News and Views

Divine Providence Province

JUNE 2023

HEALERS NOT RULERS

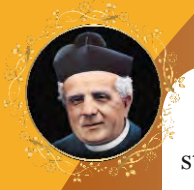
Dear Confreres!

All of us begin our earthly journey by being cared for by others. Dependence is our first experience because we are not dropped from the sky as grown-ups. All through our life, we depend on others in so many ways. Therefore, everyone is under authority and everyone has authority. How is it possible? All of us, whatever position we may hold, are under the authority of someone else.

The word '**authority**' is derived from the Latin word **'auctoritas'** and has several meanings: invention, advice, opinion, influence, command, or power. People usually associate authority with power, and people in positions of power are said to exercise authority over others by their statements, commands, influence, or laws.

Jesus said "All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me." (Mt 28:18). What made Jesus' exercise of authority so different from all other exercises of authority was that, for Him, authority was synonymous with service which is action driven by the love of God and one's fellow humans. He refused to lord it over others like those who condemned him, such as the crafty King Herod, the wily politician, Pontius Pilate, and the self-righteous Pharisees. No wonder they crucified Him! He threatened their modus operandi. He did not speak like these professional rulers and teachers who quoted other authorities such as the prophets, the Scriptures or Caesar for their own benefit. No, Jesus spoke from the depths of His heart, and His words had the power to penetrate the hearts of His listeners and bring them, not only to awareness but to conversion.

Jesus changed authority from attachment to positions of power to service of others. The abuse of authority is one of the greatest evils in the Church and the world today. The abuse of authority is the reason why so many people distrust political, business, and ecclesiastical establishments. The true authority has the power to set people free because it is geared to serve the common good rather than the self-interest of those who exploit their positions of leadership.



St. Benedict, the great-grandfather of organized religious life in the Church, knew that the structure of religious life, especially the vow of obedience, gave much power to the superior. He wisely wrote what superiors should not do: "If an abbot makes the monks do what he wants rather than what God wants, he will go to hell." Is it not a strong warning to all of us?

The evangelical meaning of authority within a religious circle has a different connotation different from mere human authority. It is significant that all four gospels detail the teaching and lifestyle of Jesus in order to contrast the attitude of the apostles pursuing first place and power. We may read, for instance: Mark 10: 44-45, Luke 22:27, John 13:1-17. The New Testament presents authority as diakonia, service. Authority comes from fraternal communion and becomes service toward the same communion. In other words, authority does not exist in a planet different from the one where other people live. The Code of Canon Law when dealing with authority states that it is the duty of authority to make decisions and to issue orders. Canons 618 and 619 extensively describe many other non-secondary duties of those in authority.

In our world today, the word service is so used and abused that has no meaning anymore. Service is an honour, a business, an elegant way to impose ourselves and dominate others. We have to go back, instead, to the true meaning of the word and make it part of our life as Mark 10:44-45 mentions "Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

May we self-examine ourselves! When we are in any position of leadership (be it superior, director, administrator, parish priest, or any other role or responsibility that is entrusted to you in the community), do those people under our care feel loved by us? When any of our community members face difficulties, are we really there for them? Are we genuinely caring as elder brothers or hard taskmasters? Do people grow in our care or have their gifts curtailed? May those in your care feel loved, respected, and cared for. I wish that all of us may get into this transformation from being rulers toward healers to those around us or entrusted into our care as we begin the month of June with the renewal/new ministry that each of us are assigned for the growth of the Province. I wish all of you all the best in your studies and for a fruitful ministry.

JUNE 2023

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1. Let me thank our confreres **Fr. M. Periyanayagam, Fr. Vanathayan, Fr. A P Samy** who have completed their higher studies and are back to the active ministry.

2. We wish all the best to our confreres who are beginning their higher studies:

   Fr. S. Kumar, Fr. M. Loyola, Fr. A. Kanikkai, Fr. Francis Xavier,

   Bro. Arockia William, Bro. Melvin

3. We are indeed thankful to all confreres who have tirelessly worked in the past few months for the vocation ministry and in a special way to **Fr. Jeyaseelan** the Vocation Promoter and Youth director for his travels all over India.

