



MARCH - 2025

# News and Views

## Divine Providence Province

### LET US GO TO ST. JOSEPH

In the Old Testament, Pharaoh ordered to his people, *"Go to Joseph; do whatever he says to you"* (Gen 41:55). In the same way, the Lord also tells us: *"Ite ad Joseph! (Go to Joseph),"* who is the foster father of Jesus Christ, the spouse of the Virgin Mary, the patron of the Universal Church, and our congregation.

#### WHY DO WE NEED TO GO TO ST. JOSEPH?

Fr. George Boronat, the Prelature of Opus Dei from London, gives a beautiful description: "If you want to find Jesus, go to St. Joseph—he found him after three painful days; if you want to always be close to Jesus and Mary, go to St. Joseph—no one has ever been closer to them; if you want to pray, go to St. Joseph—he spent his life in dialogue with God. If you encounter difficulties, turn to St. Joseph—he knows everything about suffering. If you want to be obedient, chaste, generous, humble, joyful, sincere, holy... go to Joseph." These are the characteristics that made St. Joseph a holy and just man. For this reason, God entrusted him with the greatest treasures: Jesus and Mary. In fact, simple and humble people are God's best instruments for his Kingdom.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta had a statue of Saint Joseph under which she used to place a piece of paper with what she needed for her home and for her children. Almost all the benefactors invariably shared that they suddenly felt the need to donate to Mother Teresa. Therefore, when we are in need of God's providence, let us go to St. Joseph; he will certainly intercede for us.



Pray  
for  
us

St. Joseph is the head of the Holy Family; he will always understand the difficulties and struggles of the family. He will not leave any family without rendering his helping hand. Don Guanella affirmed it, saying, "St. Joseph was chosen by the eternal Father to be the head of the Holy Family. Thus, the great saint, whom Jesus and Mary obeyed, must be enthroned in all the houses of the work."

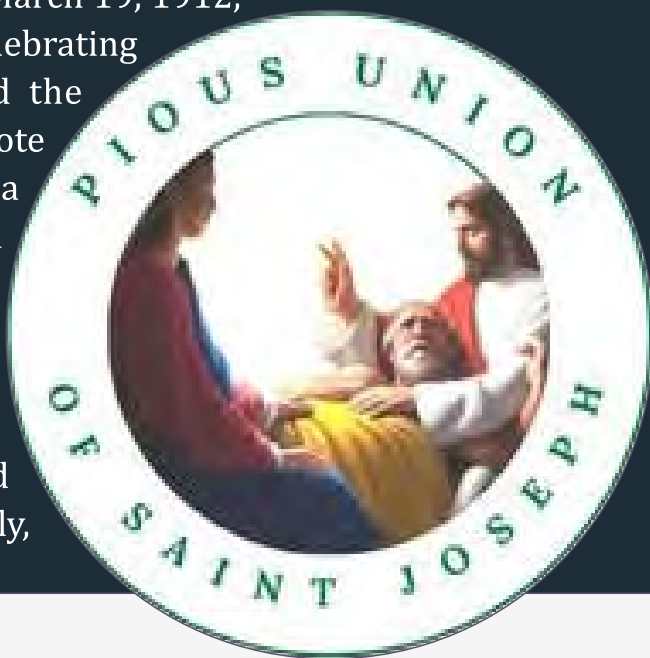
## **DON GUANELLA WENT TO ST. JOSEPH, THE PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

Devotion to St. Joseph was born and developed in Don Louis Guanella from his childhood. Later it was transformed into his congregation permeating together with his mission. Therefore, the Guanellian family has its own deep roots of devotion to St. Joseph. On December 8, 1870, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph, as the patron or protector of the Universal Church. St. Joseph was the protector of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. What better patron can a Church have? However, when St. Joseph was announced as a patron of the Church, Don Guanella was at Savogno. He wanted to establish the devotion of St. Joseph at Sovongo. A few months later, in April 1871, he blessed the image of St. Joseph and placed it in the renovated parish church.

As a founder, Don Guanella named many of his houses in the name of St. Joseph. Included are the Pious Union of St. Joseph and the Basilica of St. Joseph at Trionfale in Rome.

