



News and Views

Divine Providence Province

CARE FOR THE COMMON HOME



SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Confreres,

In 2015, Pope Francis made a truly inspiring announcement during the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. He revealed the creation of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, a special day that has been celebrated annually since then on the first of September. In his letter, Pope Francis expressed his desire to contribute "to resolving the ecological crisis which humanity is presently experiencing," a crisis that calls us to a deep ecological conversion. When Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si'* in 2015, he wasn't breaking with the past and propelling believers into a novel ecological direction. Instead, he was synthesizing a long tradition of Catholic understanding of creation and of humanity's moral obligations on behalf of the common good – and it was a truly inspiring move!

Climate change is one of humanity's most urgent and complex challenges – but we can overcome it! It presents us with an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of millions, especially the poor and vulnerable, and to protect the natural world. It's incredible how many countries have reported new records for rising temperatures during the summer season and unexpected heavy rainfall during monsoon seasons! This is a clear sign that our Common House is not only injured but also abandoned – but there is hope! There's still a way to go before everyone realizes how important it is to care for our planet! Some people are already taking action on this issue, which is great to see! However, there is still more that can be done to make a real impact on the reality of this world. The reality of climate



change is not just a scientific or political issue. It's also a matter of justice for the poorest, who are the first and most severely affected by the ecological crisis. It's a matter of faith and spirituality too, and it's inspiring to see people making a change.

A few years ago, I came across an article that really made me think about how fast our lives are moving these days. The author makes the fascinating point that this way of living causes a triple rupture: rupture with God, with creation and with others. Religious life offers a truly inspiring way of living! It's all about embracing a rhythm of life that's centered on an encounter with God, appreciation for creation through work, community, and especially, the poor.

The care for our common home is a fantastic opportunity for our whole charismatic family to work together! We have an amazing opportunity to learn together, learn from each other and work together! It's time for us to discover how our lifestyle and our way of consuming can positively impact our common home and the lives of the poor! This is absolutely essential to our identity and mission! It's a challenge, but it's one we're ready to take on! We're ready to fight against the inertia that invites us to blind, dehumanizing and accelerated consumption. We are so distracted by so many things that we do not realize that our joy is fading! We are reducing our relationship with God to a minimum, connected at all times to a virtual world that disconnects us from God, from creation, from the religious community and above all, unconcerned about the poor and about caring for our common home. But there is so much we can do to change this!

The good news is that we can overcome this kind of 'modern acedia' with the help of discernment! We have the amazing opportunity to engage in a communitarian discernment that will help us to open our eyes to reality and to the Holy Spirit, who is always there to guide us in loving and serving the Lord. We are co-workers with the Lord, and we have the privilege of sharing what we are and what we have with the poor. It's time for our own ecological conversion within the Province and communities, and to foster the ecological conversion of the people we serve!

I believe we can contribute to caring for creation and our common home in the following ways:

We're encouraging natural meditation to help you relax and unwind.

We're also spreading awareness and forming opinions about the consequences of climate change and the moral duty to act.

We can all play our part in making our institutions and houses more sustainable! Here are some simple ways to get started:

- Ultimately, there is no single formula to care for our common home. Each community will find the most appropriate way to do it, and it's going to be amazing to see what they come up with! What is true is that we share a single concern and a

single mission: to witness to the abundant Redemption in solidarity with the wounded world. I am convinced that the ecological conversion requires a personal and collective conversion that will lead us to a change of life in order to pass on the mark of charity and tenderness towards the poor and our common home – and it's going to be a beautiful journey

