



News and Views

Divine Providence Province

LENT - A PILGRIMAGE



My dear Confreres!

Over the centuries pilgrimages have enjoyed immense popularity among Catholics. The allure of pilgrimages continues to this day. Many of us know people who have made their way to Jerusalem, Rome, Fatima, Lourdes, Velankanni and so on. Of course, Catholics are not alone in fostering pilgrimages. Jews flock to the Holy Land. Moslems travel to Mecca. Hindus journey to the Ganges, Kasi, Rameshwaram and other places.

Pilgrimage is not simply a recurrent phenomenon in popular piety. It is, rather, a metaphor for the whole Christian life. Its biblical roots run deep. The authors of Exodus and Deuteronomy depict a pilgrim people whom Yahweh loves and forms as he leads them toward the promised land. Many of the psalms are pilgrim songs, ringing out God's praises as his people "go up to the house of the Lord" (Psalms 42:5; 43:4; 122:1). Luke's gospel, beginning with 9:51, focuses on following Christ to Jerusalem, and Luke's second book, the Acts, describes Christianity as "the Way" (Acts 9:2; 18:25; 24:22).

Since as early as the second century, Christians have engaged in pilgrimages both literally and metaphorically. Literally, many set off courageously for unknown lands, facing perils and physical hardships, hoping that an exodus from the ordinary circumstances of daily life would sharpen their consciousness of what is central to being a Christian. By the middle ages there were hundreds of pilgrimage sites. As travelers visited shrines they hoped to grow in sensitivity to the mysteries celebrated there. Of course a danger, then as now, is that such pilgrimages degenerate into tourism. Unfortunately, many a group that has passed through Rome or Jerusalem and other pilgrim places has pondered the scriptures little and has remained largely untouched by the death and resurrection of the Lord. But whether we remain at home or travel abroad, all of us profess to be a pilgrim people. So, as we begin the Lenten season, let me suggest to you three reflections about pilgrimage in its metaphorical sense.



Lent itself is a pilgrimage. It is a desert experience like that of the people of God in the Exodus or that of Jesus at the beginning of the synoptic gospels. Its goal is to immerse us more deeply into the mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord as we journey toward the Kingdom of God. Since most of us will not be journeying literally during these 40 days, the question is: What will we do, metaphorically, to alter the monotonous circumstances of our everyday lives so that we might have a heightened consciousness of our baptismal commitment to follow Christ even to death, and thus share in the joy of his resurrection? Of course, not just Lent but all of life is a pilgrimage. That is the principle meaning of the metaphor and it is precisely what Lent seeks to recall to us. Do we really sense that we are pilgrims in life? Are we patient with ourselves as we come to understand better, on our pilgrim way, how imperfect we are?

In our Guanellian Family, we choose to make our pilgrimage in company with the poor. I want to encourage all the members of our family today, at the beginning of this Lenten season, to listen ever more attentively to our neediest fellow travelers, to work beside those who experience helplessness in the face of violence, natural disasters, unemployment, or similar crises, to love them deeply as brothers and sisters, to stand with them in their struggle for justice, to support them in being agents of their own human promotion, to be their soul friends, evangelizing them and being evangelized by them. Do the poor perceive us not merely as aid-givers but as friends whom they have grown to love on the journey, as bearers of the genuinely good news of God's closeness?

This season reminds us that our pilgrimage like the Lord's, will surely involve suffering, especially as our journey becomes more closely entwined with that of the poor. I join with you in praying that suffering love may be an energizing force along the way and that as it develops into dying love it may burst into the joy of resurrection. For us, Guanellians, the journey of the Lenten season is a walking with, listening to and learning from Jesus in his Passion and Death, with our gaze fixed on the Resurrection hope and new life of Easter joy. We can pray: "May the Passion of Jesus Christ be in our minds and hearts, so the Life of Jesus, too, may be in us."

I ask you to pray for me, as I will for you, that our Lenten journey together will bring us a fuller share in the Lord's risen life. I end with the following action statement from Pope Francis' Lenten message: "Putting the paschal mystery at the center of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars and violence, in attacks on life, in environmental disasters, and in poverty."