## **DON GUANELLA AND PIOUS UNION OF ST. JOSEPH**

Pope St. Pius X, another devotee of St. Joseph and admirer of Guanella's mission, supported Don Guanella generously in every way possible for the construction of the Basilica of St. Joseph. On March 19, 1912, Don Guanella inaugurated the basilica by celebrating the first mass. After the construction and the inauguration of the basilica of St. Joseph, he wrote to his religious men and nuns that he had made a vow to St. Joseph, that of erecting a pious union in his honour to help the dying with prayer. As St. Joseph is the patron of the dying and of a happy death, Fr. Guanella began the Pious Union of St. Joseph in 1913. It has two main purposes. The first one is to promote and spread the devotion of St. Joseph. And secondly,



it is to bind together as many priests and faithful as possible for the prayer and good works for a holy and happy death of the dying.

St. Joseph lived like all of us between joys and sorrows. We always have something to learn from his pure heart to fulfill God's plan. Hence, let us go to St. Joseph to imitate his footsteps, as Pope Francis writes, "*St. Joseph teaches that, in the midst of the storms of life, we must not be afraid to leave to God the helm of our boat.*". It is also proper to pray to St. Joseph for the good health of Our Holy Father Pope Francis.

As we begin the season of Lent, I would like to conclude with the message of Pope Francis, "Let us journey together in hope." While reflecting and participating in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, make an inward journey that results in personal conversion, fraternal love, and hope. I wish you a blessed and fruitful Lent.

Provincial Superior

**FR. GNANARAJ SDC**



## **PROVINCIAL CALENDER MARCH - 2025**

- |                   |                                                |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>01.03.2025</b> | <b>- Warangal Residence</b>                    |
| <b>02.03.2025</b> | <b>- Vatluru &amp; Koppakka Community</b>      |
| <b>04.03.2025</b> | <b>- Visiting Vijayawada Bishop</b>            |
| <b>08.03.2025</b> | <b>- Meeting with the Archbishop of Madras</b> |
| <b>09.03.2025</b> | <b>- Madurai Community</b>                     |
| <b>20.03.2025</b> | <b>- Retreat @Sirumalai, Dindigul</b>          |
| <b>29.03.2025</b> | <b>- Perpetual Profession &amp; Diaconate</b>  |

# *Pilgrims of Hope*



## LET US BEGIN AGAIN

***Dear confreres,***

I am spending a few days in our Founder's birthplace, to share the experience of contemplation carried on by some confreres here since February 2. These are useful days both for my spiritual life in the Lenten Season close at hand, and for sharing life with the confreres supporting their period of discernment.

### Let us journey Together In Hope

These are the three steps of the Lenten Message of Pope Francis.

**To journey:** We should not remain still, unmovable in our acquired position in our relationship both with God and with our brethren. We should foster the desire to come out of some situations that prevent us from giving authentic witness to Christ Resurrection. Let us give up our criticism on our community, our Church, our world, our Congregation, enveloping our life with a pessimistic vision. The Pope is asking us: *Am I really on a journey ... or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone?*

**Together:** How important is, also for us confreres and for our communities, this fraternal synodality. The attitude to bear each other burdens overcoming

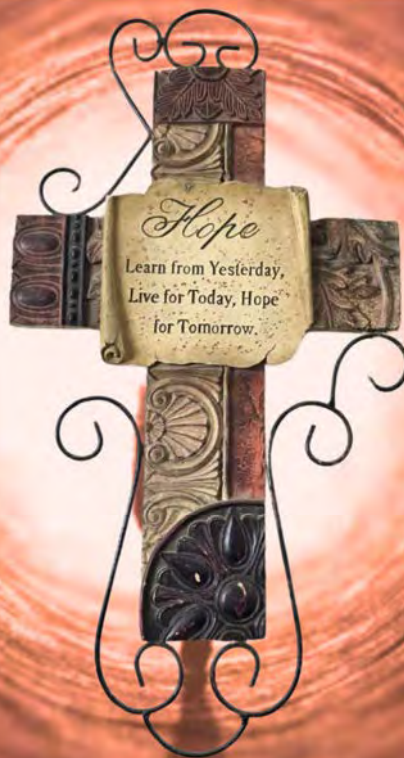


*Let Us*



*In Hope*





indifference, superficiality, lack of interest often perceived in our community life. Our 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter gave us as a challenge or a sign the value of fraternity to be constructed in our communities. How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! The Pope is asking us: *are we capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs?*

