



News and Views

Newsletter of the Divine Providence Province

July 2010
Volume 3 Number 7

St. Joseph Seminary Transformed into a New Cenacle

A New Pentecost was experienced today at St. Joseph's Seminary in Cuddalore, transformed for the occasion into a new Cenacle.

The Spirit of the Lord, through the imposition of the hands of the Apostle, the Arch Bishop of Pondy-Cuddalore, has come upon eleven young men and consecrated them priests for the Church and the whole world. The Guanellian Family, represented the Superior General, Fr. Alfonso Crippa, and his Councilor, Fr. Wldadimiro Bogoni, has experienced a very special joy in welcoming these eleven new priests who are not only enriching the Divine Providence Province, but also injecting young blood and enthusiasm into the body of the whole Congregation. To express fraternal solidarity and gratitude to Divine Providence, more than 80 priests con-celebrated the Liturgy; confreres, parish Priests of the ordinandi, friends and members of local clergy and religious congregations. The people of God made up of family members, parishioners, recipients of our ministry, friends and benefactors from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka participated through song and intense prayer during the two-hour liturgical celebration.

After sharing the Eucharist bread, more than 1500 people shared fraternal Agape, provided by Divine Providence to mark this extraordinary event. Community vespers and supper crowned this blessing-filled

day, arousing in all of us sentiments of deep gratitude along with a sense of responsibility toward the people of God and the many poor who are counting on the faithful witness of the new priests in order to see, touch and taste the goodness of the Lord and His infinite compassion.

For the next week, the eleven newly consecrated priests will move from village to village to celebrate their first thanksgiving masses and spread the joy of being Apostles of the Lord, Heralds of the Good News, Servants and Friends of the poor and the marginalized. We accompany them with our prayer and best wishes, knowing that they will need our fraternal support and solidarity to walk the path of the Gospel 'til the end, mirroring in their priestly life the faithfulness and goodness of the Master, The Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

We appeal to all the members of the Guanellian family around the world for the precious gift of prayer for the new Priests, as we rely on their prayer and blessing.

We also thank our Guanellian Sisters and Lay friends and Co-operators for their closeness and support that made our Pentecost Day, June 19th 2010, an unforgettable, historical event for the Guanellian Family.

Fr. Luigi



Fr. Alphonso Crippa lays hands on each of the new young priests during the ordination liturgy.

**“It is God
who has
called you to
share in the
life of His
son.”**

1 Cor 1,9

From the Provincial Desk

July 2010 Calendar of Fr. Provincial

- 1 **Bangalore:** Closing of the Provincial Council Meeting
- 2 **Vatluru/Koppaka/Andhra Pradesh:** Superior General visits accompanied by Fr. Luigi and Fr. Battista Omodei
- 4 **Chennai:** Superior General arrives
- 5 **Sivagangai:** Dedication of new religious community and welcoming of eleven new postulants. Superior General in attendance with Fr. Battista, Fr. Dennis Weber, and Fr. Soosai Rathinam.
- 6 **Sivagangai:** Inauguration of 'Tent of Charity' for 'Special People'. Local Bishop, Superior General and Provincial Councilors in attendance.
- 8 **Chennai:** Superior General returns.
- 9 **Chennai:** Closing of Superior General's visit to India.
- 10 **Chennai:** Departure of Superior General
- 18-31 Fr. Luigi visits families and parishes of confreres serving abroad.

Days to Remember

After their ordination to the Priesthood on June 19, the eleven newly ordained Guanellian priests started their pilgrimage from Parish to Parish for their First Mass. Fr. Alfonso Crippa, Superior General, Fr. Wladimiro Bogoni, General Councilor and Fr. Luigi De Giambattista, Provincial Superior of the Divine Providence Province accompanied them. Many confreres and priests followed them from village to village to witness their dedication to the Guanellian mission.

