



News and Views

Divine Providence Province

WE ARE THE CANDLES OF HOPE



In his classic, *Man's Search for Meaning*, Nazi concentration camp survivor Victor Frankl observed from his fellow inmates that those who survived the horrors of confinement were the ones who sought meaning, who held out hope, even in the depths of outwardly meaningless suffering. Hope is for a better future; hope affirms that there is a purpose in suffering; and hope gives meaning both in victory and defeat. Hope is more important than food and water. Indeed, men will willingly do without both' even unto death, if they have hope.

The month of February is a special occasion for all consecrated persons while also celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope." Especially for us, the Guanellian Family, as we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, the 29th World Day of Consecrated Life, and the 33rd World Day of the Sick with the theme "Heal Relationships to Heal the Ill." At the new Pentecostal experience in the congregation after the XXI General Chapter, we are called to be "the Candles of Hope." The candle is lit to dispel the darkness and bring light to walk to the destiny. The candle melts and keeps up the light until it ceases. The world is full of war, hatred, and suffering while, at the same time, there are attempts to ensure peace, joy, and justice. We are specially called to ensure peace, joy, and justice and to enrich the church, the society, the congregation, and our communities with hope and with giving hope.

In a message to those in consecrated life, Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, says, "Dearest consecrated men and women, let us immediately enter this pilgrimage together, bringing the true hope that is in our hearts and for which our lives are in service."

FEBRUARY - 2025



Pray with Hope: “No hope without faith, no faith without hope.” Prayer is not only asking, rather, it is a longing of the soul. It is a daily admission of one's weakness and a keep-at-it attitude to be better and to do something greater. A life of interiority, in the image of Mary seated at the feet of Jesus, is cantered on the assiduous contemplation of Christ the Saviour and listening to His Word. Let us renew our paternal relationship with the Lord and ensure a clear ambience of community prayer life and personal prayer.

Renew our Fidelity: Participation, through life itself rather than words-*vita magis quam sermone*. Vocational fidelity is first of all a gift from God as is the vocation itself. We are aware that the initiative of God is at the very beginning of our vocation story. As we journey as religious, we encounter joys and sorrows, peace and hatred, successes and failures, hope and anxiety. We slowly become disappointed and discouraged. One of the main aspects of the Jubilee celebration is a call to renew our fidelity with the Church, society, congregation, and confreres.

Community life: Community life is a vital foundation for personal spiritual growth bearing witness to the communion achieved by the Holy Spirit in the Body of Christ. By living evangelical virtues, we strive to create a climate of hope and trust within our community and in society, as a sign of rebirth, aiming at the urgent need for peace, promoting healing, forgiveness, and understanding—a desperate necessity in our time.

Reach the Unreached: 'Reaching the unreached' is a theme related to the mission of the Church. “The whole world is our homeland” is the mantra of our founder. The voice of the XXI General Chapter invites us to renew our commitment to the poor and the suffering not only around us but also beyond us, beyond our reach of eyes and ears. We are called to extend our boundaries, enrich our communities around the world, and constantly encourage vocation.

Gratitude is the Best Beatitude: A sincere attitude of gratitude is the best beatitude. Let us thank the Lord for all His blessings as we have begun the new governance of service. We thank God for giving us once again Rev. Fr. Umberto Brugnoli as our Superior General and his council. We thank and pray for the newly appointed provincials and delegates and their councils. We can never forget the former provincial superior, Rev. Fr. Ronald, and his council: Rev. Fr. Kulandaisamy (Vice Provincial), Rev. Fr. Satheesh (secretary), Rev. Fr. Dennis (Provincial Treasurer), and Rev. Fr. Francis, the treasurer of Indian societies, for their tireless hard work and contribution to the DPP. We also acknowledge Rev. Bro. Franco Lain, General Councillor and link to India, for his contribution to the growth of DPP in the past six years. Finally, we thank our Guanellian Sisters, Cooperators, and GLM for their dedicated service to the poor and suffering. Hope is not giving up. Hope is not fixing the job. Hope is joyful surrender and letting God act. We are candles of hope at present



and for the future of the Congregation and the world. May God our Father bless us with good health, peace, joy, and hope.

Dear confreres, as I take part in the succession of my predecessors, I humbly thank all of them and receive their blessings and directions. And, also from you, as I come from you. I am given a chance to animate and be the chauffeur (driver) of the province. I am not going to stand at the back and push you into the challenging traffic that awaits upfront. Rather, I would first step in to encounter challenges and face the realities. This animation commitment is a responsible relay race. Today it is me, tomorrow it might be you, and the day after someone else will be the sailor. But the boat is the same, and the motivation also is the same. Therefore, I encourage and beseech your fraternal fellowship to walk together and further for a promising future. This togetherness and belongingness in our religious journey would definitively make us faithful disciples and compassionate brothers. This is my official contact information: **Mobile and WhatsApp Number: 7204900821, Email ID: frgnanaraj@gmail.com**

AREA OF ANIMATION OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Fr. Gnanaraj

- Provincial Superior / In-charge of Confreres and Formation

Fr. Amal Raj

- Vicar, 1st councillor / Link to USA Communities, Ongoing Formation and Charism School

Fr. Visuwasam

- 2nd Councillor / In-charge of Mission Animation and Expansion

Fr. Francis Selvaraj

- 3rd Councillor / Treasurer of Indian Societies & Trust

Fr. Francis Assisi

- 4th Councillor / Provincial Secretary and In-Charge of Legal Bureau

Fr. Peter Joseph

- 5th Councillor / In-charge of Vocation Promotion, GC, GLM, and GYM.