FR. RONALD. J SDC
Provincial Superior

PROVINCIAL CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 2023

1-4	Annual Retreat
4- 21	Communities Visit
28	Vatluru Feast

Have questions or comments
E-mail to Don Guanella
Communication Center at
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MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

11 February 2023

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

The sick can
either be treated by
Medicines
or
Prayers

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FEBRUARY 11

Dear brothers and sisters!

Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to “make do”. For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks these words that represent one of the high points of God’s Revelation: “I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak [...] I will feed them with justice” (34:15-16). Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God’s people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord’s attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.

The Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* encourages us to read anew the parable of the Good Samaritan, which I chose in order to illustrate how we can move from the “dark clouds” of a closed world to “envisaging and engendering an open world” (cf. No. 56). There is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today’s world. In particular, the fact



that the man, beaten and robbed, is abandoned on the side of the road represents the condition in which all too many of our brothers and sisters are left at a time when they most need help. It is no longer easy to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence. In fact, increasing levels of inequality and the prevailing interests of the few now affect every human environment to the extent that it is difficult to consider any experience as having solely “natural” causes. All suffering takes place in the context of a “culture” and its various contradictions.

Here it is especially important to recognize the condition of loneliness and abandonment. This kind of cruelty can be overcome more easily than any other injustice, because – as the parable tells us – it only takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion within us, in order to eliminate it. Two travellers, considered pious and religious, see the wounded man, yet fail to stop. The third passer-by, however, a Samaritan, a scorned foreigner, is moved with compassion and takes care of that stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it, he makes a difference, he makes the world more fraternal.

Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true “field hospital”, for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

The World Day of the Sick calls for prayer and closeness towards those who suffer. Yet it also aims to raise the awareness of God’s people, healthcare institutions and civil society with regard to a new way of moving forward together. The above-quoted prophecy of Ezekiel judges harshly the priorities of those who wield economic, cultural, and political power over others: “You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings;





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but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the Sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them” (34:3-4). God’s word is always illuminating and timely; not only in what it denounces, but also in what it proposes. Indeed, the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity, which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organized care. The elements of the inn, the innkeeper, the money and the promise to remain informed of the situation (cf. Lk 10:34-35) all point to the commitment of healthcare and social workers, family members and volunteers, through whom good stands up in the face of evil every day, in every part of the world.

These past years of the pandemic have increased our sense of gratitude for those who work each day in the fields of healthcare and research. Yet it is not enough to emerge from such an immense collective tragedy simply by honouring heroes. Covid-19 has strained the great networks of expertise and solidarity, and has exposed the structural limits of existing public welfare systems. Gratitude, then, needs to be matched by actively seeking, in every country, strategies and resources in order to guarantee each person’s fundamental right to basic and decent healthcare. On 11 February 2023, let us turn our thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God’s people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind.

To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.



Pope Francis
Franciscus

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

February 11th





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SPIRITUAL RENEWAL OF THE CONFRERES



Divine Providence Province organized the annual retreat for 60 priestly confreres in India in two batches in Sacred Heart College (Eco Sanctuary, Spirituality, and Heritage Centre), Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal. . The first batch of the retreat was held from January 23, 2023, to January 28, 2023, and the second batch from January 30, 2023, to February 4, 2023. The main focus of the retreat was on the parable of the Good Samaritan. The retreat preacher focused on the following themes for the five days of retreat: From Jerusalem to Jericho, Robbers on the Road, The Priest and the Levite, The Inn Keeper, Two Denarii, Go and do likewise. The retreat place also was a spectacular creation and joint enterprise of Nature and Humans working together. Since the retreat ambiance itself was a living manifestation of eco-spirituality, a sacred place for ecology, and nature spirituality, the confreres were able to do their retreat in a good manner.

There was ample time for personal reflection and for personal prayer. Eucharistic adoration was conducted every day. There was a day spent reconciling with God through the sacrament of reconciliation. This annual retreat refreshed and revitalized, gave an opportunity for more time spent in prayer and contemplation, and rekindled and deepened one's relationship with God. Moreover, it was an opportunity to seek God's healing grace and thereby attain a degree of spiritual renewal and rejuvenate the priestly vocation.