- Congratulations to our confreres Fr. Melvinraj & Fr. Arockia William on the conferral of the priestly ordination and we wish them a fruitful priestly ministry and continuation of the licentiate studies.
- Let me acknowledge the contribution and collaboration of so many confreres, sisters and lay people to celebrate this ordination event. My special thanks to the Cuddalore Communities, DGMS community and the Provincialate community.
- Thanks be to God for the donation of a property in Thanjavur which has been registered in the Society of Servants of Charity. We thank the donors Mr. R. Martin & Miss. R. Philomina for their generosity of heart. Our special thanks to our confrere Fr. Stalin Savarimuthu who has been the initiator of this process, Fr. Sebastian Periyannan of the Thanjavur diocese who has worked as the interlocutor of the process and to Fr. Francis S the Provincial Councilor for all their hard work and dedication. May the good Lord transform this house to be a charity home for the dying destitute as per the will of the donors.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord for his bountiful blessings on the new presence in the diocese of Warangal. Congratulations to the confreres for starting the Day Care Center for people with disabilities after the probation period.
- I appeal to you for your fervent prayers for the important event the 21st General Chapter which is scheduled to be held from 6th to 24th Oct. 2024.
- Please keep in your prayers our confreres Bro. A. Antony Samy & Bro. Runa Nayak (Carlos) who are in the phase of preparation to perpetual profession. Their perpetual profession is scheduled for 29th Sept. and diaconal ordination on 19th Oct.

PROVINCIAL CALENDER SEPTEMBER - 2023

- 01 - 06 - In Office
- 07 - Holy Mass in Besant Nagar, Chennai
- 08 - Feast Mass in Valasaravakkam, Chennai
- 09 - 15 - Classes in Cuddalore Seminary
- 16 - Marriage Mass in Pondy

FR. RONALD. J SDC

Provincial Superior



Let those desert places
in our hearts bloom.

Pope Francis

quote fancy

Sea and desert : these two words reappear in many testimonies I receive, both from migrants, and from people who are engaged in coming to their aid. And when I say “sea”, in the context of migrations, I also mean ocean, lake, river, all the insidious bodies of water that so many brothers and sisters all over the world are forced to cross to reach their destination. And “desert” is not only that of sand and dunes, or rocks, but also those inaccessible and dangerous territories, such as forests, jungles, steppes where migrants walk alone, left to their own devices. Migrants, sea and desert. Today's migratory routes are often marked by crossings of seas and deserts, which for many, too many people — too many! — are deadly. Therefore, today I want to dwell on this tragedy, this pain. Some of these routes we know well, because they are often in the spotlight; others, the majority, are little known, but no less travelled.

I have spoken about the Mediterranean many times, because I am the Bishop of Rome and because it is emblematic: the mare nostrum, a place of communication between peoples and civilizations, has become a cemetery. And the tragedy is that many, the majority of these deaths, could have been prevented. It must be said clearly: there are those who work systematically and with every means possible to repel migrants — to repel migrants. And this, when done with awareness and responsibility, is a grave sin. Let us not forget what the Bible says: “You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him” (Ex 22:21). The orphan, the widow and the stranger are the quintessential poor whom God always defends and asks to be defended.

Some deserts too, unfortunately, are becoming cemeteries of migrants. And even here it is not always a matter of “natural” deaths. No. At times, they have been taken to the desert and abandoned. We all know the photograph of Pato's wife and

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daughter, who died of hunger and thirst in the desert. In the time of satellites and drones, there are migrant men, women and children that no one must see: they are hidden. Only God sees them and hears their cry. And this is a cruelty of our civilization.

Indeed, the sea and the desert are also biblical places, loaded with symbolic value. They are very important settings in the history of the exodus, the great migration of the people led by God through Moses from Egypt to the Promised Land. These places witness the tragedy of the people fleeing oppression and slavery. They are places of suffering, fear and desperation, but at the same time they are places of passage for liberation — and how many people cross the seas and the deserts to free themselves, today. They are places of passage for redemption, to reach freedom and the fulfilment of God's promises (cf. Message for World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2024).

There is a Psalm which, addressing the Lord, says: “Thy way was through the sea / thy path through the great waters” (77:19). And another says that he “led his people through the wilderness, / for his steadfast love endures for ever” (136:16). These blessed words tell us that, to accompany the people on the journey to freedom, God himself crosses the sea and the desert; God does not remain at a distance, no; he shares in the migrants' tragedy. God is there with them, with the migrants, he suffers with them, with the migrants. He weeps and hopes with them, with the migrants. It will be good for us today to think: the Lord is with our migrants in the *mare nostrum*, the Lord is with them, not with those who repel them.