Thenur, which has given fourteen priests to the Guanellian family, was the first stop on June 20. The reception of the three young priests was outstanding. Well-wishers and a circle of priests surrounded the new priests for the celebration of Mass on the church square. The traditional program of songs and dances and the offering of hospitality shawls followed Mass. Dinner was served after the program and at sunset, a procession around the village took place as a sign of thanksgiving and friendship.

On June 21, the procession moved to the Community and mission of Kumbakonam. The parish church of Our Lady of Providence is a little shack of metal sheets. The construction of the new church will start soon. It will serve twenty five hundred families in 17 villages. People here are extremely poor, but growing in number and commitment to the faith, sustained by our community. Like the Apostles returning from their mission and reporting to Jesus about the miracles they had performed in his name, Fr. General listened to our confreres recounting their ministry, failures and successes in the last years of work in Kumbakonam. Mass was celebrated in the yard of a poor family with a paralyzed sibling. It was presided by the Guanellian Pastor, Fr Maria Arockiadoss at the presence of many cooperators and people of all faiths with strong traditions and values.

At the next stop, June 22, Fr. General and Fr. Wladimiro,

always accompanied by Fr. Luigi, visited the great Marian Shrine of Velankanni. It is called the Lourdes of Asia, and is a pilgrimage site for hundreds of thousands of Catholics, Hindus and Muslim. Mass was celebrated at the altar of the miraculous statue of our Lady of Health. They prayed for Guanellians all over the world and in particular our Province. Under a scorching sun, reciting the Rosary, they walked to a chapel marking the healing of a handicapped child by the Blessed Mother. The day was concluded with a visit to the shores that suffered the tragic destruction and deaths caused by the Tsunami in December 2004.

June 23 saw the traveling group in Cuddalore, the Motherhouse of the Servants of Charity in India. Fr. General visited the villages entrusted to the pastoral ministry of the Guanellians and listened to their concerns.

The Pilgrimage continued on June 24, from Cuddalore to Chennai where our Major Seminary is located. During Mass, Fr. General invited all to imitate the atypical life style of St. John the Baptist whose Solemnity was celebrated.

The long journey to Thalavadi was made June 25, on the first anniversary of its foundation. More than 200 people with various disabilities welcomed the group. Fr. Alfonso and Fr. Wladimiro, had the opportunity to realize the amount and quality of work our confreres have done in one year. They have created a network of people and activities capable of reaching and serving close to 500 people with disabilities. With a group of cooperators, they bring to these special brothers and sisters help and hope, and created a feeling of respect and attention to their dignity and needs. The experience of the life among the poor is a lifetime lesson for everyone.

Fr. General dedicated June 26 to the community. He listened to them and encouraged them to continue on the path they have started. Many priests and sisters of the area, grateful for the presence of the Servants of Charity, joined them for Mass. Fr. General blessed the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in the compound and visited a parish entrusted to our confreres.

They finally arrived in Bangalore, where our Novitiate is located, on June 27. Fr. General had the opportunity to meet the community,

including the novices and elderly who live there. It was Sunday and the House was filled with hundreds of children from the neighborhood served by our confreres.



News from Germany

What an exciting month full of emotional moments we experienced around many cities and countries! The spirit of God and the love of our brothers urged us to increase our speed.

In Germany, there was another meeting with Missio. We delivered a letter of thanks to Mr. J. Stark, distributed literature and approached the solidarity program of the German Catholics to make Fr. Guanella's work known among the 95 religious congregations present.

A formal agreement has been made with the sisters of St. Josef, Müntertal, for nationwide promotion of the Pious Union Confraternity of prayer for the suffering and dying. We are seeking the bishop's permission to raise funds from the official solidarity agencies. Last year, we Guanellians received a small fraction from their successful donation campaign.

The Delegation has been busy working on many projects in other provinces. We hope to continue our presence at the Italian parish in Pforzheim after the retirement of the Salesian, Father Santi. In Poland, a new Guanellian structure at Skavina, Krakow with special beds for the disabled children was financed by the Bavarian Renovabis in Freising. In Russia, we distributed used clothes and 150 pairs of eyeglasses from Fielmann to the Lutheran parish in the former German East Prussia, homeland of Inge. In Italy, cooperation has been initiated for solidarity projects with Asci in Como and Rome. Students in Barza, Italy and Palencia, Spain are organizing a celebration for the 90th birthday of our beloved confrere Fr. Giuseppe Cantoni on July 16.

