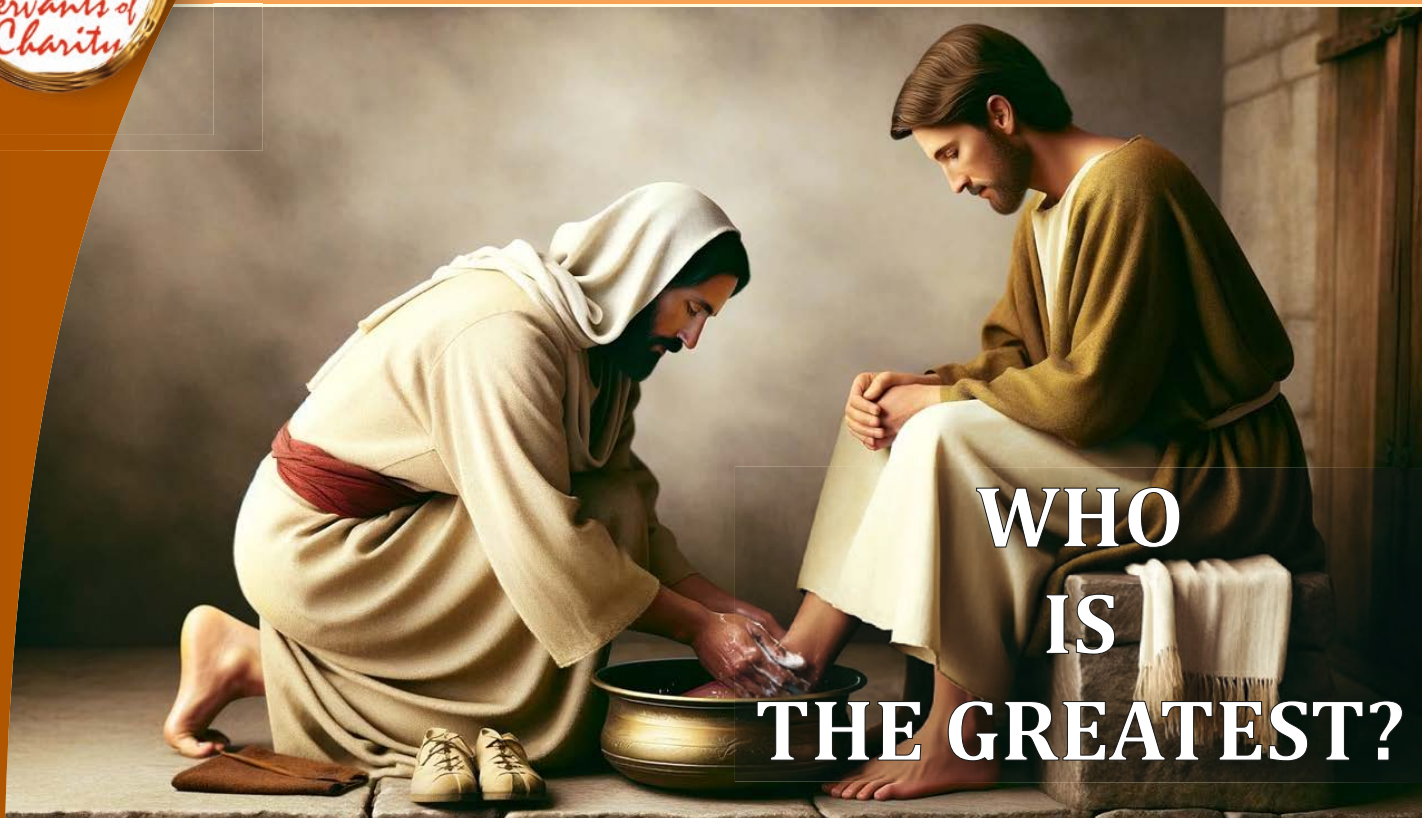




# News and Views

## Divine Providence Province

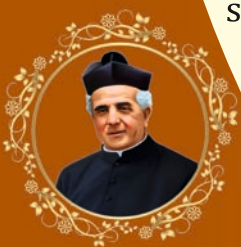


Dear Confreres,

The debate about who is the greatest is a common one. It arises in every sector. For example, in the sports world, there is a debate about whether Ronaldo, Messi, or Kylian Mbappé is the most famous and greatest football player at present. There is also a debate about whether Sachin was the greatest cricket player ever to play. And there is a similar debate about which is the greatest team in the IPL – CSK, RCB or Mumbai Indians. Our society wants to know who is the greatest.