Brothers and sisters, we can all agree on one thing: migrants should not be in those lethal seas and deserts. Today's migrants should not be there — and they are, unfortunately. But it is not through more restrictive laws, it is not with the militarization of borders, it is not with rejection that we will obtain this result. Instead,





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we will obtain it by extending safe and legal access routes for migrants, providing refuge for those who flee from war, violence, persecution and various disasters; we will obtain it by promoting in every way a global governance of migration based on justice, brotherhood and solidarity; and by joining forces to combat human trafficking, to stop the criminal traffickers who mercilessly exploit others' misery.

Dear brothers and sisters, think about the many tragedies of migrants — how many die in the Mediterranean. Think of Lampedusa, of Crotone... how many ugly and sad things. I wish to conclude by acknowledging and praising the commitment of the many good Samaritans who do their utmost to rescue and save injured and abandoned migrants on the routes of desperate hope, in the five continents. These courageous men and women are a sign of a humanity that does not allow itself to be contaminated by the malign culture of indifference and rejection — it is our indifference and that attitude of rejection that kills migrants. And those who cannot stay with them “on the front line” — I think of the many good people who are there on the front line, with “Mediterranea Saving Humans” [see page 16] and so many other associations — are not therefore excluded from this fight for civilization. We cannot be on the front line, but we are not excluded; there are many ways to make a contribution, first and foremost prayer. And I ask you: do you pray for migrants, for those who come to our lands to save their lives? And then “you” want to send them away...

Dear brothers and sisters, let us join our hearts and forces, so that the seas and deserts are not cemeteries, but spaces where God may open up roads to freedom and fraternity.





ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD AND THANKSGIVING MASS

DPP - Divine Providence Province witnessed a delightful and jubilant event in the priestly ordination of Deacons Arockia William and Melvinraj on August 15, 2024. The event was graced by the presence of multitudes of people who came from different regions, among which was noticeable the presence of His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Francis Kalist, Archbishop of Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Fr. Ronald, Provincial Superior, Provincial Councilors: Frs. Kulandaisamy, Francis, and Gnanaraj and by other Guanellian priests and diocesan priests, Guanellian family, local religious family, and relatives of the priests to be ordained.

The ordination, which took place at St. Joseph's Seminary Chapel, was a result of the dedicated efforts of the Guanellian Sisters, Minor Seminarians of St. Joseph's Seminary, and confreres from DPP Provincialate, St. Joseph's Seminary, and Don Guanella Boys Home. Their exhaustive work ensured that every aspect of the event was meticulously planned and executed, from the altar's meaningful decoration to the choir's beautiful singing. The bishop's homily, which highlighted the duties and challenges of the priestly life, added a profound spiritual dimension to the event.

The day after the ordination, on August 16, Fr. Arockia William celebrated his first Holy Mass in his native, Our Lady of Perpetual Succor Church, Siluvaipalayam, Tamil Nadu. Following this, on August 17, Fr. Melvinraj celebrated his first Holy Mass in his home parish, Our Lady of Assumption Church, Irudayampattu, Tamil Nadu. Many Guanellian and diocesan priests joined the First Masses, along with Guanellian sisters, religious, friends, and well-wishers. A procession preceded the solemn Eucharistic Celebration through the hometowns of the newly ordained. The newly ordained priests thanked God for His goodness in their first Thanksgiving Mass. The faithful who participated in the First Thanksgiving Mass wished and prayed for them to be faithful and effective Guanellians in the service of the Universal Mother Church.



FULFILLING A LONG-AWAITED DESIRE



KOPPAKKA: Renovations at our facilities are complete. This conclusion warranted a celebration. The event was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr Provincial, who led the blessing ceremony. His words resonated deeply with all present, emphasizing the importance of creating cleanliness. This project had been a desire nurtured over time, and through careful planning, resource management, and skilled craftsmanship, it finally came to fruition. The primary focus of the renovation was to create a place of comfort, cleanliness, and rejuvenation for all who would use it. As the blessings were sought, prayers were offered for the continued protection of these facilities so that they may stand the test of time and remain in good condition for years to come. Towards the end, as a token of our gratitude, the contractor and the workers were honored with a shawl and a small gift.