CELEBRATION OF THE HERITAGE



Cuddalore: The 26th of January 2023 marked the 74th Republic Day of India, a day to pause, remember, and take pride in our heritage. The SJS Community Fathers and Brothers celebrated the Eucharist in memory of those great persons who worked diligently for our national freedom and democracy. After the liturgy, we all climbed the stairs to hoist the flag and salute while the National Anthem was played. Fr. Arockia Vanathaiyan gave the presidential address inspiring the young seminarians and those in attendance to be enthusiastic and patriotic towards the country. Bro. Rayar also spoke on the events that led to Republic Day. Following these events, we played games and enjoyed our free time until evening.

JOY OF SHARING



Cuddalore: On the 6th of January, the St. Joseph Evening School children were presented with dresses from some of our sponsors from Vridhachalam and Cuddalore. We marked the celebration of the birth of Christ, the New Year, and anticipated the observance of Pongal, the harvest festival, with the distribution of gifts to

everyone in attendance. The children were extremely happy and shared their joy with one another. The Superior, staff, and the children thanked God for the sponsorship and offered prayers for the well-being of our benefactors.

PONGAL CELEBRATION

Cuddalore: On the 21st of January, we celebrated Pongal in our Don Guanella Boys' Home, Cuddalore. Fr. Superior welcomed all and gave an introduction to the festival. Fr. C. Lourduraj celebrated Holy Mass with Frs. James and Stalin concelebrating. Fr. Vincent preached the homily. In his homily, Fr. Vincent mentioned with Pongal, we thank the Lord for all of His blessings. Pongal is the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu celebrated for four days in the middle of January commencing with the last day of the Tamil month. Special respect and spiritual veneration were given to the sun, earth, and



cattle by farmers in thanksgiving for a bounteous harvest. The people of Tamil Nadu participated in this festival with high hopes and aspirations. After Holy Mass, a day of games and activities was enjoyed by all. Then Fr. Superior thanked the domestic staff of our community. The boys enjoyed the day of fun and activities.

CELEBRATION OF HARVEST FESTIVAL

Cuddalore: On the 15th of January, we celebrated Pongal in our parish. Fr. Vincent, Parish Priest, celebrated Holy Mass with Fr. James concelebrating. Fr. Antony Xavier preached the homily in which he spoke about Pongal, the four-day harvest festival celebrated in South India, especially Tamil Nadu. Pongal will be celebrated with great enthusiasm from January 14-16 this year. The purpose of the feast is to thank the Lord for all His blessings. After Holy Mass, a day of games and activities was arranged. Then Fr. Vincent thanked all the parishioners who donated Pongal materials and the Legion of Mary who did the cooking. At last, all went home with smiling faces.



PONGAL CELEBRATION IN THE PARISH



Dindigul: This month is a season of joy and happiness, for it brings a variety of festivals and celebrations. The Community Fathers, along with Guanella Karunai Illam inmates, celebrated the festival of Pongal. We thanked God for all his wonderful gifts especially the recognition that we received from the Board of Mental Health Kilpakam, Chennai.



ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE



Dindigul: The Guanellian Lay Movement (GLM) at Dindigul organized a one-day pilgrimage to various churches. With gratitude, they thanked God for having called them to this mission of charity. They were filled with grace and strength as they spent the day in communion with God, their life-giver.

ONE DAY RECOLLECTION



Dindigul: “How beautiful it is when brothers and sisters live in unity.” The Dindigul community organized a joint day of recollection along with the sisters. They visited a shrine that is dedicated to Our Lady at Poondi.

INTER MINOR SEMINARIANS MEET

Koppaka: “Simplicity opens the door to holiness,” says Don Luigi Guanella. This quote is true and fitting for the Inter Minor Seminarians Meet, organized in Koppaka, Andhra Pradesh on the topic “Together To Become Holy”. This Meet was under the guidance and support of the Provincial Superior





and the formative team of the respective minor seminaries in Divine Providence Province, India. The gathering for the Minor Seminarians extended for five full days from the 11th to the 15th of January, with 63 aspirants coming from St. Joseph's Seminary, Cuddalore; Guanella Bhavan, Andhrapradesh and DSMP aspirants from Andhra Pradesh.