**In hope:** “With God all things are possible”, was proclaimed as conclusion of today's Gospel reading, opening the new week. Let us be optimistic and overcome with determination situations that try to keep us fixed and tied to a past that often made our speech and action dim. For this Holy Year the theme setting the tune to our journey is **Pilgrims of hope!** The Pope is telling us: *do I concretely experience the hope... in such a way that no one feels excluded?* Yes, the hope that never deceives! How beautiful it is, to be consecrated persons, priests, confreres full of serenity and not gloomy, carrying to our communities the gift of our internal peace, our trust in Providence that will never abandon us, our joy of living together because we are brothers!

**I entrust each and every community of our Congregation to the prayers of these confreres who are now living this contemplative experience in the Founder's House.**

**BEST WISHES FOR THE LENTEN SEASON!**

*In Charitate Christi*  
Fraciscio, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025

**Padre Umberto**



## INTER-COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE GUANELLIAN FAMILY



The Inter Council Meeting commenced on February 23, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Guanella Preethi Nivas, Bangalore. The meeting was animated by Fr. Soosai Rathinam SdC, Vice General, Servants of Charity, the participants were Fr. R. Gnanaraj and his council (DPP), Sr. Mary and her council (DSMP), Mr. Dominic Tilak, Delegate for the General Council, Mr. Hubert, President of Guanellian Lay Movement and his council (GC).

Sr. Claudia, DSMP invoked the God's blessing by singing the Holy Spirit song, and Fr. Gnanaraj welcomed the participants. Mr. Hubert read from the 1910 regulations of the Servants of Charity. "The primary purpose of the Institute of the Servants of Charity is the sanctification of its members. *Love the Lord your God with your whole heart, mind, and strength; it is the great and first commandment by Jesus. Love your neighbour as you love yourselves; it is the second commandment.* May the Servants of Charity be willing to enrich themselves with virtue and holy love so that they may be able to share them with others in abundance."

### Reflection of Rev. Sr. Victoria Willam

She inspired us with the wisdom of Pope Francis, encouraging us to become stars of hope in others' lives, just like the Magi. Emphasizing the importance of love, she quoted "Omnibus Caritas" (Let love be the priority in all our relationships). She exhorted us to imitate Jesus by nourishing and sanctifying others with the oil of gladness, hope, love, and forgiveness. She reminded us that our unity, availability, charity, and promotion of human

dignity are essential in reaching out to others and making a positive impact on their lives.

### Address of the Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Vice General

He highlighted that the 21st General Chapter emphasizes our Charism as a blend of paternity and maternity. Our founder envisioned the Guanellian family united under one umbrella. Many fathers and sisters have selflessly dedicated their lives, some even sacrificing their health and dying at a young age. Despite our differences in mindset among the SDC, DSMP, and GC, we must focus on unity in diversity. We should adopt a prophetic vision, thinking "globally and acting locally."

He emphasized that God is our Father, and we are all sons and daughters of the same loving Father, who cares deeply for our needy brethren. In a significant gesture of unity, the General Councils of both the Servants of Charity (SDC) and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence (DSMP) signed the "Cartha de Communion" document, which emphasizes the bond of charity, the principle of affinity, open dialogue between the two branches, sharing joys and sorrows as a family, joint ventures and collaborations, prophetic challenges that inspire us to live together, and celebrating together as one family.