CELEBRATING 78 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

KOPPAKKA: On the 15th of this month, we proudly celebrated the 78th Independence Day of our beloved nation. The day was marked by a grand Eucharistic celebration, bringing together everyone from all walks of life to honor the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom. Following the sacred service, we gathered around the national flag, a symbol of our unity in diversity. At this time, we paid tribute to the countless heroes, and their sacrifices remind us of the importance of





freedom and the responsibilities that come with it. The chief guest for the occasion, Fr. Yesu Babu, delivered a thought-provoking speech that inspired everyone. He emphasized the importance of respecting individual freedom, urging us never to take another's freedom for granted or control it in any way. "Respect everyone's freedom as you want to enjoy your own," he stated passionately, reminding us that true patriotism lies in honoring the rights and dignity of all individuals. As the celebration concluded, we departed with hearts full of gratitude and a commitment to foster an environment where everyone can thrive freely. The spirit of our ancestors lives on in each of us, urging us to continue their legacy of love for our country and respect for one another.

THE SECRET OF FREEDOM IS COURAGE



VATLURU: "Freedom is never dear at any price. It is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?" - Mahatma Gandhi. Our Indian nation's 78th Independence Day was celebrated spectacularly in Guanella Karunalaya, Vatluru, Andhra Pradesh. The boys marched proudly while hoisting and saluting our national flag. They remembered the great sacrifice of our freedom fighters, enriching our nation's heritage. They prayed for continued peace, religious harmony, equality, fraternity, and social justice.

PRAY UNCEASINGLY

VATLURU: Pope Francis says, "Prayer is nothing more than lifting our hearts or minds to God. God, the Eternal Present, is at all times beckoning us towards deeper union with him. He reminds us that the fruit of prayer is charity—selfless love." We conducted a night vigil prayer service in the Sacred Heart Church, Vatluru. St. Paul said to Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thes 5:16-18. The faithful of Vatluru actively participated in the night prayer vigil with Rev. Fr. Assisi, Christuraj, and Raja Rathnam on the 20th of August 2024. The Handbook of Guanella



Karunalaya and the Prayer Book for Boys were released the same day. Rev. Sr. Annie Paul, Superior of the Christ the King Convent, received the first copy.



CAREER GUIDANCE SESSION FOR YOUTH

KUMBAKONAM: As per the annual timetable, the Guanellian youth movement of Kumbakonam went to Sivagangai on the 11th of August to have a class on how to be a job holder. After the Youth Sunday Celebration in the parish, the journey started towards Sivagangai. Fr. Jeyaseelan took the class to various sites that provided examples of job opportunities and instructed them on ways to earn money based on every individual's studies. Sr. Demel DSMP shared that earning income is also possible by reducing unnecessary expenses and gave some ideas like keeping a vegetable garden and learning the Aari work to stitch their costumes. She also stressed if we avoid various addictions, it will reduce a lot of unnecessary expenses. On the 12th, Fr Perianayagam projected the future liabilities the youth would face. He also spoke words of encouragement to motivate the boys to reduce their dependence on their parents for their daily activities. Gaining independence and supporting themselves will lead to continued employment and strengthen their own feelings of self-worth. After they spent time with our inmates, they were taken to Rameshwaram to get inspiration from seeing the Memorial Place of former President Dr. Abdul Kalam.





YOUTH DAY



DINDIGUL: On Youth Day, St. Antony Church in Kallathupatti hosted a vibrant celebration led by Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan as the chief celebrant. The event was marked by a special gathering of the parish's youth group, GYM, who came together to mark the day's significance. The celebration provided a platform for the young members of the parish to unite, reflect, and rejuvenate their spirits. Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan's guidance and presence added depth and inspiration to the occasion, making it a memorable experience for all involved. Fr. C. Lourdu Raj, the Parish Priest of Kallathupatti, coordinated the whole program.