4. We wish all the best to **Fr. Dennis Weber & Fr. Francis S.** for their participation in the treasures meeting in Rome this month.

5. We wish all the best to our confreres who are attending the Sui Passi di Don Guanella Formation Program this month.

6. Our hearty congratulations to all confreres who have made their renewal of Vows and to the three newly professed.

7. Our wishes and prayers to the five postulants who would soon begin their formation journey.

8. I ask your prayers for Warangal mission where our confreres are exploring the possibilities of starting a day care program for people with disabilities at the end of the three year probation program

9. I ask your prayers and accompaniment for the possible opening of Sri Lankan mission in the near future

10. Please keep in your prayers our two deacons who would be ordained, if God willing, in Aug. 2023.

11. We express our wishes and prayers to Cuddalore Boys Home, DGMS & DGSS Chennai on the silver Jubilee of their presence.

Fr. Ronald. J SDC
Provincial Superior

PROVINCIAL CALENDER
JUNE - 2023

3-4	-	Meeting with Temporary Professed in DGMS
5	-	Installation of Fr. A. P Samy as Superior of Sivagangai Community
6	-	Online Meeting
8	-	Administration Transfer at Mahabubad, Warangal
13	-	Feast and First Holy Communion in Anthoniyarpuram
21	-	Council Meeting
29-30	-	Feast in Alanthalai

TO SERVE NOT TO BE SERVED

There are priests and bishops who are "climbers and attached to money" who, "rather than serving, use the Church", making her "lukewarm", a "business", by enjoying their comfortable status without being honest. The Pope warned about this "temptation of a double life", in his homily on Friday during Mass at Santa Marta. The morning celebration, he shared, is often attended by missionaries and nuns who have given the whole of their lives to serving others, making themselves over in the likes of St Paul, always going "a step further, always going forth".

"Today's Liturgy", Francis began, "brings us to reflect on two figures, two servant figures, workers, two people who are called to a task". In the passage from the Letter to the Romans (15:14-21), Paul's "true zeal for evangelizing" emerges. The Apostle writes: "You know, because of the grace given me by God" — what was the grace he had received? — "to be a minister of Christ Jesus, fulfilling the sacred ministry". That is to say, "ministering, serving". Thus, "Paul took this vocation seriously and gave himself wholly to service, he never kept still, always a step further, further, further… in order later, later here in Rome, to be betrayed by several of his own. And he ended up actually condemned".

But "where does Paul's greatness, this boldness come from?". He states: "I boast of this". So, "what does he boast about? He boasts of Jesus Christ". In the day's Reading from his Letter to the Romans, we read: "In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has wrought through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit".

It was with this attitude, the Pontiff continued, that St Paul "went everywhere: he boasted of serving, of being chosen, of having the power of the Holy Spirit, of going all over the world". But "there was something that was a great joy for him". He spoke of it in this way: of having made it "my ambition" — and what was this ambition? — "to preach the Gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man's foundation". In other words, "Paul went to where Christ's name was not known; he was the servant who served, administered, laying the foundations, that is, proclaiming Jesus Christ, always a step further, always going forth, always farther away; he never stopped to have the advantage of a position, of authority, of being served". Paul "was a minister, a servant in order to serve, not to be served".

Pope Francis shared the joy he feels, how he is moved when, at the morning Masses celebrated in the chapel at Santa Marta, "priests come and greet me". They say:

"Father, I came here to visit my family, because I have been a missionary in the Amazon for 40 years". Joy and emotions also arise from the witness of a nun who has worked "for 30 years in a hospital in Africa", or "who for 30 or 40 years has been in a hospital ward with the disabled, always smiling".

Here then, Francis affirmed, "this is called serving, this is the joy of the Church: to go a step further, always; to go further and give life". This is exactly "what Paul did: serve". Turning then to the day's passage from the Gospel according to Luke (16:1-8), which speaks of the dishonest steward, the Pope pointed out that "the Lord shows us the image of another servant who, instead of serving others, uses others". In the Gospel, Francis continued, "we read what this servant did, with much deceitfulness he took steps to maintain his post, in another way, but always with a certain dignity". And in the Church too, the Pope said, "there are those who, rather than serving, thinking of others, laying the foundations", instead they "use the Church". These are the "climbers", those who are "attached to money", and "how many priests and bishops have we seen like this? It is sad to say, isn't it?".

