Kevin is eight years old. He is among the teeming millions who eke out a living from the waste of others. An initiative by a non-government organization provided his Tatay with pushcart to collect segregated waste from two nearby exclusive villages. His brothers and younger sister are getting accustomed to having champorado in the mornings. Sometimes when Nanay is really ‘feeling wealthy’ she would allow the children to wash away the taste of champorado from their mouths with a bottle of Sarsi. In the past, a glass of water was enough. Still they felt luckier than most people in the neighborhood because they have roof over their heads. Tatay was able to build a small room in their twenty square meter space to give Nanay and the baby some privacy.

For almost a month now, Kevin wakes up at the crack of dawn. He is forced to take over the collection of basura. Tatay has TB. His condition got worse when he had nonstop coughing and was relieved only when he began to spit blood. In Nanay’s desire to spare the children from being infected by the same disease, Miguel who is barely four years old and Juan now six, joined Kevin in his daily rounds.

Kevin and Juan had to give up their schooling. One day, almost dusk, a priest dropped by their house. He heard about Tatay’s condition and offered to help. The priest was from the Servants of Charity. Occasionally, Kevin would hear about the pleasant gatherings for the children in their center but never had the chance to enjoy them. He once attempted to join these gatherings but an old lady was asking for some coupon or ticket so he can enter but he never knew where or how to get them. Once, he lingered for a while thinking he might be able to sneak in but eventually decided to leave. And now the priest running the center is in their house. ‘Salamat po Diyos ko,’ is all Kevin could utter. His father was treated at their Care for Life Clinic and given medicine enough to cover the duration of the therapy. Kevin knows that soon he too, would be back in school.

Elie Wiesel. The Nobel Prize winner for literature, talks of the past in the same parallelism as the poor: ‘the past, like the poor, is there for the same purpose as culture itself to sensitize us. Not to put them out of our minds but to be more sensitive to their needs. Caring for others is a privilege. Not many have the opportunity to have this privilege.’

The poor will always be with us. Kevin’s family is lucky because a religious center came to their aid. The Servants of Charity is crying for our help.

Rodolfo Ibañez, Ph.D.

Make a difference in the lives of the needy. You are most welcome to share your time, talent and treasure to God’s little ones at our Servants of Charity.
August 9, 2008, was the arrival of our new Indian missionary here in the Philippines, Fr. Chandra Nevis. He is truly a gift of Divine Providence to our Philippine community particularly in Legazpi, Albay. It is not the first time that Fr. Nevis stayed here. He was here as a novice in 1996 with Fr. Paul Oggioni as his novice master. He was born on June 24, 1970, made his first profession here in Tandang Sora after a year in 1997, and was ordained on July 26, 2002. After ordination, he was assigned to minister with our special children in Don Guanella Rehabilitation Center in Chennai, a day care program for persons with disabilities for about 45 children and adults. After two years, he was assigned as a pastor to Sacred Heart Church, a parish under the pastoral care of the Guanellians in Andhra Pradesh (also in India) before coming here in the Philippines. We wish you all the best Fr. Nevis in your new mission in Legazpi. More power and God bless you!

WELCOME FR. NEVIS

A Touch of Providence: Lions Club Medical and Dental Mission

As part of their outreach program and humanitarian endeavor, the Lions Club International under its dynamic prexy- Mrs. Jovy Aquino sponsored a Medical and Dental Mission for poor and indigent families in the surrounding depressed communities of the Servants of Charity in Tandang Sora, Quezon City. The initiative was a touch of providence for the many poor people who were able to avail of the various medical programs such as free check-up and consultation, urinalysis, x-ray, ECG, optical, Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS), derma and dental extraction last August 10, 2008 at the Multi-Purpose Covered Court of the Servants of Charity. The Lions Club is a civic-minded international organization that uplifts the dignity of human life through their active involvement in diverse social and humanitarian endeavors. Kudos and More Power to LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL and to all volunteer medical practitioners & staff of the Medical and Dental Mission!!!

Solidarity Youth Vigil among Focolare Youth, GYM and Seminarians

In a rare moment of sharing and solidarity, 39 Focolare Youth from Our Lady of Aransazu Catholic School in San Mateo, Rizal joined the Guanella Youth Movement (GYM) and the Guanellian seminarians in their monthly first Saturday Youth Vigil at the Guanella Center last August 2 and 3, 2008. Prior to the Holy Hour with guided meditation, Fr. Charles Viray, SC our GYM Spiritual Director gave a short but meaningful talk on the theme: BE UNITED IN LOVE. After the input, a diad sharing on ‘helps’ and ‘blocks’ in community life was ensued among the animated participants.

The Focolare Youth had their overnight activities that culminated in a fraternal sharing with the special children in our Shelter Home and Sunday Eucharistic Celebration with the community at the Guanella Center. The Focolare is an international movement that propagates the spirituality of communion and unity among peoples of various faith and race. It has then spread across the globe since its foundation in 1943 at Loppiano, Italy by Chiara Lubich who passed away this year in Rome with the odor of sanctity.