During Jesus' days, the Jewish religion had the same problem. The religious leaders wanted to be seen as the greatest in the kingdom of God. Preferential treatment for the religious leaders was the norm of the day. The disciples had been raised in a system that emphasised being the greatest. At one time the disciples had been hoping that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom that would feature each of the twelve as leaders of this new kingdom.

Let us turn to Matthew's gospel and see how Jesus has already changed the way his followers look at the world. He has been turning things upside down. In his sermon on the mount, Jesus makes it clear that he considers the poor in spirit, the mourning, the meek, the persecuted, and all those people whom society completely disregards to be the leading citizens in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:1-12). Jesus has spent long hours, days and nights, weeks and



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months, healing people whom the rest of the world has abandoned and feeding the hungry (Matthew 8, 12, 14). Jesus has sent his disciples out, not as conquerors, but as humble teachers, taking almost nothing with them except the gospel – which, as it turns out, is everything they need (Matthew 10). Jesus has already told the disciples what has to sound like very bad news: that anyone who wants to follow him has to be ready to take up a cross and be prepared to lose a life (Matthew 16). In every possible way, Jesus has spent the first 17 chapters of this gospel explaining to his followers that things, according to the wisdom of God, are different than their expectations. God's kingdom is not like earthly power structures, and God is not like earthly rulers.

Jesus has also told His disciples that He is going to die in Jerusalem. He will be killed by the religious leaders. So amongst the disciples, there is a kind of uncertainty, a kind of fear, and they began to line up with one another as to who should take up that leadership if Jesus should go. Who should be the number one?

The disciples want to know about greatness. Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? Is it the most faithful disciple? Is it the one who wins the most converts, or the one who suffers the most? Is it the one with the best track record for healing, or who does the best job at feeding the crowds? The dispute was about who was the greatest. I can see Peter boldly claiming it was him, given that Jesus had given him the keys to the kingdom. I can also see James and John jumping in to say it was one of them, given that they were there to see the transfiguration. In Matthew 20:21, James and John wanted to be seated on the right and left hand of Jesus, which was a symbol of rank in the Jewish system. Jesus knew what was going on when the disciples finally asked him the question. "Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven?"

This is a logical question, given the system these men were brought up in. Jesus does not rebuke the disciples for asking the question. The problem with the question was what was behind it. The disciples had a wrong focus when they asked this question. They were looking at greatness from a worldly view. What makes you great in the world's eyes? Achievements! Doing something great for other people to see and marvel at? Accumulating possessions, degrees and positions? The world sees greatness because of your personal achievements. They see you as great if you are part of a winning team. We live in an age of aggressive ambition, and it affects us. We can itch for more recognition; we want people to know how smart or how talented we are. We secretly get a thrill from hearing of failure or falls in fellow brothers. If there are some small positive comments on our sermons, we want other people to hear about them. We find it hard to be happy unless we're receiving the plaudits that we imagine we deserve.

**The greatest  
among you must be  
your servant.**

Matthew 23:11



The disciples wanted to be considered the greatest so that other people would see them sitting on high with Jesus and marvel at just how great they were. I'm sure they were tired of seeing the religious leaders being hailed as great. They wanted their turn at glory too! We all struggle with the same thing today. We want to be great in the world's eyes. We crave the approval of the world so much that we lose sight of what's important.