Francis explained that "the radicalness of the Gospel, of the call of Jesus Christ, is in serving: being of service, never stopping, always going the extra step, forgetting about oneself". On the other hand, there is instead "the comfort of status: I have reached a certain status and I live comfortably without being honest, like those Pharisees whom Jesus speaks about, who go about in the market places, to be seen by others". These are the "two images: two images of Christians, two images of priests, two images of nuns. Two images".

In St Paul, Pope Francis explained, "Jesus shows us" the "model" of a "Church that never stands still, that always builds the foundation, that always goes forward and shows us that this is the way". Instead, however, "when the Church is lukewarm, closed within herself, often times even a business, it cannot be said that she is a Church that ministers, that is at service, but she instead uses others". Francis concluded with a prayer that the Lord grant "the grace that he gave to Paul, that ambition to always go forward, always, so often renouncing one's comfort". In this way "we are saved from temptation, from this temptation that is basically to a double life: I'm seen as a minister, but essentially I use others".

Pope Francis

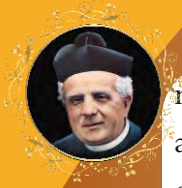
Francis

FIRST 'YES' TO THE LORD…

Bangalore: On May 31st, the feast day of the Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mother, the Divine Providence Province joyfully witnessed and thanked the Lord for three young confreres Kuzhandhai Yesu, Mariya Susai and Ponaventhur as they professed their FIRST YES to the Lord and to the Church. Their becoming members of the Guanellian Family with the motto 'TO BE IMITATORS OF CHRIST' was more inspiring and witnessing. This first promise into religious life took place in the Solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Ronald SdC, the provincial superior who received their vows in the name of the Church and the Congregation. Rev. Sr. Mary, the Superior of the Delegation, Priests and Sisters from both Guanellian family and local religious communities, Guanellian Co-operators, GLM members, the parents and relatives of the novices and the faithful participated in this joyful and meaningful celebration. After the Holy Mass the newly professed thanked everyone for the presence and blessings. May our holy Founder intercede for them to be faithful and joyful religious. Prayers and Best Wishes.

RETREAT TO RE-TREAT THE SELF

Chennai: All the temporarily professed of the Divine Providence Province did their annual retreat from the 19th May to 23rd May 2023, in Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. Rev. Fr. Michael Augustin from the congregation of the Sacred Heart was the preacher. The capital theme of the retreat was "TO BE REFRESHED and RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT" with its five supportive themes for five consecutive days such as contemplation, communion, compassion, conversion, and contribution. Confreres had a



meaningful learning experience from each reflection and related spiritual exercises. Confreres affirmed that the retreat offered them a tri-dimensional renewal experience such as physical, emotional and spiritual, to renew and strengthen their relationship with God; to heal and enrich the connectedness with self and health; and to rejuvenate communion with others. On the whole, it was a great opportunity to Re-Treat the self for a joyful religious life.

'FIAT' RENEWED

Chennai: On May 26, 2023, the Ordination Anniversary Day of our Holy Founder, ten temporarily professed confreres from Don Guanella Major Seminary renewed their 'Religious FIAT' to the Lord in the Holy Eucharistic Celebration, before the presence of Rev. Fr. J. Ronald SdC, the provincial superior and other priests confreres from the community. It was an occasion of great joy and grace. The prayerful presence and fraternal support encouraged the young servants to go forward with much strength and fervor, and to remain faithful to their vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. May these vows offer them hope and joy as they persevere in their journey towards perpetual consecration. May these vows bring them ever closer to God and to a deeper understanding of the Guanellian Spirituality.

Disability IDENTITY Card

Chennai: On May 12, 2023, Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) Camp was held at Don Guanella Special School. This camp was the result of the attempt to update and renew the documents of the Developmentally Disabled Persons in and around the District of Thiruvallur. This attempt was initiated on 28 April 2023, wherein update-request letters were mailed to 850 contacts of differently-abled people, but on an average basis, at least 105 members showed up to update and renew their documents. It was a simple but significant assistance and opportunity for persons with special needs for future benefits.