In Chile, Fr. Umberto Bugnoni has submitted a request to Adveniat for damage by the earthquake. In Mexico, for the Domingo



Fr. Andreas, Fr. Fernando with Gero and the German Co-operators.



Pope Benedict XVI with the Bishop of Abu Dhabi, Paul Hinder.



Gero, Inge, Fr. Fernando and friends visit Castle Penafiel with Juan Bautista Aguado.



Monsignor Mario Toso with the Italian confirmandi in Germany.

Frantellizzi shelter, and in Argentina, for the community of Pergamino, minibuses are needed for transportation. In UAE, Bishop Paul Hinder has officially invited our community to open a Guanellian program in Abu Dhabi or Dubai for disabled children. Fr. Luigi will start the preparation of Indian confreres for this new tent of Guanellian charity. In February, Fr. Joe Rinaldo and I will start to offer a series of conferences to the local authority of Social Affairs. In D.R. Congo, a project for an irrigation system has been submitted to Missio in Aachen for the disabled youth of Bateke. In Kinshasa, our German Delegation will support a project of Asci Como. Fr. Thomas Kuhn, our friend and parish priest, reported that, despite difficulties, through his contacts in the business world, he could erect two hospitals in the D.R. Congo.

On June 12, we had the honor to receive Bishop Mario Toso of the Justice and Peace office of the Vatican, who came to confirm our youth. During his visit to the Italian mission, we explained the reason of a Guanellian presence in Germany without a formal religious structure. He was so impressed with our progress, that he recommended our initiative to the Vatican's Cor Unum.

We traveled to Spain with a couple of German cooperators to visit the Asturias and old friends Ramón and Nati, admirers of Father Guanella. While in Spain, we traveled to Compostela and the shrine of St. James. The deep faith of the pilgrims was overwhelming. One of these pilgrims was an 80-year-old man, a witness to the fact that there is no age limit in the search for the true path to God. We attended the solemn Mass in the Cathedral where the sermon was held in German and Italian due to the amount of pilgrims from those countries present that day in that mystic and famous church.

We met with our Guanellian confreres Frs. Andrés and Fernando of the community in Palencia. The crowning moment however, was the meeting with our friend Juan Bautista Aguado, president of the Spanish ONGD Puentes. He has found donors in Spain for work in Central America and Africa. He has shown generosity for last autumn flood's victims in Manila. We discussed the possibility to join all Guanellian lay groups to exchange ideas, means and projects. Mr. Aguado would like to organize a meeting of the GLM in Spain during the next World Youth Day. We will invite members from Italy, Poland, North and South America to join this initiative. Our Spanish friends would like to include a visit to the St. James Shrine.

We have many projects to carry out and believe we possess the resilience and faith to fulfill them. With the prayers of our readers, we can move mountains. We wish all our friends around the globe a relaxing and blessed summer!

*Gero Lombardo,
Guanellian Cooperator*



Gero with the 80 yr. old pilgrim at Compostela.

New Gifts Showered as the Curtains Fall on Year for Priests

CUDDALORE - At the dawn of the year for priests, the Divine Providence Province ordained three new priests; at the close of the Year for Priests, God has blessed us with eleven new Priests from India for our Congregation. On Saturday, June 19, at 10:30 a.m Fr. Constantine, Fr. Francis, Fr. Francis Assisi, Fr. George, Fr. Johnpaul, Fr. Jerin, Fr. Kennedy, Fr. Lawrence Thambusamy, Fr. Lourduraj, Fr. Maria Paul, and Fr. Rajesh were ordained as priests by Most. Rev. Dr. Antony Anandarayar the Archbishop of Cuddalore -Pondicherry at St. Joseph's Seminary,