PILGRIMAGE TO VELANKANNI

DINDIGUL: The faithful of Kallathupatti embarked on a spiritual journey to Velankanni, a renowned Marian Shrine, under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Lourdu Raj, the Parish Priest. The pilgrimage began with a solemn Holy Eucharistic Celebration, where Fr. Lourdu Raj blessed the devotees, imploring God's protection and blessings upon them. Upon arrival at Velankanni, the pilgrims participated in various spiritual





activities, including Holy Eucharistic Celebration at the shrine, Rosary processions, Stations of the Cross, personal prayer, and devotions. The pilgrims expressed profound gratitude to Fr. Lourdu Raj for his guidance and support throughout the journey. His presence and blessings instilled a sense of peace and joy, making the pilgrimage a genuinely enriching experience.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



DINDIGUL: The 78th Independence Day of India was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotism at Guanella Karunai Illam, Dindigul. The event took place in the morning. The chief guest, Fr. Samson, from Dindigul Diocese, graced the occasion and hoisted the flag. His presence added significance to the celebration. The program was successful because of the active participation of all the inmates, staff, and workers. The event served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the importance of preserving our independence. Thanks to Fr. Samson for his presence and inspiring words to all the participants.

26th ANNUAL SPORTS DAY





CHENNAI, DGSS: On August 29, 2024, our school proudly hosted its 26th Annual Sports Day at Karayanchavadi, Poonamallee. The event was a resounding success, with all children participating enthusiastically in various sporting events. Mr. Srinivasan, DDAWO, hoisted the National flag, declared the event open, and awarded prizes to the winners. We were honored to have distinguished guests, including Rev. Fr. Arul Raj SdC, DGMS Administrator, Mr. Dinesh, Psychologist, Dr. Saguntala Devi, Poonamallee CRPF Police Inspector, and Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Theresa, Benefactors. Their presence and encouragement meant the world to our special children. The event was also broadcast on the Puthiya Thalaimurai channel, highlighting our children's talents.

A DAY WITH NATURE: GREEN VISION AND GREEN MISSION

THALAVADI: "Nature is the best therapy, and a picnic is a perfect way to enjoy it." Every being that lives in this world is fond of nature, and everyone likes to enjoy it. Survival without a meaningful respect for nature is impossible because our minds and bodies are connected to nature. When our mind is relaxed, we are calm. To this end, on August 11th, we went on a picnic with our residents and staff to Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve Forest Chikkali, Mavanatham, and Bejalaati tribal villages. Forest Ranger Mr. Satheesh guided the adventure. He gave special permission for our people to enter the reserve forest. It was a beautiful time for everyone, and we enjoyed the time by having party games, dancing, fun, a riverside lunch, and snacks. Seeing elephants, peacocks, deer, and wild bison was a double pleasure. After visiting the forest, we went to Ramanaranai Falls, where our people enjoyed looking at the peaceful scenery and waterfalls. Following this, we visited tribal people's living areas and observed their lifestyles. It was beautiful for everyone to enjoy the picnic. We thank Salesian Fathers (Don Bosco School), who supported us by offering their school bus for the picnic.





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INDEPENDENCE DAY



THALAVADI: "We must not forget that independence is not given but taken." Subhas Chandra Bose. The Indian people of Nazareth Illam desired to celebrate our nation's 78th Independence Day. The preparations for the program began with Marchpast by with exploring a variety of dress codes. Following Tamilthai Vazhthu, our people sang Vazthu. Next followed a variety of entertainment, which included dancing, singing, and speeches. We all were amazed to listen to the speech of our inmate, Mrs. Vasanthi. She captivated us with her thoughts and examples of simple everyday living. Everyone much appreciated it. The day's chief guest was Rev. Fr. Salamon V.F. of Thalavadi Vicariate. He was impressed by the wonderful program our people put on. To conclude the program, we sang the National Anthem and distributed sweets. To close out the day, we watched the Indian 2 movie with our residents.

THE SEMINAR FOR VOCATION PROMOTERS

TNLBC Commission organized two days of seminars for the vocation promoters at Poondi Matha Retreat Centre Thirukattupalli. Most Rev. Jeevanantham, Bishop of Kumbakonam, and Rev. Fr. John Kulandai, Professor of St Paul's Seminary Trichy,





inspired and stimulated the participants with talks on the Challenges of Vocation Promotion. The topic of Collaborative vocation was examined. The group discussions revealed the challenges of the vocation, and practical means for handling them were proposed. Representing us, the vocation coordinators participated and contributed.