VBS – FOR A CREATIVE EVANGELIZATION

Anthoniyarpuram: Knowing scripture is not simply a knowledge but a life to journey with Jesus. Anthoniyarpuram parish was indeed very glad to organize Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the children on 8 May 2023. Initially there were around 56 children from the local parish to attend the class, but as days went on, many more children came forward to join in VBS. The creativity and fun in the class increased the number to 123 children at the end. Along with priests, five other teaching-volunteers collaborated to organize this successful summer bible class. The stories and teachings of the Sacred Scripture were artistically and innovatively presented to the kids and it was easy for them to learn and cherish. Bible competitions and quizzes were organized and prised were distributed. Sponsors were kind enough to help with daily snacks and drinks. The VBS was concluded on 13 May 2023. Thanks be to God for his continuous inspiration for creative evangelization.

SODEXO …TO STOP HUNGER

Bangalore: As a part of the CSR program, the employees of Sodexo visited the Guanella Preethi Nivas on 5th May 2023. They were around 40 men and women who were able to come from Sodexo Company and it was organized by the Food Bank of Bangalore with the program named **'STOP HUNGER'.** They arrived around 10 am and started the program introducing each other and continuing with a lot of cultural programs. The residents participated enthusiastically. It was a really meaningful get-together with well-organized events and lineups. They donated and served sumptuous meals and ate with the residents. They also brought a lot of groceries like rice, doll, oil, masala, etc.

KIDS APOSTOLIC VISIT

Bangalore: Guanella Preethi Nivas enjoyed a beautiful Kids Apostolic Visit from St. Joseph Church, Bangalore on 14th May 2023. A group of 23 Altar servers along with their parish priest visited GPN to

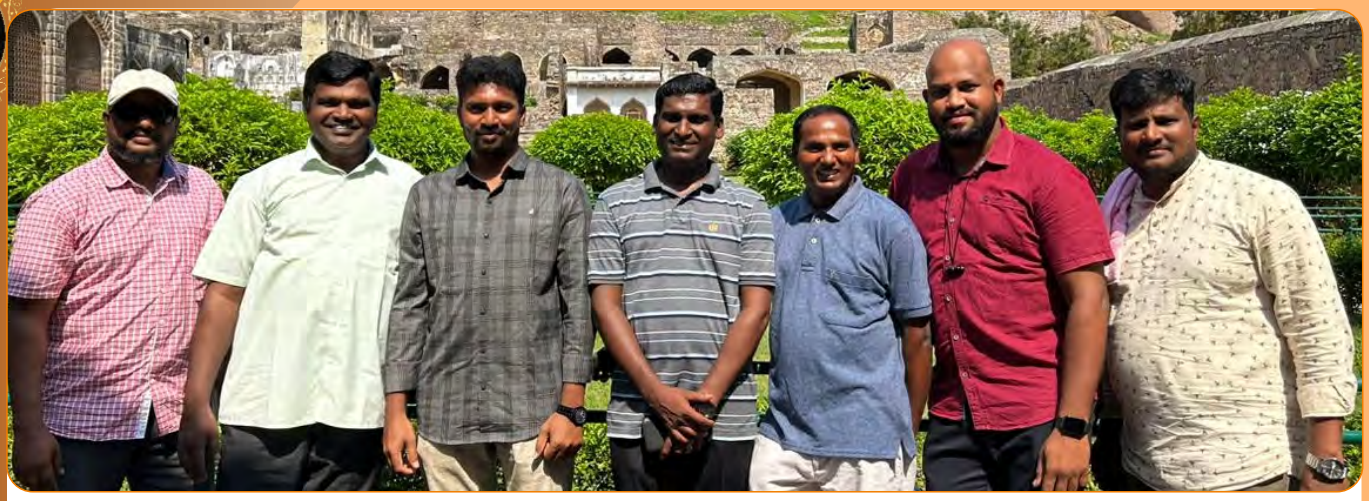
spend their quality time with the senior residents. They introduced themselves to the residents and entertained them with cultural items like singing and dancing for around 2 hours. The residents were extremely happy spending time with kids, listening to their innocent stories and watching their admirable fun. Along with some groceries and toiletries, they also brought sumptuous lunches and served them happily. The visit was very useful because the residents felt as if they were meeting their grandchildren since they are not able to meet their own children. It was a joyful occasion for the residents and graceful experience for kids.