This initiative is a regular part of the field of formation from this side of the Province. The purpose is to introduce the aspirants to the Guanellian educative style and lay the foundation for the community and future Guanellian mission in India. Rev. Sr. Roseline DSMP and Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ were the resource persons for the Meet. Events like Spiritual Exercises, creative prayers, rosaries, cultural performances, quiz competitions, sports, visiting the Holy Land through depiction and Vatluru tower in Eluru, as well as outings kept the participants active and engaged until the end. We thank the Providence of God who always blesses us with a good number of young budding flowers in the Guanellian garden. Let sanctity save the world forever. A sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this event.

HOMAGE TO POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI

Koppaka: On the 31st of December 2022, the entire Catholic Church mourned the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI who defended traditional Catholic doctrine, values, and liturgy. Pope Francis and Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re presided over his funeral Mass on the 5th of January



2023. On that same day we, in Guanella Bhavan, celebrated Requiem Mass for the repose soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. The day was observed as a time of prayer, adoration, respect, homage, and condolences for the late pontiff. It was to provide an experience that would help the young candidates understand the Christian faith and the fact that there is life after death, i.e., the Resurrection. "Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them." (Rev. 14:13) May the soul of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI enjoy eternal bliss.

74TH REPUBLIC DAY IN KOPPAKA



Koppaka: Republic Day commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India: the 26th of January 1950. On this special day of our country, the national flag was hoisted by the Superior of the Community, and candidates animated a small ceremony. The ceremony included the National Pledge, Vandhe Matharam (State Patriotic song), a parade, a pyramid, and a karate demonstration. As



Republic Day was drawing to a close, the Superior of the community spoke to the candidates ending with the quote of B. R. Ambedkar - "If I find the Constitution misused then I shall be the first one to burn it". With the distribution of the sweets, the celebration reached its culmination.

PONGAL CELEBRATION



Kumbakonam: Once in a year we express our gratitude for the season of the harvest that is a boon for the farmers. Don Guanella Evening School celebrated the Pongal Feast on January 22nd. This harvest festival unites all people. The teachers prepared the students to celebrate the Pongal with traditional cultural programs. The students were very happy in their colorful dresses of the Tamil Culture and eager to display their talents in celebration of Pongal. Children from nine different branches gathered for the memorable event. The attendees were around 170 including children, teachers, youth, and parents. The Pongal Celebration started with games and sports such as pot breaking, musical chairs, and many other competitions. Students, teachers, and parents all participated. Then children from each group presented their programs. Fr. A. Bernandas, Fr. J. David, and Sr. Josephine distributed gifts to all 150 students. Then they also handed out prizes for the winners of different competitions. Fr. C. Paul Dhinakaran, in charge of the evening school, thanked the gathering and encouraged the new students and teachers to make use of the opportunity for a better future. In the end, everyone enjoyed lunch. The program was organized by the Guanellian youth from Divine Providence Church.

"ALL OUR TALENTS ARE GIFTS OF GOD"

ANTHONIYARPURAM: It was a joy-filled time celebrating the New Year. Four hundred people participated in the Holy Mass. After the Holy Mass, our village children exhibited their talents through extracurricular activities such as singing, dancing, and drama. At the end of the event, all the participants were given sweets and tea with a Church calendar. Since it is a newly erected quasi-parish, we are striving to encourage the people to come to church.





PONGAL AT PARISH



ANTHONIYARPURAM: Pongal was celebrated in our Church on the 15th of January. We encouraged the people to celebrate this feast of agriculture and farmers. People from the entire Christian community came forward to prepare Pongal and they also drew rangolis. After the Holy Mass, Pongal was distributed to all the participants. Games and activities were held for the children and elders. As a token of our appreciation, we distributed prizes to the winners on the 26th of January.