We must examine Jesus' response to the question 'Who is the greatest?' He responds by becoming humble enough to become like children. Children are adorable, yet they also teach us about the spiritual life. Jesus' response is astonishing. They must have thought, "Greatness is seen in whoever is stronger, more capable, more powerful, and more persuasive." But Jesus says, "The greatest one is the one who humbles himself like a little child." The world today sees power, influence, control, popularity, fame, and prestige as the markers of greatness. Nevertheless, according to Jesus, whoever humbles himself like a little child is the greatest.

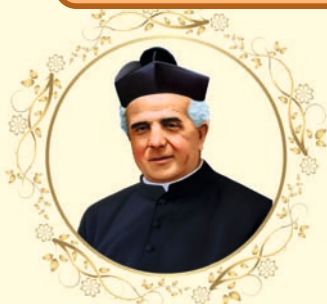
Children are in constant need. They need shelter, food, clothing, and instruction. They can do almost nothing on their own. This is the point. Children instinctively know they are in need. Whether it's arithmetic or learning to tie a shoe, children humbly ask for instruction. They want their parents or teachers to instruct them and pass knowledge onto them. They know they cannot do it alone. This is why Jesus chose a child to place before His disciples. This is why something so small and fragile was an object lesson in humility. Be like children. Know you have needs that you cannot meet on your own. This is how you stay focused on Kingdom living. We will never make it on our own. We need Jesus every day and in every way. To be great, we must humble ourselves

**FR. RONALD. J SDC**

Provincial Superior

### PROVINCIAL CALENDER - JUNE

- 04<sup>th</sup> - Flag Hoisting in Anthonyarpuram**
- 05<sup>th</sup> - Sivagangai Community Visit**
- 06<sup>th</sup> - Sivakasi Community Visit**
- 07<sup>th</sup> - Sacred Heart Feast & Renewal of Vows**
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Madurai Auditor**



**Have questions or comments  
E-mail to Don Guanella  
Communication Center at  
[sanlouisguanella@gmail.com](mailto:sanlouisguanella@gmail.com)**



## Pope's September document on the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which the Church is preparing to celebrate in the coming days, remind us of the need to correspond to Christ's redeeming love, and invite us to entrust ourselves with confidence to the intercession of the Mother of the Lord," Pope Francis said at the end of the Audience Wednesday, when he addressed the Romans and pilgrims. He took the opportunity to announce that in September he will release a document on the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose party is celebrated this Friday, with reflections on St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and texts from the Magisterium. He also recalled today's feast of "St. Boniface, apostle of Germany. Grateful for the long and fruitful history of faith in your lands, we invoke the Holy Spirit to keep faith, hope, and charity always alive in you," he said in words addressed in a special way to the German-speaking pilgrims.

### **Holy Spirit, "Ruah", the power of God**

Continuing with the new cycle of catechesis "The Spirit and the Bride," which is the Church, the Holy Father focused his reflection on the theme "The wind blows where it wills. Where the Spirit of God is, there is freedom" (Reading: Jn 3:6-8). "We continue to reflect on the Holy Spirit. In the Bible it is called "Ruah", which means breath, breath, wind. The image of the wind refers us to the power of God, who has an unstoppable force, capable of transforming everything in its path," Pope Francis explained at today's Audience, in the second session of the catechesis dedicated to the Holy Spirit.

### **"The wind blows where it wants."**

In addition to the power of the wind, the Gospel highlights another characteristic: freedom. "The wind blows where it wills, you do not know where it comes from or where it goes," Jesus says. This indicates that "the Holy Spirit cannot be confined or reduced to merely human theories or concepts," the Pontiff pointed out. On the other hand, St. Paul affirms that "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom," that is, that the Spirit of God makes us truly free. "But freedom can be understood in different ways, it can become a pretext for doing



whatever one wants; for this reason, the Apostle makes it clear that Christian freedom consists in freely adhering to the will of God. And this is expressed in love and service to others, as Jesus taught us with his own life," he added. The Pope then stressed that in this month dedicated to the Heart of Jesus, "let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to live with the freedom of the children of God, loving and serving with joy and simplicity of heart. May the Lord bless you and the Holy Virgin protect you".