EMPATHY AS INTERNSHIP

Bangalore: Nurses from St. John's College of Nursing visited the Guanella Preethi Nivas on 22 May 2023. The visit was as the part of their internship program. They were around 40 students and they conducted some seniors-engaging games and occupational therapy. They also helped the staff members to clean the home by sweeping, mopping, and feeding etc. The students were able to spend half a day with the residents with a lot of creative activities and fun. The residents were able to adjust to the given accommodations without any complaints. They also brought some laundry supplies for residents. It was a blessed day both for residents and students. Special thanks to the Coordinator Sr. Sheila who helped for this empathetic visit and witness.

FRATERNITY & FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER…

Koppakka: Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success. It was a meaningful moment for both the Communities in Andhra Pradesh to come together to share the Guanellian Fraternity and Fellowship. As it was the closure of the academic year 2022-2023,



three days of picnic from 8th May to 10th May was organized by confreres of Koppaka Community along with Vatluru Community to the city of Hyderabad. Confreres visited tourist centers like Golgonda Fort, Museum, Lumbini Park, New parliament of Telangana, and Ramoji Film City. It was a joyous moment of togetherness that strengthened the understanding and increased the communion in the community.

FOSTERING INDEPENDENCE

Chelsea – Following the success of the Independence College program last year, St. Louis Center continues to foster independent living skills in all of the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live there. One of the main skills revolves around meals. The residents work on preparing weekly menus and follow up by going shopping for the ingredients. Lori Accardi, who has lived at St. Louis Center for over 15 years, went grocery shopping with staff on Monday, May 8th, so that they would be able to prepare the week's meals. The residents enjoy the opportunity to take active roles in their day-to-day home life.

ST. JOSEPH ROSARY PROCESSION

Grass Lake – In honor of the St. Joseph the Worker, Fr. Leo Joseph, SdC, led a dozen or so people in praying a special Rosary with meditations on St. Joseph while processing around the property of the Shrine of St. Joseph on May 6th. The weather could not have been more perfect: sunshine and mild temperatures. Those who participated also stayed for the holy sacrifice of the Mass which followed.

CELEBRATING OUR MOTHERS

Grass Lake - Mother's Day at the Pious Union was very memorable. The mothers in attendance received a special blessing at the end of Mass and a carnation. In honor of the Blessed Mother, the statue of Mary was crowned during the Mass.

ALHAMBRA BBQ

Chelsea – The International Order of Alhambra is an organization of Catholic men and women serving the intellectually disabled. Several Caravans in the region surrounding the St. Louis Center continue to show their support with time and treasure. On Thursday, May 25th, the St. Louis Guanella Caravan from Michigan Center hosted a picnic at the Center. Fifteen Caravan members brought and prepared food, served the meal and later helped to ensure that each resident got an ice-cold slushie dessert from the Kona Ice truck.

OUTDOOR MASS RETURNS

Grass Lake – In order to make things easier for volunteers assisting with outdoor Mass live streaming, local boy scouts built new outdoor storage boxes at the Shrine Calvary. These boxes house our outdoor Mass supplies. Special thanks to the Scouts from Troop 426 for their wonderful job. Outdoor Masses have once again begun at the Pious Union on Sundays. They will continue throughout summer, weather permitting.