Cuddalore. Also in attendance was the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Alphonso Crippa, and General Councilor, Rev. Fr. Wladimiro Bogoni, reflecting the presence of our Founder. A crowd of priests, religious, parents, relatives and friends came from far and wide to pray and bless the new gifts to the church. It was joyful to see the Guanellian Deacons becoming Holy priests in the order of Melchizedek and who will be a bond of holiness, dam of grace, light of blessing and mirror of Christ. May God bless their offering of Life and help them to give their best by sustaining and invigorating their commitment

Fr. General Visits Guanellian Communities in India

CHENNAI - Rev. Fr. Alphonso Crippa, the General Superior of the Servants of Charity, and Rev. Fr. Wladimiro, General Councilor arrived in Chennai on June 16th. They were solemnly welcomed by the Don Guanella Major Seminary Family with



Indian traditional music, dance and a procession. Rev. Fr. Luigi, the Provincial of Divine Providence Province welcomed Fr. Alphonso with a flower garland and Rev. Fr. Soosai Rathinam the Superior of Chennai community honored him with a shawl according to local customs.



June 17th was Fr. Alphonso's 71st birthday and it was celebrated in a grand manner. The community started with a procession of the Holy Eucharist, songs and prayers. DGMS served a dinner complete with a birthday cake. The seminarians presented a cultural program to entertain the guests. Fr. Alphonso was presented with gifts and mementos in on behalf of the



Province and community. He thanked us and invited everyone to be 'Young' whatever your chronological age.

In the morning both guests paid a visit to Don Guanella Rehabilitation Center, reflecting the presence of our Founder, Louis Guanella. That evening Fr. Alphonso met with the twenty-nine Theology students in a lively, open forum. He listened with fatherly affection to the desires of the young confreres.

Novitiate Reopens after 8 Years



QUEZON CITY - The novitiate program of the Guanellians in the Philippines was reopened May 26, 2010 coinciding with the 144th Ordination Anniversary of our Founder, Blessed Louis Guanella. After 8 years of lull, the Servants of Charity in the Philippines are once again blessed with a novice, Cesar Vega Estiller of Nabua, Camarines Sur. The Guanellian Mother House in Tandang Sora, Quezon City, which is also a canonically erected Novitiate House, will again be the home of the Novitiate Program with Fr. Domenico Saginario, SdC as the newly appointed Novice Master.

Philippine Independence Day



LEGAZPI - It was a pleasant day for HKSF to have an outing with our residents on June 14th as it was the independence day holiday of the Philippines. The confreres, four search-

ins and ten residents visited a resort, 'Woo la la'. It was really a remarkable day because some of our residents were able to experience swimming. We also gave a warm welcome to Fr. Robert who recently joined our community. His presence is enriching our community and enhancing our STEP Program.



Welcome Rodel Vincent

QUEZON CITY - The Guanellian community in Quezon City formally received Rodel Vincent Jacob Ladines of Pateros, Manila, the lone seminarian of the Servants of Charity for the school year 2010 – 2011 in a welcome Liturgy held June 5th. In the Eucharistic Celebration, Fr. Charlton O. Viray, SdC, the Local Superior and Formator of the Guanellian seminarians, encouraged Vincent to be a man of prayer, a lover of the poor and a paragon of generosity as he journeys in his year of formation. A short program followed Mass and was concluded with a luncheon and reception. Vincent's parents, Mr. Norberto and Mrs. Evelyn Ladines, attended the celebration.



Happy Birthday Fr. Battista

LEGAZPI - On the feast of John the Baptist, June 24th, Sagrada Familia celebrated the feast day and 70th birthday of Fr. Battista Omodei. The day began with a gathering of the faithful of Bogtong, Legazpi City for Holy Rosary and Mass. At noon time, the staff and residents of Sagrada Familia served lunch,



expressing their family spirit. It was really like a family reunion where one could see the love of everyone for Fr. Battista. The celebration continued with a special Mass for the aged and sick. We thank Fr. Battista for being a part of our history and for being a loving father in our community.