PILGRIMAGE



BANGALORE: Pilgrimages to shrines dedicated to our Blessed Mother are significant pious activities and expressions of deep faith among Catholics. On 26th August, the four novices from Guanella Preethi Nivas made a pilgrimage to the Minor Basilica of our Lady of Good Health in Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore. After reciting morning prayer, they walked towards the Shrine, holding Rosaries. They reached the feet of the statue of our Heavenly Mother at 9 am. The first part of the visit was spent reciting the Holy Rosary individually and then as a group. Next, they participated in the Holy Mass at the Shrine. They also visited the community of our DSMP sisters who reside there. These sisters render tireless pastoral service at the Shrine and so enjoyed the visit by our Novices. Lunch was out-of-doors; some time was spent relaxing at Cubbon Park and having glimpses of the Vidhana Soudha, the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka. They joyfully returned to GPN after a beautiful day.

INAUGURATION OF GUANELLIAN DAY CARE CENTRE.

MAHABUBABAD: On the 25th of August 2024, the inauguration of Guanella Day Care Centre for Persons with Disability took place in Mahabubabad, Warangal Diocese. The event was marked by a sense of community, hope, and a commitment to providing better care and support for individuals with special needs. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Most Rev. Dr. Udumala Bala, the Bishop of Warangal Diocese, who blessed and inaugurated the Day Care Centre. The event commenced with a welcome address by Fr. Joseph Peter, who highlighted the importance of such facilities in ensuring the well-being and integration of individuals into society. During the



keynote speech, Fr. Francis, the Province Treasurer, expressed deep appreciation for the initiative and emphasized the need for more such centers nationwide. "This Centre represents a significant step forward in our commitment to providing comprehensive care and support for persons with special needs. It is our duty as a society to ensure that everyone, regardless of their abilities, has access to the resources they need to lead a fulfilled life. All those who participated were impressed by the thoughtful design and the focus on creating a supportive and nurturing environment. Finally, we had a Eucharistic celebration presided over by our Bishop and our fathers, Fr. Francis, Fr. Charles Pro, Fr. Simon, Fr. David, Fr. Praveen, Fr. Kristhuraj, Fr. Rajarathnam, Fr. Joseph Peter, Fr. Jose, and Fr. P. Paulraj. A delicious lunch was provided for all.

PILGRIMAGE OF GOOD CHILDREN TO VELANKANNI

CUDDALORE: St. Luigi Guanella, an apostle of charity, says, "A devotional pilgrimage does good for the body and soul; it is an honest relief to the Christian, it is a comfort to one's soul, it is needed for one's heart to pray publicly, and it is a manifestation of faith." Fr. Guanella used to take the good children and walk them to different pilgrimage centers to inculcate in them the spirit of piety and to receive God's





blessings for the normalcy of their lives. In line with this, as a recent meaningful initiative, “Don Guanella Day Care Centre” at St. Joseph's Seminary in Cuddalore initiated a pilgrimage along with the Buoni Figli to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Health at Velankanni on Saturday, the 10th of August 2024. Within the group, seven could not walk, so they were taken in seven wheelchairs. They cried joyfully while visiting Mother's places, which had been their unfulfilled dream for several years. They had only seen these places on TV and never imagined they would go there to see and pray. It was a beautiful opportunity for these special people, who are not Christians, to be taken out and afforded the chance to pray to our Blessed Mother for a day, visit the beach, and cherish the pious atmosphere around Velankanni.

RESIDENTS LEARN COOKING SKILLS



CHELSEA – On August 1st, residents in the Independent Living Program at St. Louis Center participated in a cooking class offered by Michigan State University Extension, a program designed to foster continued skill-building. Janelle taught the residents about carefully measuring dry and liquid ingredients. They worked together to create a mouth-watering bowl of mango salsa.

BASEBALL, HOT DOGS, AND VOCATIONS

CHELSEA – A group of 30 residents and staff boarded a bus to attend the Lansing Lugnuts baseball game August 2nd. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights of Columbus, the group enjoyed door-to-door service on the bus, tickets for the ball game, a hot dog dinner at the stadium, family friendly fun with area priests and sisters, and a fireworks show at the end of the game.