HEALTHY LIFE IS A GREAT WEALTH OF OLD AGE

BANGALORE: A Physiotherapy camp for the elderly was organized and held at Don Guanella Aged Home Bangalore on the 23rd of January. Fr. Matthias, the Superior of GPN, in collaboration with APD Social Service Organization (which helps charitable institutes) was responsible for this camp. A team of 3 doctors and other staff in mobile therapy arrived at GPN around 2 pm and treated 35 of our elderly grandpas. The professionals guided them in some physical exercises as well as provided treatment for muscle, and joint pain with modern equipment. The team promised regular visits on all Mondays for 6 months.



ORIENTATION ON ALZHEIMER



BANGALORE: On the 28th of January 2023 five students of Mount Carmel PU College Department of Arts along with their HOD visited our old age home (GPN) to help our senior citizens to deal with the difficulties of aging. The students used innovative ideas such as riddles, songs, and games to help our

grandpas to understand what Alzheimer's is and how it affects seniors. They also gave some simple and effective ideas and exercises to overcome these difficulties which were very useful for our inmates.

HELPING HANDS OF GUANELLIAN LAY MEMBERS

BANGALORE: The members of the Guanellian Lay Movement have provided moral support for the smooth operation of the Guanellian mission at GPN Bangalore. There is a good rapport between the confreres and the members. They join hands to help each other to support the mission. This collaboration is invaluable in assisting our elderly to achieve a healthy lifestyle by maintaining their hygiene. Mr. Daniel, one of the founding members of GPN in Bangalore, came forward to assist with bathing and shaving needs.

ARTICLE FOR JANUARY



Chennai: We, the DGMS community celebrated Pongal on 17-01-2023 at 6am with the solemn prayer. We remembered and celebrated the day of St. Antony Hermit. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Gabriel. The sermon he shared inspired all the participants and the inspiring thoughts were to understand the true love of God and the continuous blessings that he provides through the food that we receive from the field every day. The sermon concluded with the words that we should be thankful to God for all his blessings, and for his accompaniment in our day today's lives. After the mass the Pongal that we cooked during the time of mass was blessed by Fr. Anandan and was distributed to all the fathers and brothers. The children from DGRSS participated along with their teaching and non-teaching staff. The sweet Pongal was shared as a symbol of our love and celebrations we remembered and prayed for all the farmers through this Pongal celebration.

PONGAL CELEBRATION IN DON GUANELLA EVENING SCHOOL

Provincialate, Chennai: Pongal was celebrated with joy with our Evening School Children in the Divine Providence Province Provincialate, Chennai. Students performed Kummiyattam (Kummy dance) during Pongal festival. In the Provincialate premises, Pongal was made by cooking rice in an





earthen pot in the courtyard at a stove made of bricks. The celebration was instrumental in giving the opportunity for students to learn about culture & traditions. As part of the tradition and custom, everyone shared the Pongal meal from the earthen pot and all went with the sugarcane to home.

PONGAL CELEBRATION

Channei : We had Pongal Celebration at Don Guanella Special School on 12/01/23. We invited All the parents of our Children and animated different competitions like Rangoli, Rope Pulling, Pot breaking, and Kummi dance. Along with our Children, parents also participated and received the Prizes. Sweet Pongal was cooked in front of our school by our Staff and parents and served to all with joy and happiness. Finally, Prizes were distributed to the winners of the competitions.



A MEMORABLE DAY

Chennai: On 21.01.2023 we the staff of Don Guanella Special School had a one-day fun trip to VGP universal kingdom. The trip was arranged for the staff to relax amidst busy schedules. There the staff



along with their children enjoyed many rides and games. A send-off program was given to Miss. YogaLakshmi by cutting the cake and wishing her good luck, since she is leaving our school due to her upcoming marriage. It was a memorable day for all our staff.



THE PIOUS UNION OF ST JOSEPH

Chennai : The Pious Union of St Joseph's first meeting was held in DGMS. Many members participated and had given their opinion to develop our association and start our mission by visiting the sick and praying for the needy brethren. Slowly we are taking initiative to move to the people.