““The Greatest Measure of Love is to Love without Measure” SAINT BERNARD

Some of the members of Guanellian Youth Ministry participating in the solidarity youth vigil
Honoring Mary on the Feast of Her Assumption

Forming a chain of human bodies and with voices raised in unison of praise and prayer; a group of special children, grade school pupils, nursing students, seminarians, elderly and staff of Guanella Center gathered last August 15, 2008 at the Multi-Purpose Pavilion for a Living Rosary to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary on the Solemnity of her Assumption into Heaven.

At the end of the Living Rosary, as fitting tribute and symbolic gesture of filial devotion to the Mother of God, white and blue colored balloons were released containing prayer intentions while the hymn Ave Maria reverberated in the air. The church dogma of the Assumption of Mary was declared in 1945 by Pope Pius XII. This dogma is closely related to the feast of the Queenship of Mary, celebrated on August 22, since the Virgin Mary after being assumed body and soul into Paradise, was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth.

Tagaytay Sojourn: An Encounter in Community Spirit

The enthralling panorama of Tagaytay City made famous by its chilly mountaintop climate, assorted fresh fruits and the world renowned Taal Volcano gave the Guanellian seminarians and their formator- Fr. Charlton the much-needed respite from academic pressures and a chance to bond together as community of brothers journeying in formation. Thus, on the early morning of the 9th of August 2008, the formation community of the Servants of Charity trekked to the popular vacation destination outside Manila for a recreation and community-building activity. The whole morning was spent on team-building dynamics that was facilitated by a team of animators headed by Fr. Caloy Paglinawan, the Rector of St. Augustine Major Seminary (SASMA) at the Mission Society of the Philippines (MSP) Formation House. After a sumptuous lunch of sardines and ham at Tagaytay Picnic Grove, the community embarked on a convent hopping and sightseeing activity around famous Tagaytay landmarks such as the often visited pilgrimage destination- the Pink Sisters convent, the best known haven for solitude and prayer edging over the scenic Taal Lake- the Maryridge Retreat House and Hermitage of the Good Shepherd sisters and the colossal Marcos’ built structure over Tagaytay Heights- the People’s Park in the Sky. Thus, coming down from the mountaintop experience and back to our seminary in Quezon City, the whole community felt deeply renewed and spiritually invigorated.

The Champion of Charity

After two years of ministry in our community in Legazpi, Albay, Fr. David Stawasz has gone back to United States for his new mission. All our people here in Harong Kan Sagrada Familia have seen friendly love from Fr. David. None of us can forget his simplicity, humility, and firmness to express his Guanellian heart. He never fails to care for the patients, staffs, people, the structure of HKSF, the cars and the animals, not for the individuals alone but for the family of the patients and the staff.

His love for the Congregation made him do all the things possible as a doctor, nurse, painter, constructor, carpenter and really nobody can disregard him in all of these. All his words express his character as a responsible Guanellian. His endeavors gave new life to our patients especially like Kiko, Jonathan, Rizaldi, Ediboy and Jayar. They may forget anyone but not Fr. David. We wish you father all the best to your new mission. You have created a vision here in Harong Kan Sagrada Familia. You are unique and special and we believe that no one can replace you. You do your best wherever you are. We assure you that we will keep you in our hearts and your memory will float always in Harong Kan Sagrada Familia.

Fr. David dressing the wounds of a patient
The Superior Servants of Charity
Centerville Subdivision, Pingkian Road, Bgy. Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, 1107, Quezon City
Telefax: 931-5549 456-8550
E-mail: guanella@yahoo.com

The growing number of indigent and disabled children entrusted by the Lord to our care make us seek and welcome any help and expression of solidarity.

If you are interested in sharing our mission as a cooperator or benefactor, you may write, call or visit our address.

Christopher, (deaf and mute), one of the residents of Servants of Charity Shelter Home for Special People with Kuya Albert, supervisor of the Home

To our dear COOPERATORS and BENEFACTORS
Maraming Salamat Po!
Our thanks and prayers to each and everyone

GUANELLIAN CENTENNIAL
100 Years of celebrating God’s love in the footsteps of Blessed Louis Guanella

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BE OUR MISSION PARTNER

VOCATION CORNER

DISCERNING GOD’S DREAM FOR US

Discernment is a seeking of God’s will in my life thru the inner movements of the Spirit of Love. We are all called to discernment because a Christian life (vocation) is precisely a response to God’s will and call to discipleship. ‘Be it done to me according to your word.’ (Lk 1,38)

What are the steps in discernment? 1.) KNOWING AND LOVING MYSELF– my personality and personal history are part of my call. It is therefore important that I learn to be in touch with myself and get to know myself better. 2.) KNOWING AND LOVING JESUS CHRIST– I try to develop a regular life of prayer, devoting 15 to 30 minutes daily to personal prayer. I pray over the life of Christ, his words and actions as presented to me in the Gospels. 3.) MAKING A DECISION– I gather accurate and adequate information on the point of decision, checking the pros and cons of different options in a spirit of prayer. At certain point, a gripping conviction comes to me toward one option and I make this my temporary decision. 4.) CONFIRMING MY DECISION– after making the temporary decision, I allow some time for inner confirmation. An experience of inner peace, joy and love are signs of God’s will in my decision. I confer with my spiritual director regarding the process and confirmation of my decision.

GOD MIGHT BE CALLING YOU TO BE A RELIGIOUS BROTHER OR PRIEST. JOIN OUR Vocation Discernment Program FOR MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS OR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

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