Following the sharing of the fathers, sisters, and Guanellian Cooperators, the following proposals were emphasized:

- 1. Vocation Promotion:** Focus on promoting vocations for the Guanellian Family.
- 2. Collaboration:** Foster collaboration in three key areas:
  - Collaboration in Formation,
  - Collaboration in Mission and
  - Collaboration in Celebration.
- 3. Digital Presence:**
  - Create a website for the Guanellian Family.
  - Establish a WhatsApp group for inter-council communication.
- 4. Regular Meetings:**
  - Convene inter-council meetings every six months.
  - Next Inter-Council meeting will be held on November 9, 2025.
- 5. Jubilee Year Celebrations for the Guanellian Family**
  - DPP will organize a Eucharistic celebration on June 21, 2025, in Chennai.
  - DSMP will organize Holy Rosary in three states on November 12, 2025.
  - GC will organize pilgrimages in each state during a convenient season.



## SILVER JUBILEE



**BANGALORE:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, Guanella Preethi Nivas marked a significant milestone, marking 25 years in Bangalore. The momentous occasion was celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm. The festival began with a grand welcome ceremony, where Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Vicar General; Rev. Gnana Raj, Provincial Superior; and Rev. Fr. Ronald, former Provincial Superior, were honored with a garland and regaled by a booming band troop. Other esteemed priests accompanied them in a procession. The celebration's highlight was the inauguration of the newly erected Grotto of St. Louis Guanella. Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, Vicar General, blessed and inaugurated the grotto by cutting the ribbon. Rev. Fr. Ronald, former Provincial Superior, unveiled the new statue of St. Louis Guanella. Rev. Gnana Raj, Provincial Superior, unveiled the plaques.

The vicar general presided over the Holy Eucharist, which was a poignant moment of reflection and gratitude. In the felicitation ceremony, all the priests and brothers were honored for their dedication and selfless service to GPN as superiors, administrators, Directors, Novice Masters, etc., over the past 25 years. In gratitude, all the religious communities were honored with a memorial trophy, acknowledging their support and collaboration with GPN. Finally, a fellowship meal allowed attendees to create a bond and celebrate the milestone achieved. The celebration was a tribute to the congregation's mission, values, and commitment to serving others.





## WELCOME TO ASPERANTS (GC)



As part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Guanella Preethi Nivas, 8 aspirants viz, Stephen Sunil, Paul Gnanadas, Daniel Deepak, Linnet Stephen, Nesamani, Emanuel Arun, Anthony Das, Sharmila J made their promise to take part in a period of Aspirancy to become Guanellian Cooperators. The promise was received by Mr. Hubert Praveen GC, the Bangalore GC president in the presence of Domnic Tilak, the General Councillor of GC, Rev Fr. Soosai Rathinam, the Vice General of Servants of Charity, Rev Fr. Gnanaraj, the provincial of DPP and his council. & Rev Fr. Kulandaisamy, the delegate of Bangalore GC.

## MASTERPIECE PAINTING

**BANGALORE:** In a testament to the boundless potential of our residents, Mr. Uthaman and his assistant, Mr. Cyril, both physically challenged individuals themselves, created a breathtaking painting of "The Last Supper". This



stunning artwork showcased their exceptional talent and dedication. The painting was formally blessed by Fr. Mathias, Superior of Guanella Preethi Nivas. Mr. Louis, our Coordinator, was invited to unveil the masterpiece. As a token of appreciation and recognition, Mr. Uthaman and Mr. Cyril were honored with a shawl for their extraordinary work. This gesture celebrated their achievement and reinforced the community's commitment to empowering and supporting individuals with disabilities.

### IGNITING YOUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING



**BANGALORE:** A health awareness program was conducted at Guanella Preethi Nivas on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February. The initiative was led by a faculty member, Mr. Sriram, and a team of 20-25 students from the Department of Life Sciences, Kristu Jayanti College. The session began on a positive note, with the visiting students singing songs for the residents, creating a warm and engaging atmosphere. Equipped with the necessary medical tools, the students conducted BMI assessments and provided individual results. Each inmate was informed whether their BMI fell within the underweight, normal, or overweight range. Additionally, they were given guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including exercise tips and dietary recommendations. Staff members also joined the check-up, making it an inclusive initiative. The visiting students actively interacted with the inmates, ensuring the session was educational and enjoyable. The program successfully promoted health awareness while fostering positive engagement among students, residents, and staff.