Fr. Dennis M. Weber

- Provincial Treasurer, Outside the Council

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE—ANIMATION PROGRAMS IN DPP

February 23, 2025: Inter Council Meeting with the Guanellian Family (DPP, DSMP, and GC)

March: Perpetual profession & Diaconate

- Annual Retreat for perpetually professed confreres
- Tutelage Program



April 1 - 3, 2025 : Vocation Camp @ Guanella Bhavan, Koppaka

April 5-6, 2025 : Vocation Camp @ Martalli, Karnataka

April 21-23, 2025: Guanellian Charism School

April 21-24, 2025: Vocation Camp @ St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore

April 25-27, 2025: Vocation Camp @ Yesuvanam, Sivagangai

April 28-29, 2025: Evening School Teachers Meet

May : Provincials and Delegates meeting in Rome

May 26, 2025 : Renewal of Religious Vows

May 30, 2025 : Entrance into Novitiate of Postulants

May 31, 2025 : 1st Profession of Novices

As consecrated religious and Servants of Charity, the primary purpose of our vocation is personal sanctification and the sanctification of our brothers and sisters. As our Holy Founder wants us to be joyful servants, fiery swords, and beaten donkeys, let us celebrate our fraternal communion, missionary zeal, and committed service so as to bear fruit, and harvest grace. May our blessed Mother, Our Lady of Divine Providence, our patron St. Joseph, and our father-founder St. Louis Guanella intercede for us and keep us ardent and fervent in our consecration and mission. **May God be our Passion, and His will be our Action.**

Thank you.