### **The Holy Spirit cannot be "institutionalized".**

In his reflection on the Holy Spirit and freedom, Francis recalled that "once again, to discover the full meaning of the realities of the Bible, we must not stop at the Old Testament, but come to Jesus. Along with power, Jesus will highlight another characteristic of the wind, that of its freedom. To Nicodemus, who visits him at night, he solemnly says: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear its voice, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes: so is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (Jn 3:8).

"The wind is the only thing that cannot be restrained, cannot be "bottled up" or boxed up. To try to enclose the Holy Spirit in concepts, definitions, theses or treatises, as modern rationalism has sometimes tried to do, is to lose him, to annul him or reduce him to the human spirit pure and simple. There is, however, a similar temptation in the ecclesiastical sphere, and that is to want to enclose the Holy Spirit in canons, institutions, definitions. The Spirit creates and animates institutions, but he himself cannot be "institutionalized," the Holy Father added. "The wind blows "where it wills" (1 Cor 12:11). St. Paul will make this the fundamental law of Christian action: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor. 3:17). This is a very special freedom, very different from what is commonly understood. It is not freedom to do what one wants, but freedom to do freely what God wants! Not freedom to do good or evil, but freedom to do good and to do it freely, that is, by attraction, not by compulsion. In other words, the freedom of sons, not of slaves", he concluded.

### **To the Poles: freedom, a compromise**

I cordially greet the Poles," the Pope also said. "In these days you are commemorating the anniversary of the first apostolic journey of John Paul II to his homeland and of his prayer to the Holy Spirit to descend and renew the face of the earth, of your land, and it has been renewed. You have regained your freedom. Do not forget, however, that the freedom that comes from the Spirit is not a pretext for the flesh, as St. Paul says, but a commitment to grow in the truth revealed by Christ and to defend it before the world. I bless you from my heart.



## THE GUANELLIAN CHARISM SCHOOL



**DPP PROVINCIALATE:** The DPP Guanellian Study Center organized the Guanellian Charism School from May 1 to May 3, 2024. Among the fifty-seven participants attending the event were Temporarily professed, perpetually professed, DSMP Sisters, DSMP Novices, and DSMP Postulants. The presenters covered a wide variety of topics, ensuring a rich and information-packed several days. The topics included Fr. Rajesh - Teach Us to Pray & Prayer as the Spring of Charism; Fr. Francis - Charism of Don Louis Guanella; Br. Franco Lain - Revisiting the pages of 1910 Regulations; Fr. John Paul - The Purpose of the Congregation of the Servants of Charity (based on the writings of Fr. Piero Pellegrini & Fr. Attilio Beria); Fr. Ronald - Adventures of the Guanellian Mission in India (based on the book of Fr. Piero Lippoli). All attendees actively participated in the lectures and discussions. On the closing day, time was set aside for fraternity and relaxation.