TANZANIA: A Journey Full of Hope

SPRINGFIELD - "It was an enlightening and moving experience full of faith!" Fr. Paul Oggioni, SdC, says

when mentioning his recent trip to Tanzania, Africa. He attended the priestly ordination of a young man with whom he has corresponded for the last two years. The newly ordained Fr. Furaha Ntasamaye was frequently in contact via e-mail with

Fr. Paul discerning the

possibility of joining the Congregation. We do not know what God has in store, but we must keep our eyes, mind and heart open to His Will.

The Provincial Superior, Fr Luigi De Giambattista, asked Fr. Paul to travel to Tanzania and meet this young man, his Bishop, Most Rev. Evaristo Chengula, IMC, and the local Church, to see firsthand Fr. Furaha's commitment to join the Servants. The trip was long and tiring. From the capital, Dar es Salaam, Fr. Paul traveled to Mbeya city, one thousand kilometers away, situated on a crossroads of the state boundaries of Zambia, Malawi, and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Fr. Paul had the opportunity to have a firsthand view of the Catholic community. Though the Catholic Church is a minority, it is a very lively community committed to pass on the faith received from the first missionaries one hundred years ago. The old missionaries are retiring and the torch is now in the hand of the local clergy. Bishop Chengula stated that the evangelization of his diocese would be more fruitful with the example the works of mercy.

Fr. Paul also had the opportunity to see the surrounding territory. Though Mbeya is the third largest city of Tanzania, its buildings are very modest. People are mostly farmers, poor and lacking even the minimum social assistance. There is only one facility taking care of the physically handicapped, 15 men and 12 women, run by the diocese, but its physical structure and financial situation are so poor that the Sisters in charge see a very bleak future. The diocese has 33 parishes and Bishop Chengula says that there is room for the Servants of Charity. He would be pleased if other seminarians or priests desired to become Guanellians. Fr. Paul gave him three first class relics of Bl. Guanella, two were offered as seeds for two churches that will be consecrated soon. If it is God's will, the seeds will bear fruit.



Fr. Paul with Bishop Chengula and Fr. Furaha after the ordination liturgy.



Fr. Paul with Fr. Furaha and his family.

and he asked Fr. Paul to stay in contact through e-mail with those who are interested in the Servants of Charity.



Fr. Furaha celebrating his ordination with the faithful.

The Vocation Director of the diocese will meet the students of Philosophy and Theology July 7. He promised to present information about our Congregation and mission

This was a grace filled trip for Fr. Paul, the Province and Congregation. We ask the Lord to bless Fr. Furaha so that he may discern God's Divine Will for him. We ask the Lord for light to understand and courage to open our minds and hearts to the horizons He is opening in front us.

A New Garden in Honor of Our Lady



CHELSEA - Just in time for the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 12, members of the Knights of Columbus created a beautiful new garden for the statue of Our Lady at St. Louis Center. Men of the Irish Hills Council #6223 attend mass every Wednesday morning at St. Louis Center and saw the need to honor our Blessed Mother. This was also a way for them to thank the Servants of Charity for their service to the community.

Meijer Gives the Gift of Fun

CHELSEA - When you think of summer fun, what activities come to mind? Riding bikes, playing with squirt guns, and blowing soap bubbles into the wind?

Thanks to Ben Negron, Director of Meijer on Zeeb Road, and his Assistant, Kimberly Valentine, residents of St. Louis Center will enjoy all of these



Antoine, Joey and Lisa shopping for bikes at Meijer.

activities and many more this summer. After reading an appeal in St. Louis Center's newsletter, Ms. Valentine called St. Louis Center and asked staff to create a bicycle and summer fun wish list. On June 14th, three residents and two staff members had a wonderful time and shared a lot of laughter choosing 6 new children's bicycles, helmets, spare tires and inner tubes, as well as outdoor toys and sporting equipment. Calculating

costs, purchasing, and loading the gifts into the van were followed by a refreshing cold drink. Mr. Negron will soon tour St. Louis Center to discuss our program needs as well as our involvement with Special Olympics.