CALENDER **JUNE 2023**

BIRTHDAYS

5- Fr. Sahaya Rajesh Selvaraj. X
6 - Fr. Mario Nava
7 - Fr. Arockia Raj. S
17 - Fr. Alfonso Crippa
18 - Fr. PeriayanayagaSamy. S
Fr. Vincent. S
19 - Fr. Perianayagasamy. A
Bro. Franco Lain
22 - Fr. Stalin S
26 - Fr. Arun. R | Fr. Thambu Samy. X

FEAST DAYS

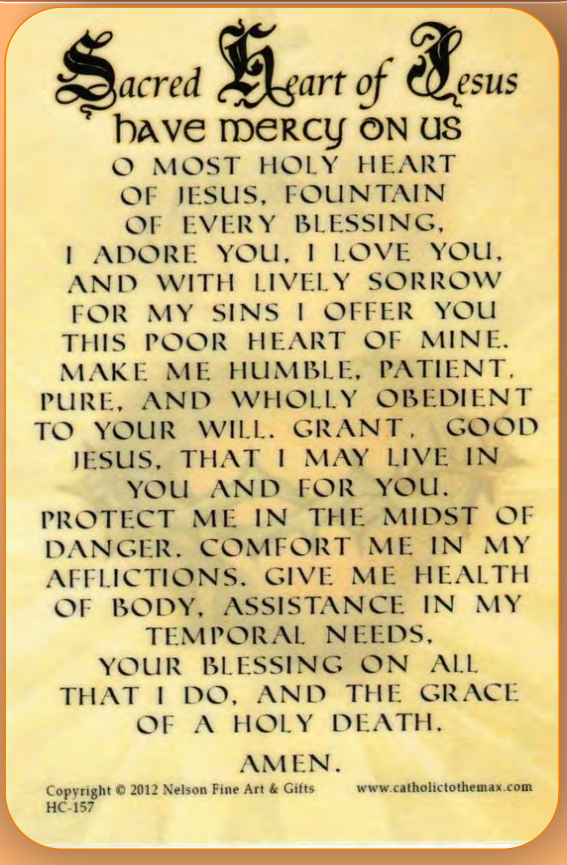
13 - Fr. Antony Samy. A
Fr. Antony Kalai Selvan
Fr. Roosewelt
Bro. Anthony Samy. A
16. Fr. Irudhayaraj
21 - Fr. Luigi
Fr. Gnanaraj.
29 - Fr. Peter Sebastian
Fr. Paul Arockia Raj
Fr. Maria Paul
Fr. John Paul
Fr. Peter Joseph
Fr. John Peter
Fr. Paul Francis
Fr. P.Paul raj
Fr. Paul Dhinagaran
Bro. John Peter. M

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

19 - Fr. Sahaya Rajesh Selvaraj. X
Fr. Constantain | Fr. Francis. S
Fr. Francis Assisi. A
Fr. George Vinsula. I
Fr. Johnpaul.
Fr. John Kennedy
Fr.Jerin Presanna. A
Fr. Lawerence Thambusamy. R
Fr. Lourduraj. C
Fr. Maria Paul
Fr. Sahaya Rajesh Selvaraj. X

23 - Fr. David J.
Fr. James Stanley Babu. J
Fr. Louis Baskar A.
Fr. Periyanayagasamy A.
Fr. Peter Joseph P. |
Fr. Praveen Jeba Kumar M.
Fr. John Paul Britto. C

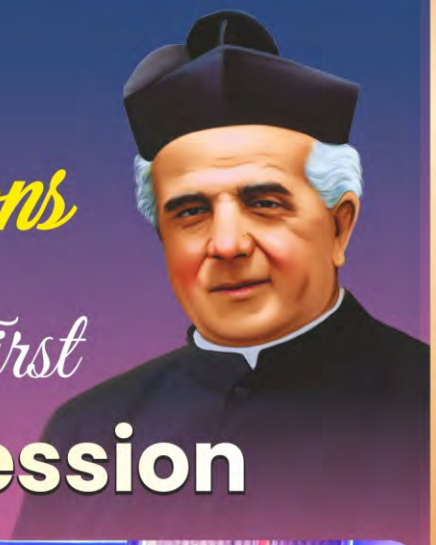
30 - Fr. Nino Minetti



Congratulations

On Your First

Religious Profession



In all things love

Servants of Charity

BRO. S. KUZHANDHAI YESU

BRO. A. PONAVENTHUR

BRO. P. MARIYA SUSAI