### NAYANA EYE CAMP

**BANGALORE:** The Department of Social Work, Kristu Jayanti College, in collaboration with the Jayantian Extension Service and Narayana Nethralaya,





Bengaluru, organized an Eye Check-Up Camp specifically for senior citizens on the 20th of February 2025 at GPN. The event was aimed at providing essential eye care and health awareness to the elderly population, ensuring that they have access to basic medical services. Many senior citizens face vision-related issues, which are often neglected due to financial constraints. The camp also sought to educate senior citizens about the importance of regular eye check-ups, common age-related eye conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and macular degeneration, and preventive measures that can be implemented to maintain good vision. The camp was supported by a team of qualified ophthalmologists, medical professionals, and nursing staff, ensuring that all senior citizens received the best possible care. The camp reinforced the college's ongoing commitment to social outreach, creating positive impacts on the lives of vulnerable members of society. After a few days, the college came out and gave glasses to all residents who needed them.

### FIELD VISIT





**CUDDALORE:** A group of female students from the BS Mathematics of St. Joseph's Evening College embarked on a field trip to St. Joseph's Seminary on the 8th of February, 2025. The trip was designed to help students gain first-hand exposure to the Guanellian mission at the Don Guanella Day Care Centre. A goal was to provide students with a holistic learning experience, fostering human values alongside academic excellence. Upon their arrival, the students were warmly welcomed and provided with an introduction to the center's mission and services. They spent time with the inmates, interacting with them, and actively participating in various vocational training activities such as tailoring, rosary making, candle making, and handicrafts. Through these hands-on experiences, the students gained valuable insights into the significance of social responsibility and the dignity of labor. This exposure has had a profound impact on the students. It helped broaden their perspectives and inspired them to strive for their personal goals with greater determination. Witnessing the resilience and dedication of the inmates instilled in them a renewed sense of purpose, motivating them to become compassionate and responsible citizens.

The visit strengthened the bond between the college and the Guanellian mission and served as a testament to the transformative power of service and learning beyond the classroom. As the students departed, they carried a newfound appreciation for empathy, perseverance, and commitment to making a difference in society. Such initiatives continue to uphold the Guanellian spirit of love and service, fostering a future generation dedicated to uplifting the marginalized and embracing a life of purpose and compassion.

### **PILGRIMS OF HOPE: JUBILEE CROSS VISITS**



**CUDDALORE:** As part of the Jubilee Year 2025 celebrations, marking a time of renewal and grace, St. Joseph's Seminary had the profound privilege of

receiving the Jubilee Cross of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. This significant spiritual event caused deep reflection, prayer, and unity within the seminary community.

The community extends heartfelt gratitude to the parish priest of Sagayamatha Church, Rev. Fr. Vincent, SDC, for his generosity in sharing this sacred opportunity. On February 24, 2025, the seminary experienced a full day of veneration and prayer with the Jubilee Cross, fostering renewed faith and devotion among the brothers and the faithful. A highlight of the day was the recitation of a 1000-bead rosary. Brothers fervently prayed for about six continuous hours for personal and communal intentions, including prayers for the health of the Holy Father. The Initiation Brothers, priests, and the laity led this profound spiritual exercise. It was recited in multiple languages, embracing the beauty of inculturation and diversity within the Church.

This day of grace culminated in a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the parish, presided over by Rev. Fr. Adaikalam, SDC, the community's superior. The presence of the Jubilee Cross reminded the seminarians of the Church's mission to be 'Pilgrims of Hope' in the world, inspiring them to deepen their faith and commitment to their vocation. This blessed occasion reinforced the community's unity and spiritual fervor, leaving an indelible mark on all who participated. May this Jubilee Year be a time of renewal, hope, and abundant grace for all.

### THIRD ENGLISH ACADEMY

**KOPPAKKA:** On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February, our brothers hosted their Third English Academy, focusing on the inspiring themes of Happiness, Perseverance, and Awareness. The event was a resounding success, as the brothers delivered





their talks with passion and eloquence, engaging the audience with their insights. In addition to the thought-provoking discussions, the brothers added an element of entertainment with lively dances and skits, which captivated everyone in attendance. The combination of education and entertainment created a vibrant atmosphere that left a lasting impression. The event was informative and memorable, fostering creativity, belonging, and community spirit. It truly celebrated the essence of the chosen themes, creating unforgettable memories for everyone involved.

