. Above all, the doctors recommended that

a few patients would go home because of significant progress in rehabilitating them to a normal life. The doctors appreciated our mission and the way we look after our inmates in the spirit of our Founder.



### July Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Legazpi:** Entrance into Novitiate and First Religious Profession
- 2-3 **Legazpi:** Annual Assembly
- 4 **Legazpi:** Tutelage Program
- 9 **Return to India**
- 17-19 **Chennai:** Canonical Visit - DGMS Community
- 18 **Skype Meeting:** Admissions to the Priesthood
- 25-26 **Superiors and Residence In-charges Meeting in India**
- 28-31 **Cuddalore:** Canonical Visit

### July Calendar of Events

- 2 **Bangalore:** Inauguration of Oratory and Evening School
- 3 **Foundation Day - India**
- 4 **Anniversary of the First Communion of Blessed Clare Bosatta (1869)**
- 3-6 **Bangalore:** Inter-Novitiate Course - Formation of Conscience
- 8 **Bangalore:** Guanellian Lay Movement and Cooperators Meeting
- 8-9 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- 10 **Chelsea:** Italian American Delegates Golf Outing to Benefit - SLC
- 12 **Grass Lake:** Mother of Divine Providence Day- PUSJ
- 15 **Chelsea:** Memorial Outing to Benefit - SLC
- 17-18 **Bangalore:** Course - The Life and Spirituality of

- 19 Ven. Aurelio Bacciarini
- 19 **Grass Lake:** St. Joseph Day- PUSJ
- 22 **St. Mary Magdalene**
- 25 **St. James, Apostle**

### Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Fr. C. Lourduraj:** birthday
- 3 **Nov. Paul Dao Nguyen Van:** birthday
- 5 **Bro. Cesar Estiller:** birthday
- 8 **Fr. Arulraj:** birthday
- 10 **Fr. Benson, Bro. Arun Kumar A., Nov. Jestin Jeromin A.:** birthday
- 11 **Fr. Vellington:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. Arokiadass:** ordination day
- 18 **Bro. Bosco Yesuraj M.:** birthday
- 20 **Bro. Philomin Raja S.:** birthday
- 22 **Fr. Sebastian:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Satheesh:** ordination day
- 25 **Fr. James Stanley Babu:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Nevis:** ordination day
- 28 **Bro. M. Jeyaseelan:** birthday
- 30 **Fr. M. John Paul:** birthday
- 31 **Fr. Loyola Diraviam:** feast day

Have questions or comments about this newsletter?  
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