ADVENT GIVING

Chelsea - Haylie Moran, Day Program Coordinator, helped the residents get into the giving spirit during Advent this year with a new initiative. She challenged not only the residents, but the staff as well to participate in a "Reverse Advent" Calendar. The concept is simple, instead of getting a gift or treat each day during Advent, a gift was given. Haylie worked with Faith in Action in Chelsea to find out what non-perishable foods they needed in the pantry. On each day throughout Advent, people brought



in the item listed for that day. Haylie and other staff in the Day Program were pleasantly surprised at the number of goods that were donated. Community members who visited even donated during the days leading up to Christmas. On January 10, 2023, Haylie and Brad Crosier, a direct care worker at St. Louis Center, helped the residents load the food into the van. Once everything was loaded, they delivered everything to Faith in Action. The residents were very excited to help deliver the items. Faith in Action was just as excited to receive such an amazing donation.



RENOVATIONS BEGIN

Chelsea - After months of consultations and planning, the remodeling of St. Joseph Hall is well underway. During the Christmas break, residents moved temporarily into different homes on the St. Louis Center campus. Workers removed all of the furnishings and began the removal of the old flooring and the bathrooms. Soon these rooms



will be ready for single occupancy and bathroom

access from within the room providing more privacy for the residents. Fr. Enzo states, "The residents will have individualized rooms with ADA-compliant bathrooms. The number of residents living at SJH will be reduced to follow the vision of St. Louis Guanella for his facilities: everyone needs to feel at home with a sense of belonging and have a place to call 'my place.'" The generous support of our donors makes campus upgrades like this possible. Renovations expect to be completed by May 2023.

SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH UPDATE

Grass Lake - The Pious Union shrine has been keeping quite busy, even during these winter months. Several people have come for anointing of the sick, offered on First Saturdays or upon special request. The end of Christmastime brought many volunteers to stow away trees and decorations. Recently, we are redoing the sound system in the church. There will be new mixers, speakers, and a general updating of the outdated equipment. As we anticipate the coming spring, we hope to outfit the outdoor Stations of the Cross with audio boxes, so that one can pray along with each station.



A DISCUSSION ABOUT DISCRIMINATIONS



Chelsea – St. Louis Center welcomed Chelsea and the surrounding communities to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King and discuss discrimination Thursday, January 19th. After a short movie, a discussion was led by students from Chelsea High School Key Club (Kiwanis Service Club) and Interact (Rotary Service Club). St. Louis Center residents and community members joined the conversation. This was part of the OneWorld One Family organization “2023 Chelsea's Martin Luther King Jr. Days of Service and Social Action” event.

MATCH MET

Chelsea - In November, a generous donor offered to match all donations up to a certain amount by the end of 2022. Because of support from donors, the Center surpassed the goal on December 16th! Then, another generous donor stepped in, offering to keep the match momentum through the end of December. On December 31, 2022, we met both matches! The generosity of the donors helps give individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) the chance to live dynamic and fulfilled lives at St. Louis Center. In this caring environment, each resident finds a community suited to their special needs and a place to call home. We are so very grateful!





BIRTH DAYS

1 - Fr. George Vinsula. I

10 - Fr. Kuriakose. A

14 - Fr. Amalorpavanathan. R

15 - Fr. Silvio De Nard

19 - Fr. Sagayaraj. S

23 - Bro. Arul Pandian. R

24 - Fr. Chandra Nevis. D

Fr. Arputharaj. J

25 - Fr. Francis. S

FEAST DAYS

2 - Fr. Kannikai Raj. A

4 - Fr. John Paul Britto

Fr. Anandhan. T

Fr. Arul |

Bro. Arul Pandian. R

11 - Fr. Anthony Lourduraj. S

Fr. Lourduraj. C

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

11 - Fr. Arun | Fr. Jesu Doss .

Fr. Johnson / Fr. Kumar |

Fr. Paul Dhinakaran / Fr. Rambabu

Fr. Suresh | Fr. Vimal Thambu Samy

12 - Fr. Soosai Rathinam. R



Have questions or comments
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