Servant of God's Love,

Fr. Gnanaraj, SdC

Provincial Superior

PROVINCIAL CALENDER FEBRUARY - 2025

03/02/2025 - Soosai Thottam, Madurai

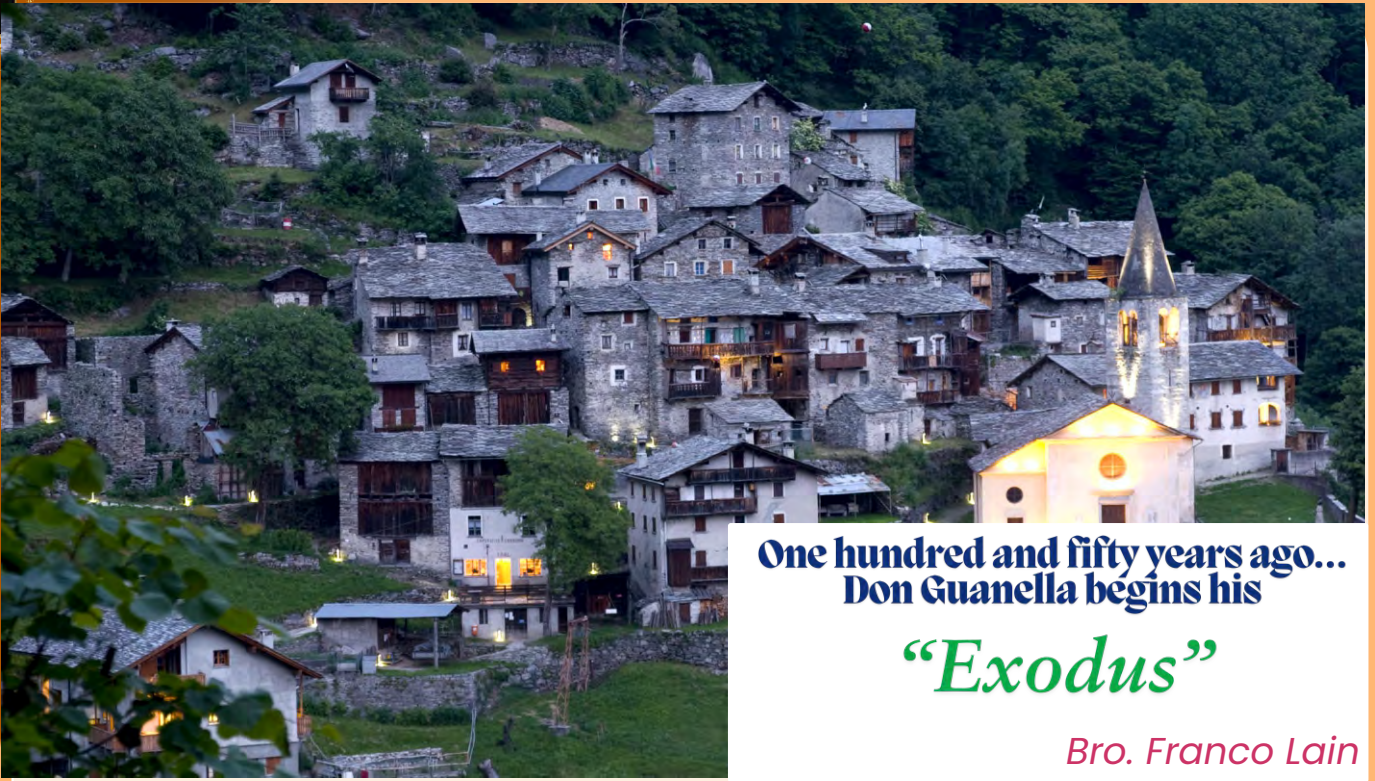
08/02/2025 - Trinity Hospice, Thanjavur

15/02/2025 - Silver Jubilee Celebration @ Thennur

22/02/2025 - Silver Jubilee Celebration of GPN, Bangalore

23/02/2025 - Guanellin Family Council Meeting, Bangalore

FEBRUARY - 2025



**One hundred and fifty years ago...
Don Guanella begins his**
“Exodus”

Bro. Franco Lain

In January 1875, Don Guanella left Savogno to go to Turin. This can be seen as the moment in which he actually made a change in his life, abandoning the idea of becoming a parish priest forever (even in his own way, as he had done in the years in Savogno) to try to respond to a still uncertain and nebulous vocation, to a voice of the heart undefined but imperious which induced him to thought of making some slippers. Thus began his time of “exodus”, a journey that would last more than ten years, between Turin, Traona, Olmo, Pianello, to arrive at that Little House of Divine Providence, considered the mother of all his works.

Now seventy years old, Don Luigi remembers dates with a certain approximation, but certainly has a vivid memory for ideas, feelings and facts. Here is what he dictates in the collection “The ways of Providence”: It seemed to Guanella that he had completed his office in Savogno. He should now be appointed ... to the parish of Caspano or to the parish of Torre ... But the effect was that he was not appointed to either the first or the second place. So be it and Don Guanella sent paperwork to call Don Bosco to a collegiate foundation in the diocese of Como. For this purpose he undertook several journeys, until, having received from Don Bosco himself a certain priest Sala to replace him in Savogno, he obtained permission to join Don Bosco and remain there for three years. The curate of Savogno had with him his sister Caterina, now a servant of God, who in Savogno enjoyed high credit for virtue. The curate therefore left for Turin and the sister returned to her father's family in Campodolcino. It was a regret as at the death of very dear people, but it was known that Don Luigi Guanella would not give up, and they resigned themselves to the painful departure”[I]Continuing the memoirs, Don Guanella finally cites the date and says: One evening in January 1875, Don Guanella bowed to kiss Don Bosco's right hand[ii].



The two historical studies by Michela Carrozzino[iii] and by Maria Luisa Oliva[iv] analyze this passage of the founder's life in some depth, they also draw on data from other sources, both Guanellian and Salesian, and advance various hypotheses on the motivations. Thanks to these studies we can reconstruct the exact dates of the events: the January 21, 1875 (the day after the feast of Saint Sebastian) Don Michele Sala arrives in Savogno and, after having given him an official welcome by introducing him to the faithful, on January 24 Don Guanella leaves Savogno. Passing through Prosto and Chiavenna he goes to greet his people in Fraciscio. On January 29 he arrives in Turin and greets Don Bosco who welcomes him by saying: "Shall we go to America?".

The Reasons

In recalling his departure from Savogno, it seems that Don Guanella is aware that some aspects will be difficult to understand, that some further explanation is necessary for this turning point. Maria Luisa Oliva notes: "almost forty years later, dictating his memories, he must still have felt embarrassed to recount those moments of abandonment of his first land of work and his becoming a Salesian. He bids farewell to his secretary or amanuensis and in his own hand writes that little page that closes the memories of Savogno ... One can still feel between the lines the emotion and his hesitation, the doubt or perplexity of others".[v] In fact, this is the only part written by Don Guanella himself in the entire text of the *The Ways of Providence*: How can one explain this very firm resolution of Don Guanella? The parishioners were affectionate and docile and he knew he could continue to do good among them. In his sister he had an angel of good example. The fellow parish priests could not understand it. And he, Don Guanella, impassive in entrusting the house, the parish and for a moment his own conscience to a stranger or something, whom he wanted to personally install in his place on his own initiative and with some celebration. This at least seemed strange. But the curate among other things answered his people: "What do you want? When years ago the caterpillar was gnawing at the chestnut trees, we made a vow and erected the beautiful image of the Sacred Heart near the Stufa dell'Andrea and the caterpillar immediately stopped. I could become like that caterpillar by staying longer among you, so let us make a vow to the Sacred Heart that it bless us all. I feel in me that divine Providence is calling me to Turin and it will be what God wants. I hope for the best. Goodbye everyone!". And he left without greeting the guest so as not to disturb himself and the others. At Crotti he was forced to drink his nightcap at old Clara's and at Prosto and Chiavenna he left a farewell that was rather cold, because they did not believe in the good fortune of this departure. Truly, to the common eye, this original curate of Savogno showed feelings and carried out works alone, therefore they could not be understood. What to do? As usual, Don Guanella consulted God in his own conscience and said goodbye to everyone with complete simplicity and frankness of heart.