Tiger Time

DETROIT - On Tuesday, June 1, the Tigers Foundation treated thirty of the residents of St. Louis Center to a Detroit Tigers baseball game. Ten staff members accompanied the 'good children' to ensure that they had a safe and enjoyable time.



Lee and Charlie enjoying the game.

The Guanellian Lay Movement Presents
the 2010 Fifth National Conference
Featuring:

The Guanellian Mission

August 21, 2010

16195 Old US 12
Chelsea, MI 48118

Special Guest Speakers:

Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP
Juan Francisco Lopez, M.D.

For more information:

Fr. Joseph Rinaldo, SdC
734-475-8430 • frjoe@stlouiscenter.org

Sr. Margaret Mary Schissler, DSMP
734-845-4601 • srm@pusj.org

To register:

Joe Yekulis • 734-475-8430 • joeyekulis@servantsofcharity.org

July Schedule of Events



- 1 **Anniversary of the death of Fr. Carlo Coppini**
- 2 **Manila:** Adoration for PWIDD and staff
- 3-4 **Legazpi:** Search-in Program
- 7 **Chelsea:** Whiffleball World Series
- Manila:** Mass for opening of Academic year
- 9 **Legazpi:** Meeting for mothers of Feeding Program
- 10 **Legazpi:** STEP Parents Meeting
- 10-11 **Manila:** Vocation Seminar
- Rhode Island:** Fr. Dennis on Mission Appeal
- 14 **Chelsea:** Water Wars
- Manila:** Staff meeting at Guanella Center
- 16 **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel**
- Springfield:** First Profession of Novice Robert Neimeyer
- 17 **Chelsea:** Memorial Golf Outing
- Manila:** Monthly recollection
- 17-18 **Philadelphia:** Fr. Paul on Mission Appeal, Incarnation Parish
- 19 **Legazpi:** 32nd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Celebration; Mass and parade by HKSF
- 19-20 **Manila:** Olympic Games for PWIDD
- 21 **Chelsea:** So You Think You Can Dance Contest
- Manila:** Adoration for vocations
- 23 **Legazpi:** Mass for the aged
- 24-25 **Rhode Island:** Fr. Dennis on Mission Appeal
- 25 **Dearborn:** Joe's Top Dog Golf Outing
- Legazpi:** Mass for the children
- Manila:** Value formation for sponsored parents at Guanella Center
- 26 **Memorial Sts. Joachim and Anne:** Parents of the Virgin Mary
- Springfield:** Fr. Silvio departs for Italy
- 28 **Chelsea:** Field Day Competition

Best Wishes and Prayers to:

- 1 **Bro. Lourduraj:** birthday
- 8 **Fr. Arulraj:** birthday
- 10 **Fr. Benson:** birthday
- 11 **Bro. Vellington:** birthday
- 15 **Fr. Paneer:** birthday; **Fr. Aroickiadoss, Fr. Carmel:** ordination day
- 16 **Fr. Carmel:** feastday
- 22 **Fr. Paneer, Fr. Sebastian:** ordination day
- 24 **Fr. Satheesh:** ordination day
- 25 **Bro. James Stanley Babu:** feast day
- 26 **Fr. Nevis:** ordination day
- 29 **Fr. John Joseph:** ordination day
- 30 **Bro. John Paul M:** birthday
- 31 **Bro. Loyola Diraviam:** feast day

Boun Compleanno, Padre Cantoni!

Fr Cantoni, long time philosophy professor in Barza, Italy and Palencia, Spain, best wishes on your 90th birthday from all your disciples!



Have questions or comments about this newsletter? Contact the Communications and Community Relations Office at:

16195 Old US 12
Chelsea, MI 48118 USA

Telephone: 734-475-8430

Email: news@servantsofcharity.org
Website: www.servantsofcharity.org