### SPONSORS' DAY CELEBRATION



**CHENNAI, DGRC:** On February 9, 2025, Don Guanella Special School and Home hosted a memorable Sponsors' Day celebration. About 150 families also participated, bringing the total to approximately 400 people in attendance.

The highlight of the event was the cultural program presented by the children. They performed dances and skits with great enthusiasm and energy that mesmerized the audience. The students displayed their talents and confidence, and their performances were met with thunderous applause. The students prepared an impressive range of vocational items in collaboration with the staff. These included handicrafts, artwork, and other creative products showcasing students' skills and abilities. The exhibition was a testament to the students' potential and creativity. The staff presented a program highlighting the benefits and positive impact of the sponsors' support for the children. The presentation emphasized the importance of the



sponsors' contributions in enabling the school to provide quality education and care for the children. The Sponsors' Day celebration was an excellent opportunity for Don Guanella Special School and Home to express its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors. The event was a huge success, and the school is deeply thankful to all the sponsors, families, and well-wishers who participated, making it a memorable day.

### **FUN-FILLED LEARNING EXPERIENCE**



**CHENNAI, DGRC:** On February 28, 2025, the Don Guanella Special School and Home children embarked on an exciting one-day learning program to Avadi Park. A total of 35 special children, accompanied by seven dedicated staff members, participated in the engaging “see and learn” program. The outing provided a unique opportunity for the children to explore and learn about their surroundings in a fun and interactive way. The event was a huge success, and we were grateful for the experience!

### **FRATERNAL VISIT OF VICAR GENERAL**



**CUDDALORE, DGBH:** On February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam, SdC, Vicar General, visited our Boy's Home in Cuddalore. Fr. Francis, Superior, welcomed him with a shawl and garland. Fr. Rathinam had a personal chat with each of the confreres. He celebrated Holy Mass with the Boys' Home students on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 a.m. He shared the gospel values and pedagogy of Fr. Guanella. Our Founder loved children. He saw them as the pillar of the Church and nation. He extended greetings from the Superior General. Fr. Rathinam also spoke with the domestic staff and listened to their comments. He encouraged all the confreres to have passion for our mission, community life, and prayer life. "Be united and do all the activities". The visit ended on a joyful and memorable note.

### ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION AND PARENTS' DAY



**CUDDALORE, DGBH:** On the 16th of February, we celebrated Annual Day and Parents' Day in our Boys' Home, Cuddalore. The chief guest, Rev. Fr. Amal Raj, SdC, Vicar Provincial, and special guests, Mr. Predeep Ranganathan and Mr. Thirumurugan, were honored with a shawl. Superior Fr. Francis SdC was also present. Fr. Vicar Provincial spoke about the value of life and time. Mr. Predeep Ranganathan talked about the importance of education and life-oriented moral values. Fr. Superior spoke about discipline in life. Fr. Stalin gave the welcome address, and Fr. Vincent expressed gratitude to all involved. Fr. Vanathiyen organized the day's event. Our boys presented a cultural program to entertain the guests. We gave special awards to the students for their academic performance. To close out the event, we had a delicious lunch.

### VICAR GENERAL VISITS PARISH

**CUDDALORE:** On the 9th of February, Rev. Fr. A. Soosai Rathinam, SdC, visited along with Rev. Fr. S. Amal Raj, SdC, Vice Provincial. We welcomed them with a





garland, Kumba arathi, and Lighting the Lamb. Fr. Vicar General celebrated the Holy Mass, and Vice Provincial preached the homily. The Vicar General carried the Superior General's message to our parishioners. Next, he visited with the Pious Association and parishioners. Our parishioners extended warm wishes on the 25th Ordination Anniversary of Vicar General and his service. Then, the Parish Priest thanked everyone for their participation and attendance.