Some Questions for us.

At the beginning of this Jubilee Year, we could make some reflections in remembering



this very important and decisive event in the life of our founder. With full simplicity and sincerity of heart, reflections could be presented that in some way involve each confrere personally, but also each community, the congregation and the Guanellian family. First of all the story of the chestnut caterpillar. Again Oliva observes: There is, however, a detail to consider: if he had stayed he would have become like that caterpillar: what does this mean? That if he had remained in Savogno, like the caterpillar stopped in front of the chapel of the Sacred Heart, his path would not have continued as God wanted? Or that he was beginning to corrode all the good that had grown in those years in Savogno and if he had stayed longer he would have caused more damage?[vii] Don Guanella, an active parish priest both for the purely pastoral care that directs souls to God and offers them his grace, and for the human promotion of his flock and attention to the least beloved of the Father, decides to change his lifestyle, to do something else. In the last twenty years at least, in our congregation we are giving more and more importance to the parish apostolate, giving life to more or less "Samaritan" parishes, with some beautiful experiences and some admirable results. Is it a leap forward linked to the signs of the times or is it a return to the Guanellian "prehistory", to Don Guanella of Savogno? If he left the parish, is it good for us to return? Maybe yes, given that he too, towards the end of his life, pushed by the saint Pius X, returned to the parish with San Giuseppe al Trionfale? ... in any case I think it is good to ask ourselves to what extent, in our typical mission style, the drive to make some slippers, to have and manage specific structures for specific needs. It is not so much a matter of choosing between large or small structures, like an institute or a village, with government or private aid, owned or managed. It is rather a matter of feeling complete, fulfilled, happy as religious (and priests if necessary) and as a community in living the Guanellian charism of specific charitable service in giving a "home" to the needy with simplicity and organized commitment. Don Guanella leaves the parish for the dream of a cobbler. Perhaps we, now suffocated by the weight of the "ciabotti" that have become palaces or barracks, escape by seeking refuge in the sacristy and the confessional ... and risk abandoning part of the charismatic intuition of the founder?

Another reflection could arise from this anniversary: Don Luigi leaves Savogno with a sharp turn, but this is only the beginning of a road with many hairpin bends, of a journey lasting more than ten years, of a true exodus, marked by tempting offers such as the famous "shall we go to America?" of Don Bosco, by the exciting experience of Traona when "he believed he had Providence in his pocket" and by the disappointing defeat that led him to Olmo with "the spectre of discouragement", and then by the long years of restless, industrious and silent preparation in Pianello. What is the exodus that the Lord asks of us today, and are we willing to make it? What offers do we listen to? What experiences do we begin? How do we process, without hiding them, our defeats? What preparation of prayer and reflection are we doing? In this Jubilee Year, may our hope be alive and open, deeply rooted and available to all the turns that God's path will show us.



INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR AND THE COUNCIL



The newly appointed Provincial Superior of Divine Providence Province Fr. Gnanaraj, SdC and the Councilors Fr. Amalraj, Fr. Visuwasam, Fr. Francis, Fr. Francis Assisi, Fr. Peter Joseph, Confreres of the Province and Mr. Dominic, GC participated in the Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration on 22nd January, 2025 at 7 am in DGMS Chapel celebrated by Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC, Vicar General. The Installation ceremony took place after the Homily preached by Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC. Fr. Gnanaraj, SdC, Provincial Superior and Fr. Amalraj, SdC, Vice - Provincial Superior professed the Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith which was a solemn and spiritually enriching experience.

After the communion, a short felicitation program was organized. Fr. Ronald, the outgoing Provincial Superior thanked God for the guidance and the confreres for the support during his term as the Provincial Superior and wished all the best for the new Provincial Superior and the Council. The Provincial Superior with the council, the outgoing Provincial superior and the Outgoing Vice Provincial superior were felicitated with shawls. Fr. Gnanaraj expressed his sentiments of gratitude to the Superior General for placing the deep trust in the animation of the Province. He shared his vision for the Province emphasizing fidelity to the Charism and Spirituality of the Congregation. He expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Provincial Superior and the Vice Provincial Superior for their outstanding contribution for the growth of the Province. This memorable event ended with a cake cutting, gifts sharing and sumptuous meal thanking the lord for all the wonders he has worked in the Province.