## RENEWAL OF THE VOWS

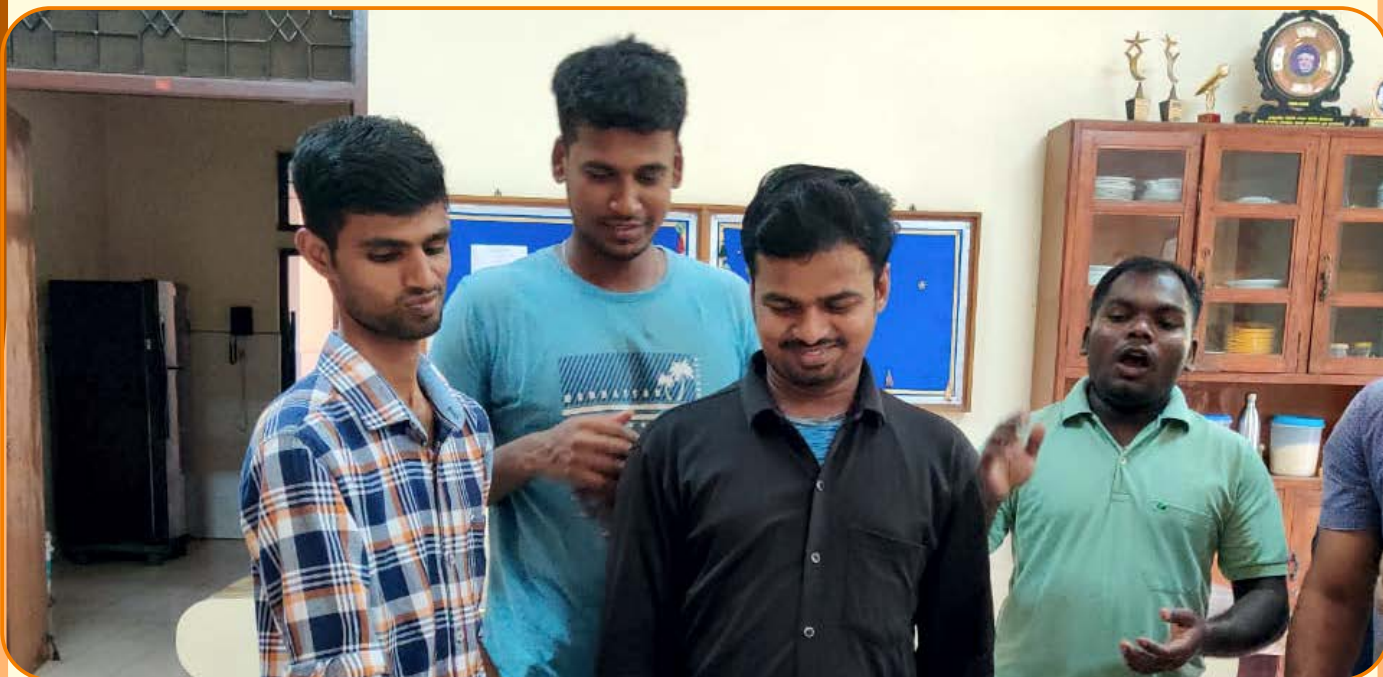


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**CHENNAI:** On the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, the Don Guanella Major Seminary was filled with jubilation as thirteen of our brothers renewed their religious vows for another year. The Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Ronald, led a special prayer during the Holy Eucharist, invoking blessings for all the confreres and brothers. The celebration continued with a cake-cutting ceremony, shared with the community members, further enhancing the joyous atmosphere. It was a moment of great inspiration and renewal for all of us.

### FAREWELL TO REGENTS



**CHENNAI:** On the 31st of May, Don Guanella Major Seminary bid a heartfelt farewell to our beloved brothers, Bro. Arockia Samy, Bro. Stephen Raj and Bro. Rex Milton. As a community, we were filled with gratitude for their dedicated service and their presence, which enriched our community life. In a touching moment, the brothers expressed their deep sense of gratitude to the community confreres, acknowledging their support and camaraderie. We also celebrated the birthday of Rev. Fr. John Kennedy and wished him a long life and fruitful ministry in the vineyard of the Lord. At the end, Rev. Fr. Benson thanked the brothers for their invaluable support and dedicated service and presented them with a gift as a token of our love and appreciation. We will always cherish their contributions to our community.

### INTERCEEDING FOR OUR MOTHER'S HELP

**KOPPAKKA:** The Rosary is a form of prayer that involves the repetition of prayers and meditations on the life of Jesus and Mary. It is a powerful and meditative practice that is often used to seek intercession from Mother Mary for various intentions. As the month of May is dedicated to Mother Mary, it is an opportunity to express gratitude and thanks to our Blessed Mother for her blessings and support throughout the last





academic year. During the recitation of the Holy Rosary, the community remembered our Congregation's intentions and the upcoming General Chapter, a significant event for our religious community. We also prayed for all the participants who would be involved in the General Chapter, seeking Mother Mary's guidance and intercession for a successful and fruitful gathering. As the Rosary came to a close, the community received a solemn blessing, marking the conclusion of this special celebration. It was a reminder of the importance of seeking Mother Mary's intercession and expressing gratitude for her unwavering support. As we solemnly concluded the celebration, we prayed with hearts full of gratitude and hope, knowing that Mary's love and intercession would continue to guide us in the days ahead.