### EVENING SCHOOL PICNIC

**KUMBAKONAM:** Kumbakonam Evening School arranged a picnic for 97 children and teachers on February 22 in Pichavaram and Poombukar. The day started excitedly as the students woke up early, had breakfast, and packed their bags. Four vans journeyed to the picnic spot, with the occupants singing and engaging in playful banter. A 40-minute boat ride was arranged in Pichavaram, a beautiful place and India's second-largest mangrove forest. The boat progressed slowly, giving the children time to experience the beauty. The water level was not deep, and the narrow lane made it a wonderful trip. Time was provided for some delicious food and snacks. Some games were played to help the children interact with one another and other tuition children and teachers. Around sunset, the whole group gathered on the sands



of the Poombukar Beach, engaging in storytelling. The recently placed granite stones on the shore added to the ambiance of the beach. The group created lasting memories by singing songs, telling stories, and quietly sitting and observing the sea. A wonderful day came to an end. The children returned home with memories of the day's fun and excitement.

### PICNIC FOR EVENING SCHOOL CHILDREN



**DPP PROVINCIALATE:** 'Picnic': Just hearing this word starts every student's heart fluttering, and their laughter fills the air. School picnics are fun because students, friends, and teachers get to relax and enjoy the outdoors. A picnic for the DPP Provincialate Evening School children occurred on February 1, 2025. Students from three evening school centres actively participated. They traveled to MGM Amusement Park by bus, where they could sing, laugh, and dance with teachers and friends. They spent seven hours at the amusement park, from 10 am to 5 pm, making the most of every moment. The school picnic was an exceptional experience that engaged teachers and students in a world of fun that could never happen in classrooms. It was a fantastic experience with fun rides, games, and great company. It also helped the children be more independent, make decisions, strengthen bonds, learn through experimentation, and develop leadership skills.

### EVENING SCHOOL ANNUAL DAY

**DPP Provincialate:** Evening School celebrated the annual day with vibrancy on 28th February, 2025. Around 80 children from three tuition centres took part actively with their parents. The Annual day was presided by the Chief Guest Fr. Jebastin, Fr. Benson, Fr. Philomin and Fr. Francis Xavier. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Jebastin stated that the students have smartly carved a niche for themselves. He encouraged the students to focus on excellent education together with values and extra-curricular activities, so that they can





effectively serve their nation and enjoy better future. The thematic show of talent, imagination, and organization was the essence of the evening. Our students danced to the tune of songs with colorful props. The audience was enthralled by Silambattam, a traditional Tamil martial art. Newly bought dress was shared as gifts to the children. Three students who were regular to the Evening School were specially awarded with the bicycles. All the students thanked ASCI and Divine Providence Province for supporting their educational needs. At the end of the program, all were served with packed food. The annual function not only provided a platform for students to showcase their talents but also helped build a sense of unity and camaraderie among the students, teachers, and parents, encouraged students to work hard and pursue their passions.

### GRAND ANNUAL FEAST

**VATLURU:** Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart is the extraordinary remedy for the extraordinary needs of our time." -- Pope Pius XI. The 24<sup>th</sup> Jesus Jubilee Tower Feast and 107<sup>th</sup> Sacred Heart Church Feast were celebrated in the august presence of Most Rev. Jayarao Polimera D.D., the Bishop of Eluru, and Rev. Fr. R. Gnanaraj SdC, the Provincial Superior of Divine Providence Province. The Bishop of Eluru presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration. He said, "One who belongs to God automatically he will be righteous, just,





loveable and prayerful.” Diocesan religious priests, sisters, and faithful also participated in the activities, making the day spectacular. People devoutly partook in the Prem Vindhu, almost five thousand.

### **SHOWER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE**



**VATLURU:** Guanella Karuna Laya Boys Home was showered with divine providence blessings. Kota Prudhavi offered the boys T-shirts. Rev. Fr. R. Ganaraj SdC, the Provincial Superior of DPP, distributed the gifts. He said that it is God Who does. The boys must study well and become good disciplinarians.