BABY SHOWER SEND-OFF



CHELSEA – St. Louis Center Assistant Program Director Carlie Hartwick had a fun send-off to maternity leave by the residents and staff. Supervisors and direct care workers planned an unforgettable baby shower August 8th. The residents decorated baby shirts for

her newborn and enjoyed a photo booth, games, and snacks.

PILGRIMAGE PRESENTATION

GRASS LAKE – After making an amazing pilgrimage through Portugal, France, and Spain, Fr. Leo invited the community to the Shrine for a presentation about the trip August 11th. About 50 people mingled, enjoyed refreshments, and watched spellbound as Fr. Leo gave details of the spiritual journey he and the group made. He invites others to consider going on the same journey in the future.

FORCE 4 GOOD





CHELSEA – Guanellian Cooperator Ken Klovski has been organizing 'Dine to Donate' events at area restaurants. On August 13th supporters gathered at Red Robin in Ann Arbor for one such event. He continues to plan events that provide a means of fellowship and fundraising for the Center. Ken recently joined the St. Louis Center Community Advisory Council where he offers more support and guidance to further the mission of the Center.

SCOUTS RECLAIM GARDEN

CHELSEA – Sophia is no stranger to St. Louis Center. Her mother worked at the Center



while she was in college and later 'adopted' Stanley, one of the residents, inviting him to family celebrations throughout the years. Sophia often accompanied her mother on trips to the Center and she knew the campus well. When it was time for her to complete her Eagle Scout project, she quickly decided to make an improvement on the Center's campus. After the paperwork and planning were complete, Sophia, her parents, family, and Scout Troop members worked over the course of 3 days to tame the overgrown Tranquility Garden that sits at the bottom of the sidewalk that connects St. Joseph Hall, where Stanley lives, to the rest of the Center's campus.

GOLFERS REMEMBER SUPPORTERS

CHELSEA – Each summer friends of St. Louis Center gather at Pierce Lake Golf Course in Chelsea MI to honor past supporters through a fundraising golf event. The Memorial Golf Outing was held this year August 17th. Thanks to the hard work of the committee under the direction of Joe Yekulis, chairmen, there were more golfers than



the event has ever attracted, a total of 29 teams. The Nadeau family led the way in support of the event, inviting 12 teams and donating a catered breakfast. George Merkel, this year's honoree, would have been very proud of the effort and fundraising for the Center.

A WEEK OF FUN AT THE FAIR

CHELSEA – The Chelsea Community Fair provides a week of fun events and opportunities for the community to showcase their talents. The St. Louis Center residents look forward to Fair every year. Some like to enter their crafts into the exhibit barns, others enjoy the Demolition Derby, others like to see the exhibit barns, eat ice cream, or just enjoy watching the rides. The final event they enjoy is participating in the fair parade. This year, on August 24th, the float had the theme 'St. Louis Center Rocks.' The residents enjoyed dancing to some rock and roll music, playing 'guitars', and tossing candy to parade watchers all over town.



TEACHER RETREAT

GRASS LAKE – In order to be properly prepared to begin a new school year, 20 teachers from Huron Valley Catholic School, where Fr. Leo is the chaplain, had a retreat at the Pious Union of St. Joseph August 27th. The teachers enjoyed spiritual talks, confession, Mass and a hearty lunch. They had the opportunity for fellowship and team-building to help create an amazing year for the children attending school this year.



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Fr. John Joseph
- 8 - Fr. Kanikkai Raj. A
Fr. Amal Raj.
Fr. Lawrence Thampusamy
- 14 - Fr. David Edward Stawasz
- 16. Fr. David Anburaj
- 18 - Fr. Anil Francis Kumar
- 19. Fr. Maria Paulraj
- 26. Fr. Arun David
- 28 - Fr. Leo Joseph
- 29 - Fr. Iruthayaraj

FEAST DAYS

- 8 - Fr. Maria Arokiadoss
Fr. Franklin Arokia doss
Fr. Arockia Raj
Fr. Stalin. S
Fr. Vanathaiyan. A
Fr. Arockia Doss. J
Bro. Arockia Jayaseelan. M
Bro. Arockia William
Bro. Arockia Samy
- 29 - Fr. Felicks Michael
Fr. Gabriel
Fr. Rishar Raffee Jegan
Fr. Michael Durai Samy. A

HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