### 1000 BEADS OF THE HOLY ROSARY

**Vatluru** - "I would therefore ask those who devote themselves to the pastoral care of families to recommend heartily the recitation of the Rosary." "Recite the Rosary every day. I earnestly urge Pastors to pray the Rosary and to teach people in their Christian communities how to pray it," Pope John Paul II. The Sacred Heart Church of Vatluru organized 1000 beads of the Holy Rosary. They asked the faithful to participate in this recitation of the Holy Rosary and received a positive response from the parish



members. Parishioners were praising Mother Mary by chanting and singing the rosary throughout the day. It was a spectacular and awesome devotional practice in the holy Catholic Church.

### TAILORING & COMPUTER COURSE



**Vatluru** – “There are similarities between being an editor and a tailor. Tailors have a vast supply of fabrics, buttons and thread at their disposal and put it together to make a whole. That's what an editor does - looks at society at a given time and pulls together the interesting aspects into a single issue each month,” Graydon Carter. The Guanella Karunalaya Community has inaugurated a course of study that incorporates tailoring skills with computer skills for any interested people in the Vatluru community. Acquiring both these types of skills will benefit the individuals who participate. We are indebted to the ASCI team in Italy for their generosity and contributions, whereby we can enjoy the benefit of the above-mentioned help.

### SAGAYAMATHA PARISH ANNUAL FEAST

**CUDDALORE:** On the 24th of May, we celebrated the Annual Feast in our parish, Cuddalore. We welcomed the Archbishop with a shawl and garland. We have taken komba Arathi by our parishioners and lit the kuthuvilakku as a symbol of welcome. The Most Rev. Francis Kalist, DD Archbishop of Pondy-Cuddalore, presided over Holy Mass and preached the homily. St. Joseph's Seminary Community Fathers concelebrated. In his homily, Bp. Kalist spoke of the mercy of Mother Mary and how she always supports us. Our parishioners animated the liturgy. Following the Mass, the Archbishop blessed the car procession which then proceeded to drive through the streets of Samupillai Nagar. This was followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a final blessing by the parish priest. No celebration is complete without a feast cake which was distributed to all the pilgrims. Our Parish Priest thanked everyone for their participation and reverence. All the parishioners returned home with joy-filled hearts. “Continue to intercede for us, Our Lady of Perpetual

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Succour.”

## A STORY FOR THE WIND

**CHELSEA** - Ten artists at St Louis Center have worked on the windchimes project over the past four months: Jerome, Linda, Lee, Jacqui, Cathy, Ray, Kyle, Mike, Albert, and Joey. The project was artist-led. Each artist started by thinking of something that they would like to share a story of, and sat down individually to record their story. These stories were then the inspiration for the art piece. Each artist created a “story-telling windchime” to be presented alongside their story podcast.

Each week the artists worked alongside their clay instructor, Eli Zemper, to create their windchimes piece by piece. They started by making a bowl shape that would become the base of the windchimes. Then the artists completed drawings that were inspired by their stories. They then learned how to make underglaze transfers with those drawings. This is what allowed the drawings to be transferred onto the clay. Eli and the artists even created their own darkroom at the Center to complete this task!



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The artists then carefully chose which drawings they wanted to transfer to the clay and cut pieces to make their chimes that would hang from the base. A team of staff helped assemble the windchimes and they are now on display at the library for all to see. The display has a QR code next to each windchime that will link you to the artist's story podcast. You can use your smartphone to scan and listen to each of them. Most of the artists are new to clay work and thoroughly enjoyed this project. The showcase opened on May 5th with an artist reception out in the reading garden. Family members of the artists as well as friends and supporters of St. Louis Center stopped by to view the artwork which remained on display throughout May.