DPP EVENING SCHOOL - PONGAL CELEBRATION



Pongal, the day of tamil people, the day of harvest, the day dedicated to thank the farmers was celebrated on 14th January, 2025 in DPP Provincialate. Children from three Evening school centres had gathered in the Provincialate for the celebration. Evening School teachers with the help of Provincialate cook and the Evening School Children. Fr. Ronald, greeted the children and explained to them the importance of the celebration. The celebration was a tool to bring the three different evening school centers together that paved the way for the children to know each other, to participate in the cultural celebration and to know the depth meaning of the celebration. Everyone was served Pongal and laddu. Evening School teachers were appreciated with the gifts. All of them went back home happily with sugarcane.

FIRST ENGLISH CLASSICAL ACADEMY

CUDDALORE: The first-ever English Classical Academy, with the inspiring theme "Young Biblical Leaders," was held on December 13, 2024. The event brought together the Brothers of St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, who displayed their talents, knowledge, and dedication through various performances and presentations. The chief guest for the event was Mr. David, the Founder of Oxford Academy at Cuddalore, whose presence and address added prestige to the occasion. The Brothers prepared and delivered inspiring speeches on prominent young biblical leaders such as Joseph, Solomon, Esther, and Daniel. Their reflections on these leaders' lives and virtues were enlightening and thought-provoking.

The program was further enriched by colorful dance performances, melodious singing, and a thematic skit enacted by the Brothers, capturing the essence of the theme. These creative expressions entertained the audience and highlighted the



Brothers' hard work and dedication. The chief guest's address was the highlight of the day. He encouraged everyone to stay focused, aim higher in life, and draw inspiration from the lives of the biblical leaders discussed. His words resonated deeply with the participants and will leave a lasting impact. The day concluded with cheerful faces and a profound sense of accomplishment among the Brothers, making the event a memorable milestone in their journey of growth and learning.

TAKEN BY A STORM

CUDDALORE: December often brings unpredictable weather to South India, particularly along the coastal regions. On December 1, Cyclone Fengal struck the shores of Cuddalore, leaving behind a trail of destruction and distress. The storm raged for over 10 hours, spreading panic and causing extensive damage to the coastal areas.





Our St. Joseph's Minor Seminary and Boys Home, located just two kilometers from the sea, faced the brunt of the cyclone. Intense winds uprooted several trees, while heavy rainfall led to severe waterlogging. The cyclone caused a prolonged power outage and disrupted the drinking water supply, challenges that persisted for five days. Our compound wall of about 50 meters fell because of the raging flood waters of the nearby Thenpennai River that piled high on our wall.

Despite this adversity, we managed the situation efficiently. With careful preparation and teamwork, we ensured the safety of everyone in the seminary and Boys' Home. Our faith and trust in God sustained us through this challenging time. We thank the Lord for protecting us from greater disaster and giving us the strength to endure and overcome the storm's impact.

CHRISTMAS WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

CUDDALORE: The spirit of Christmas filled the air at St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore, on December 22, 2024, as the Guanella Day Care Centre and Guanella Evening School came together to celebrate the birth of Christ. The event was meticulously organized and guided by the Higher Secondary Brothers, bringing joy and hope to all participants. The celebration was attended by 35 children from the evening school and 25 differently abled individuals who showcased their talents in a heartwarming display of creativity and joy. Their performances radiated the true spirit of Christmas—unity, sharing, and love.

Adding a touch of generosity to the day, a group of retired teachers distributed Christmas gifts to all participants. Blankets, towels, sarees, dhotis, grocery items, and clothing for children were lovingly handed out, ensuring that the season's joy extended beyond the festivities. Rev. Fr. Mariano Cisco (Scalabrinian General





Counsellor) honored the event as the chief guest. In his inspiring Christmas message, he reminded everyone of the profound importance of adoring Jesus in silence amidst the pomp and celebrations of the season. His words left a lasting impression on the hearts of all present. The day culminated with a sumptuous meal, symbolizing the spirit of sharing and togetherness that Christmas embodies. The participants' faces lit up with smiles, and their hearts were filled with joy, making this Christmas celebration unforgettable. Such initiatives remind us of the enduring message of Christmas: to bring love, hope, and happiness to the lives of others. As we reflect on this beautiful day, let us carry forward its spirit by continuing to serve and share with those in need.

DOUBLE TREAT EVENT

CUDDALORE: December 19, 2024, brought double joy to the St. Joseph's Minor Seminary community as we celebrated the birthdays of two significant figures: our Savior Jesus Christ and our beloved Founder, St. Louis Guanella. The day was filled with a profound sense of togetherness, gratitude, and sharing. The celebrations began with the offering of the Holy Eucharist, a moment of spiritual reflection and thanksgiving to commemorate this special occasion. Following the Mass, the beautifully crafted cribs prepared by our Brothers were blessed, adding a symbolic touch to the festivities and reminding us of Christ's humble birth.