### **FREEDOM FOUNDATION TRUST**

**SIVAGANGAI:** Mobility equipment and other support accessories were provided at a camp organized by Freedom Foundation Trust, Chennai, on February 16, 2025, at Yesuvanam, Sivagangai Dt. The Freedom Foundation





Trust's main activities include the improvement of the social integration of people with disabilities through the provision of education, mobility aids, and assistive devices. Nearly 250 differently abled people attended the camp across the district. Doctors, physiotherapists, and orthopedic specialists carried out the assessments. The team diagnosed the beneficiaries, took measurements, and adjusted the new equipment to meet the different needs of the recipients. The devices will be provided after all the assessments have taken place. Some items include tricycles, wheelchairs, MR kits, artificial limbs, walking sticks, crutches, standing frames, and medical shoes. The camp came to a successful conclusion.

### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



**CHELSEA** - This year, nineteen residents enthusiastically prepared for an unforgettable evening on Friday, February 7th, at 2|42 Community Church in Ann Arbor. It was their "Night to Shine." A volunteer hairdresser brought her daughter to the Center to help style the ladies' hair. Staff members were also on hand to help paint their nails, apply make-up, and help with their outfits. One of the parents prepared suits for the men so they could look just as nice as the ladies. Upon arrival, each guest received a corsage or boutonniere. Subsequently, each king and queen was crowned, awaiting his or her turn to walk the red carpet into the event space. As they awaited the opening prayer and dinner service, party-goers connected with old friends, took photos, and checked out the gifts in their swag bags. The volunteers ensured the honored guests had a great time. Following dinner, the dancing commenced. Residents danced until the last possible minute before heading home.

## UPDATES FROM THE PIOUS UNION



**GRASS LAKE** - With the chilly days of February, the Shrine has had fewer events, but it is making plans for many spring and summer projects. The statues for the Holy Rosary project were shipped from China, landed in the United States, and will be delivered to the Shrine at the beginning of March. The Shrine has been in discussion with several contractors; the building of the Holy Rosary Project will commence after the spring thaw. The Women's Guild has begun preparing for St. Joseph's feast day by baking bread and by getting ready for the pilgrims who will be visiting the Shrine in March. The Women's Guild will also be publishing a cook book, containing local recipes and a history of the Shrine.

## CHILI CHALLENGE





**CHELSEA** – On Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, the residents and staff at St. Louis Center were challenged to pick the best chili. Staff members and some residents prepared their favorite chili recipes hoping to win the “St. Louis Center Choice Award”. Each person could sample 10 different entries. The cups displayed the number of the pot so that they could easily vote for the chili that they liked the best. The kitchen staff also provided a side salad to balance out the meal. Jacqui counted the votes to name recipe #5 as the winner.

### COMMUNITY FLOWERS BLOOM



**CHELSEA** – Twenty members from the surrounding community participated in the first 1000 Flowers Could Bloom event in the St. Louis Center gym February 26th. Several residents who are usually at work during the week joined in the fun. Participants were tasked to consider what aspects of their identity they would like showcase as a flower in bloom. Eli Zemper, who leads the residents in clay classes two times a week, is very excited that so many community members are excited to share their creativity with the residents and eventually the greater Chelsea area community.

### A FEAST WITH FRIENDS

**CHELSEA** - This year the priests at the St. Louis Center welcomed nearly 100 guests to the Center's gym for a friendly Italian feast. This is the biggest crowd in attendance at the annual Pasta with the Priests event. Many attendees purchased their tickets at the Fall Dinner Auction, but many others were invited to meet the priests for the first time. The gym was transformed into an Italian Trattoria by the development staff. The kitchen staff prepared a delightful dinner, and all of the guests left feeling physically and spiritually fed. It was a wonderful time of fun and fellowship.



## BIRTHDAYS

**01-FR. C. JESU DOSS**  
**02-FR. B. PRAKASH PHILEMEN RAJ**  
**04-FR. L. MARIA JULIAN BERNAD**  
**06-FR. A. BERNANDES**  
**07-FR. I. CONSTANTAIN**  
**10-FR. A. KALAI SELVAN**  
**BRO. G. AROCKIASAMY**  
**13-FR. P. PAULRAJ**  
**15-FR. A. ABRAHAM**  
**19-FR. FRANCESCO SPOSATO**  
**20-FR. A. LOUIS BASKAR**  
**21-FR. S. RISHAR**  
**25-FR. S. ROOSEWELT**  
**29-FR. M. LIGORY**  
**30-FR. S. DOMINIC BASKAR**

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!**