### BROTHER KNIGHTS

**CHELSEA** - The Knights of Columbus and their families were invited for Mass, lunch, and tours of St. Louis Center on May 5th. Since it was a day to commemorate a Mexican battle victory, a Spanish inspired meal was served. Visitors truly enjoyed Mass and the opportunity to mingle with the residents at lunch. It was especially eye opening for them to get a tour of the campus and the beauty of the residential facilities. They even got to see inside the temporary kitchen.



## HONORING MOTHERS

**GRASS LAKE** - As the weather grows warmer, we look back on the events that have taken place at the Shrine. May 1 we celebrated the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker with Mass and adoration. Mother's Day fell on May 12th. All the mothers processed in at the start of Mass and gave flowers to Mary. Fr. Leo gave a special blessing to the mothers after Mass; the festivities ended with a May crowning.

## SPIRITUAL RETREAT

**GRASS LAKE** - Lansing, Michigan's Lay Dominican Chapter visited the Shrine for a day retreat on May 18th. They had a talk in the Pastoral Center, prayed the outdoor Stations of the Cross, and attended Mass. They all left that day very edified.

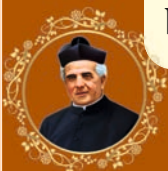


## OUTDOOR FUN

**CHELSEA** - Since the weather has been consistently mild and sunny, the St. Louis Center residents have enjoyed spending more time outdoors. During the Day Program they have been swinging in the back yard, going on walks and enjoying bicycle rides around the track. The direct care staff also enjoys the opportunity to get some fresh air and vitamin d straight from the sun.

## GRADUATION DAY

**CHELSEA** - Rev. Dr. Amal Rayapillai officially graduated with his PhD from Madonna University on May 9th. He proudly accepted his diploma and a bound copy of his dissertation.



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 05 - Fr. Rajesh Selvaraj. X
- 06 - Fr. Mario Nava
- 07 - Fr. Arockia Raj. S
- 17 - Fr. Alfonso Crippa
- 18 - Fr. PeriaayanayagaSamy. S  
Fr. Vincent. S
- 19 - Fr. Perianayagasamy. A  
Bro. Franco Lain
- 22 - Fr. Stalin S
- 26 - Fr. Arun. R  
Fr. Thambu Samy. X |

## ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

- 19 - Fr. Rajesh Selvaraj. X  
Fr. Constantain  
Fr. Francis. S  
Fr. Francis Assisi.  
Fr. George Vinsula. I  
Fr. Johnpaul. M  
Fr. John Kennedy  
Fr. Jerin Presanna. A  
Fr. Lawrence Thambusamy. R  
Fr. Lourduraj. C  
Fr. Maria Paul
- 23 - Fr. David J.  
Fr. James Stanley Babu. J  
Fr. Louis Baskar A.  
Fr. Periyannayagasamy A.  
Fr. Peter Joseph P.  
Fr. Praveen Jeba Kumar M.  
Fr. John Paul Britto. C
- 30 - Fr. Nino Minetti

## FEAST DAYS

11. Fr. Irudhayaraj
- 13 - Fr. Antony Samy. A \ Fr. Antony Kalai Selvan| Fr. Roosevelt  
Bro. Anthony Samy. A
- 21 - |Fr. Gnanaraj. R
- 29 - Fr. Peter Sebastian | Fr. C. Paul Arockia Raj | Fr. Maria Paul  
Fr. Peter Joseph |Fr. John Peter | Fr. Paul Francis Fr. P.Paul raj  
Bro. John Peter. M /Paul Dhinakaran



Have questions or comments  
E-mail to Don Guanella  
Communication Center at  
[sanlouisguanella@gmail.com](mailto:sanlouisguanella@gmail.com)