The day's joy extended to the table as we shared a sumptuous meal with our domestic workers and their families, creating an atmosphere of warmth and community. Embracing the true spirit of Christmas, the St. Joseph's community also distributed Christmas gifts to the Brothers, house helpers, and Fathers, spreading smiles and cheer. The festivities concluded with happy hearts and the following day, the Brothers departed for their homes, carrying the joy of the celebrations to share with their families. This double treat was a heartfelt reminder of the essence of





Christmas and the enduring legacy of our founder, St. Louis Guanella, as a time of faith, generosity, and unity.

THE WORLD SPECIAL PEOPLE'S DAY



VATLURU: "Crowd the house with the poor, for they will call for blessings," and "He who gives to the poor lends to God" (Sp. pg. 299). The World Special People's Day was celebrated on December 19, 2024, in commemoration of our 20-year presence and the 182nd birthday of our Beloved Founder, St. Louis Guanella, in the soil of Andhra Pradesh, India. Rev. Fr. J. Ronald SdC, was the eminent chief guest of the day and highlighted in his address that we are for the poor and neglected in society. The honorary guest was Mr. Chandra Surya Rao, ASP of Eluru, who described the rights of the mentally and physically challenged people in the Eluru district. The special invitees were Rev. Fr. Dr. InjePaul VF, Mr. Alla Sathis Chowdary, Mr. Sambasiva Rao, and Guzzula Rathna Kumari, Vatluru Village Panchayat President. Approximately 134 special children participated in the program, which the GLM of Vatluru organized. The festivities included a cultural fest presented by the Guanella Karunalaya Boys Home Children and Agape to close the day.

A CHILD IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

VATLURU: Our beloved Pope Francis, in his Christmas message, said: "Jesus, the Eternal Word of God made incarnate, is the wide-open Door; He is the wide-open Door that we are invited to enter, to rediscover the meaning of our existence and the sacredness of all life – for every life is sacred – and to recover the foundational values of



the human family." The solemn Christmas celebration in the parish of Vatluru was awe-inspiring and memorable. Our Vatluru youth made a beautiful Crib, and we had a solemn vigil Mass at the parish church. There was also a grand celebration of Family Sunday on December 29, where all the faithful brought sumptuous foods and distributed them to the guests in attendance. It was a joyful occasion; people gathered as one family.

SEMI- CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



VATLURU: "Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." – Proverbs 17:6. The Semi Christmas Day celebration of Don Guanella Evening School Children was held on December 14 in Guanella Karunalaya in Vatluru. The evening school children of Vatluru, Showripuram, Kalaparu, Ammapalem, and Anjelipuram participated in a cultural fest marked with vividness and life. They were given Christmas gifts and enjoyed the Agape that followed.

BREAKING THE BARRIERS

CHENNAI, DGSS: On December 15, 2024, Don Guanella Special School and Home hosted a grand celebration for the 26th World Differently Abled Day. The event brought together 400 special children and 100 special educators and staff from 15 different special schools across Chennai, Thiruvallur, and Kanchipuram districts. The event's highlight was the presence of esteemed chief guests who honored each participating school. The cultural program showcased students' talents from different schools, leaving the audience in awe. The event was meticulously organized, ensuring



தொன் குவனெல்லா சிறப்பு பள்ளி & கூல்லம்
26-ம் ஆண்டு
உலக மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள்
தினம் 2024-25



everyone had a wonderful time. A sumptuous meal was served to all, adding to the festive atmosphere. It was an unforgettable celebration, promoting inclusivity, acceptance, and empowerment of differently abled individuals.

STUDENTS BRING JOY TO RESIDENTS

BANGALORE: The festive spirit of Christmas prevailed at Guanella Preethi Nivas as students from the Department of Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) of St. Aloysius College visited to share the season's joy. The enthusiastic students regaled the residents with Christmas carols, energetic dance performances, action songs, and hilarious mimicry. Their infectious energy and joy spread cheer and happiness among the residents. The students also distributed gifts to the residents. Their generosity added to the festive atmosphere of the event. The kindness and compassion they displayed embodied the true spirit of Christmas. The Guanella Preethi Nivas community expressed heartfelt gratitude to the students from St. Aloysius College for bringing so much joy and happiness to our residents.



FEBRUARY- 2025



SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER



BANGALORE: The festive spirit of Christmas was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Guanella Preethi Nivas with the Department of Master of Social Work (MSW) of Kristu Jayanti College students. In a heartwarming gesture, Dr. Jonas Richard, the student and faculty head, honored all the priests with a shawl and thanked them. Fr. Kulandaiswamy gave the welcome note. A delicious cake was cut and shared among the residents, students, and faculty to mark the special occasion. The event was filled with joyous dance performances, melodious songs, and fun games that brought everyone together. Next, a sumptuous dinner was served, providing the guests with a savory taste of the season. The students participated in the experience by serving the college guests. The residents and staff of Guanella Preethi Nivas were overwhelmed with gratitude for the kindness and generosity shown by the students and faculty of Kristu Jayanti College.

