The Servant of Charity

20 YEARS OF LOVE & MISSION

Last June 19, 2009, Feast of the Sacred Heart, the Servants of Charity Tandang Sora Community celebrated with a Thanksgiving Mass and Simple Program the 20th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Guanellian Missionary in the Philippines. Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, exactly twenty years ago, came to the Philippines and resided with the Franciscan Friars at St. Anthony VOT Church in Sampaloc, Manila until June 10, 1990 before he moved to their first base at Tierra Verde, Tandang Sora, Q.C. On December 12, 1993, the Mother House of the Guanellians in the Philippines, the present community located at Centerville Subdivision was solemnly blessed and inaugurated by the late Jaime Cardinal Sin. Twenty years have passed since the beginning of that story of love and mission.

Dear confreres:

First of all best wishes for a happy and blessed Sacred Heart Feast Celebration!

It is a beautiful coincidence that on this meaningful occasion we remember this year the 20th Anniversary of the beginning of our Guanellian presence in the Philippines. Divine Providence has led us to these beautiful Islands to share His Love and to open, through our ministry, His Heart to poor of this land.

Let us give thanks together for his trust and for the many blessings that he has showered upon us in the past twenty years. In the mean time let us renew our commitment to follow Jesus more faithfully, to serve Him more generously and to show Him more clearly.

In this 20th Anniversary Celebration the Lord is blessing our Province with two new Deacons, one of them Rev. Selvaraj, serving in the Philippines. Let us pray for them and for the joyful perseverance of all of us, Servants of his Love.

I take this opportunity to wish Happy Anniversary through you, all the brothers and sisters who share with us the grace of being Guanellian family: our sisters, postulants, seminarians, cooperators, friends, staff, volunteers,

We have celebrated last June 19 the 20th Anniversary of the arrival of the first Servants of Charity missionary in the Philippines. May God continue to bless all of us and all our ministries.

In this month’s issue of our newsbits, we are printing the letter of Fr. Luigi to the Guanellians on the occasion of our 20th Anniversary. Fr. Luigi has been assigned provincial superior of Divine Providence Province (India-USA-Philippines) two years ago.
and benefactors of the two communities. My affection and thoughts go in special way to the “Benjamins” of Divine Providence entrusted to our care. Give them my love and a big hug. The poor are our Treasures and the Masters of our Homes.

As a fruit of this Anniversary Celebration we wish to open soon in the Philippines a new Mission station for the service of charity and the witness of the Gospel. I ask all of you to intensify your prayers so that we may start soon our presence and ministry in Balanga, Bataan.

On June 19, 1989 I was flying to Manila, alone, but not feeling lonely. I knew that I was going to the Philippines in the name of the Congregation and to carry out its project and mission. I am very grateful for that opportunity given to be an instrument of God’s providence for this new expansion of the Guanellian mission. I also feel the need to ask the Lord and people for pardon and patience for all my limitations and short comings. We are all convinced that God works wonders by using fragile human instruments, so that it may always be clear that “it is He who is at work!” I am with you in spirit, waiting to come to stay with you soon. I promise and ask for the precious gift of prayer.

You are in my heart and mind. Best wishes also for the new Pastoral Year that you are starting in these days. God bless you all.

In Omnibus Charitas!

Fr. Luigi
Opening of Shelter Home for Special Children and Adults. (Raffy and Thomas– residents) 
Servants of Charity, 2.C. (1996)

(Children benefitting from our programs in Legazpi during their field trip with Mayon Volcano at the background)

Opening of Care for Life Clinic. 
Servants of Charity, 2.C. (1997) 
(Nursing students of Dr. Carlos Lanting College assisting the patients)

Ordination of the First Filipino Guanellian priest, Fr. Dong Cerbito, SC. 
Tandang Sora, 2.C. (2007)

STARTING SOON! 
Mission at Bahay Puso Home for the Elderly 
Balanga, Bataan (2009)
His name is Allizer.  
He is eight years old.  
He was abandoned and rejected by his parents when they found out that he was handicapped.  
He can’t stand. He can’t walk.  
He can’t speak.  
He has a very poor eyesight.  
He can’t eat by himself and practically can’t do anything alone.  
At age five, he was operated in the head because of hydrocephalus.  
He has epilepsy, cerebral palsy and mental retardation.

He takes medicine and will be under medication for the rest of his life.  
In 2007, he was transferred from the orphanage for abused children.  
Allizer cannot do many things but he is very good at one thing.  
He smiles.  
And his smile brings out the best in people around him…  
Because his smile brings out love and compassion.  
And where there is love and compassion, God is there.

To continue our mission with Allizer and the rest of our residents, we need the support of people like you.  
BE A VOLUNTEER, LAY COOPERATOR OR SPONSOR.

SUPPORT OUR SHELTER HOME FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN

For a minimum donation of two hundred pesos (P 200) a month, you can be a mission partner to Allizer or to any special child of our Shelter Home. Call 9315549 for more information.

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