182ND BIRTHDAY





BANGALORE: The 182nd birthday of our beloved founder, St. Louis Guanella, was celebrated grandly and joyously. The entire Guanella family, including Fathers, Sisters from other communities, GC, GLM, GYM, and the lay faithful, came together to commemorate this special day. The celebration's highlight was the Intercontinental Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Kulandaiswamy, which united the Guanellian family worldwide in prayer and thanksgiving. This momentous occasion was a testament to the global reach and unity of the Guanella family. Following the Mass, the community gathered to cut a ceremonial cake and share an Agape meal, symbolizing love, unity, and gratitude. This joyful celebration honored the legacy of St. Louis Guanella and reaffirmed the community's commitment to his values of charity, compassion, and service.

CECILIA CHOIR

BANGALORE: After much anticipation, the Cecilia Choir of Guanella Mercy Church finally celebrated their special day. Despite their busy schedules, the choir members and their families gathered to honor their dedication to enhancing the liturgy through song. Rev. Fr. Kulandaiswamy appreciated each one. The celebration recognized the choir's selfless sacrifice and commitment to sharing their musical



talents. Each member was thanked and given gifts, expressing gratitude for their devotion. The joyful gathering culminated in cutting a celebratory cake, followed by a delightful dinner. The evening was filled with laughter, love, and music as the Cecilia Choir and their families cherished this special moment together.

CHRISTMAS JOY TO GPN

BANGALORE: In a heartwarming first-of-its-kind initiative, the youth and Parish Council members of Byrathi Parish, accompanied by their Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Chowrappa, visited Guanella Preethi Nivas (GPN) to spread Christmas cheer. The residents of GPN were treated to a spectacular Christmas program featuring enchanting carols, a captivating Christmas skit, and a vibrant traditional Kola Atta dance. The energetic performance brought immense joy to the residents, filling their



hearts with the season's spirit. One of the members gave a Christmas message to our residents. This historic visit marked a beautiful beginning of inter-parish community outreach and fellowship. On behalf of the Guanella Preethi Nivas community, Fr. Sachin expressed profound gratitude to the Byrathi Parish youth, Council members, and Rev. Fr. Chowrappa for sharing the love and joy of Christmas.

CHARITY LIGHTS THE PATH TO DIVINE LOVE

THALAVADI: Nazareth Illam was filled with joy as we celebrated our holy founders' birthday and, Suppose Christmas on December 19. The day began with the celebration of Mass. After the Holy Eucharist, the people prepared to continue the celebration with Christmas cultural programs. Our community enthusiastically entertained all present with singing and dancing. At the end of the program, Christmas gifts were distributed to all the staff, workers, and residents. Finally, the program ended with Agape meals.



THE ART OF MEDICINE

THALAVADI: "Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity"



(Hippocrates). On December 23, doctors and nurses came to our facility from Cham Rajnagar Hospital in a spirit of love and concern for our residents. The group conducted a medical camp. It was an excellent opportunity for our residents to learn how to take good care of themselves and take steps when they are sick to regain their health. The doctors generously provided medicines and ointments free of charge. Finally, the doctors shared that our mission is challenging but wonderful, taken on by only a few individuals.

FOUNDER'S BIRTHDAY AND INTERCONTINENTAL HOLY EUCHARIST

KOPPAKKA: On December 19, 2024, fathers from both the communities in Andra Pradesh came together to celebrate the Founder's birthday and partake in an intercontinental Holy Eucharist. The atmosphere was filled with reverence and joy as Rev. Fr. Ronald presided over the Mass, delivering a profound sermon that resonated deeply. Fr. Ronald meticulously shared on the significance of the year of jubilee, which has been aptly named 'Pilgrims of Hope' by the Pope. This theme of hope and renewal echoed throughout the celebration, reminding us of our shared mission and the importance of community within our Congregation. He highlighted that our jubilee





celebration is to be observed in three phases, to foster spiritual growth and strong bond among us. He encouraged everyone to embody this spirit not just during the jubilee but in our daily lives, nurturing relationships and extending kindness to those around us. Following the Mass, we gathered for a delightful meal that nourished not only our bodies but also our spirits. The sumptuous food served was a testament to the love and care that went into organizing this special occasion. As we shared laughter and stories around the table, it became evident that this gathering was more than just a celebration; it was a fulfillment of our Founder's wish for unity and love among his children.

SUPPOSE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



KOPPAKKA: In the evening of 22 December 2024 was filled with joy and merriment as the students of our evening schools came together to celebrate suppose Christmas. The event was a resounding success, bringing smiles to the faces of all. The highlight of the evening was the presence of Mr. Prathap, the headmaster of St. Xavier School, Eluru, who graced the occasion as chief guest. His inspiring message resonated with the children, encouraging them to strive for excellence in their studies and to embrace the spirit of giving during the festive season. His words left a lasting impact on the young minds, inspiring them to reach for their dreams. The festivities continued with captivating cultural performances by the students, showcasing their talents in dance, music, and drama. The energy and enthusiasm of the performers lit up the stage and filled the air with an infectious sense of celebration. As the evening drew to a close, the children were delighted to receive gifts, adding an extra layer of warmth and joy to the occasion. At the end of the celebration freshly cooked food was served, creating a festive atmosphere that brought everyone together in a spirit of love and unity.

HEART FOR GENEROSITY

On Saturday, December 7th, a dedicated group from the Italian community on Detroit's east side made their way to St. Louis Center for an annual Christmas



celebration. The annual event usually attracts 25-30 volunteers including long-time attendees, their children and grandchildren. They set up the presents in the gym and get the lunch cooking before they head to the chapel for Mass. After Mass, the gym fills up with volunteers, priests, staff, and most importantly the residents.

The meal is a traditional Italian feast, and once everyone has had their fill, Santa arrives on the scene to distribute the gifts to the residents. Some of the volunteers are brought to tears with joy in seeing how happy the residents are.

A THOROUGHLY FRIENDLY DAY



The Encore Theatre Company in Dexter, MI graciously hosted "A Thoroughly Friendly Day," a day when those in the community with sensory sensitivities, neurodivergent conditions, dementia, and other special needs could come together for snacks, socializing, and a theatrical production of Annie. On **Thursday, December 12th**, a group of St. Louis Center residents, accompanied by several dedicated Direct Care Workers, made their way to The Encore Theatre. Upon arrival, they were welcomed with gift bags filled with snacks and fidget toys to help create a comfortable and sensory-friendly experience. The atmosphere was cozy and inviting, further enhanced by the presence of Lucy, a Golden Retriever service dog, and several vendor tables—including one for the Center, where we proudly shared our mission with the community. The performance was dynamic and engaging, captivating the audience for the full two-and-a-half hours. The songs brought laughter and joy, while the characters' emotional depth drew empathy from all who watched. Annie is a timeless story of hope, resilience, and the power of optimism. It was a truly special experience for the residents. The night culminated with a meet-and-greet in the lobby, where the residents had the chance to interact with the cast. For many, this part of the evening was the highlight, even surpassing the performance itself in terms of excitement. The entire day was an inspiring reminder of the power of community, the



joy of shared experiences, and the importance of providing our residents with opportunities to engage in the world with dignity, joy, and hope.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



For the second year in a row, the community was invited to have breakfast with Santa at the St. Louis Center. On Saturday, December 14th, volunteers from Knights of Columbus Bishop Zaleski Council #6687 prepared and served breakfast for the residents, staff and guests. When Santa arrived, everyone was excited to greet him and tell him of their hopes for Christmas. About a dozen families from the community and the 17 boys who were attending the spiritual retreat that day enjoyed breakfast, doing crafts and having their photos taken with Santa.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM





Each year, during the season of giving, the St. Louis Center residents enjoy giving the gift of joy at the Christmas program. The staff help the residents to choose skits, songs, or stories to present. They practice for weeks, prepare costumes, and props to make the show more enjoyable. This year ten acts were presented in the transformed SLC gym Sunday, December 15th to the delight of family members, friends, and staff. After the show ended, the parents presented each staff member with a small gift. Refreshments and a time of fellowship followed in the main atrium.

SHRINE NEWS



Gods' guiding hand continues to be on the Shrine, especially helping with special occasions and events. One such event was the 4th annual Live Nativity, held on December 15. Amid a foggy evening, Christ's birth was recounted with music and live animals. The Women's Guild provided cookies and hot chocolate after the event, and children enjoyed feeding carrots to the animals. Volunteers helped decorate the church for Christmas with many lights, trees, and a lovely nativity scene. Christmas Day itself went well, as many people attended Mass and celebrated this Holy Day.

BIRTHDAYS

- 01-FR. I. GEORGE VINSULA,
- 10-FR. A. KURIAKOSE
- 14-FR. R. AMALORPAVANATHAN
- 15-FR. SILVIO DE NARD
- 18-BRO. J. REX MILTON
- 19-FR. S. SAGAYARAJ
- 23-BRO. R. ARUL PANDIAN
- 24-FR. D. CHANDRA NEVIS,
- FR. J. ARPUTHARAJ
- 25-FR. S. FRANCIS

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- 11- FR. R. ARUN | FR. C. JESUDOSS
- FR. V. JOHNSON | FR. S. KUMAR
- FR. C. PAUL DHINAGARAN |
- FR.V. RAMBABU | FR. G. SURESH
- FR. X. THAMBUSAMY
- 12-FR. A. SOOSAI RATHINAM
- SILVER JUBILEE

DIVINE PROVIDENCE PROVINCE

Congratulations to New Provincial and Councillors



Fr. Gnanaraj SdC
(Provincial Superior)



Fr. Amal Raj SdC
(Vicar Provincial)



Fr. Visuwasam SdC
(2nd Councillor)



Fr. Francis SdC
(3rd Councillor)



Fr. Francis Assisi SdC
(4th Councillor)



Fr. Peter Joseph SdC
(5th Councillor)